DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

1.9.21



ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON CHINA AND ASIA

PREPARED BY Team ORCA writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Illegal financing accounts banned:** Weibo today announced the list of its first batch of financial self-media <u>illegal accounts</u>, and disposed of 52 such accounts. Out of these,2 accounts have more than one million fans, 25 accounts from one hundred thousand fans to one million fans, and 20 accounts with ten thousand fans to one hundred thousand fans.
- Woman in Xi'an subway gets in dispute, dragged by security, Weibo reacts: Some netizens have <u>reported</u> on the official Weibo account of China Transportation of the Ministry of Communications of China calling out the harsh behaviour. In response, China Traffic responded: "The incident has been reported and is being processed." Earlier, on the 30th, an online video of the incident was trending.

II. News in China

- The <u>opening ceremony</u> of the 2021 autumn session of the Central Institute of Socialism was held in Beijing. Hao Mingjin, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and president of the Central Academy of Social Sciences, attended and delivered a speech. Mingjin emphasized that studying and implementing the spirit of Xi Jinping's centennial speech is a major political task of the united front at present and for a period of time in the future.
- Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, Wang Yang and Wang Huning joined an audience of more than 3,000 people at the Great Hall of the People to view the opening gala of the sixth <u>ethnic minority art festival</u> in continued focus on ethnic unity in China.
- The Chinese Communist Party's Politburo met and confirmed that the sixth plenary will be held in November.
- Li Zhanshu <u>spoke</u> to Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, the speaker of Sri Lanka's Parliament about enhancing political exchanges, deepening cooperation on COVID-19 response, promoting practical cooperation across the board, and cooperating on multilateral coordination. This comes in the aftermath of progress in construction of the Hambantota port.
- China and Russia, which had presented amendments together, have abstained from the United Nations Security Council resolution on Afghanistan. Beijing's reasons for rejecting the same are that it "has huge doubts about the necessity and urgency of adopting this resolution and the balance of its content". The amendments by both countries were not "fully adopted".

III. India Watch

- Xi's centennial speech has become a major policy directive in China, as we have seen over the past two months. New centres and policies in China are now following the being driven along the lines of Xi's centennial speech as well as the Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy; in this regard, one of the key takeways for foreign governments is to employ dedicated scholarship that focuses on understanding and decoding with key evidence the Xi Thought but also domestic and annual speeches by Xi from beyond the journalistic rhetoric.
- Amendments proposed by China (and Russia) at UNSC for Resolution 2593 regarding Afghanistan highlight the political manipulation and blame-game politics Beijing is attempting to impose to target the US. The reasons for abstention from the vote included statements like " activities carried out by the United States and Australian forces for the indiscriminate killing of civilians must not be wiped out, and must continue to be investigated" and "The hasty withdrawal of foreign troops is likely to have provided opportunities for various terrorist organizations to make a comeback". While Beijing is attempting to show that it is leading the rhetoric in shaping the future of a politically stable Kabul, it is protecting its own national economic and security interests in the country. As India holds its own first official talk with the Taliban, it becomes important that New Delhi swiftly and assuredly build its presence in Kabul so as to ensure a balance to China's political clout.