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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

Prepared By: Akhil Thakur | Research Intern



writetous.orca@gmail.com

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **The term “political coming out” gains popularity on Weibo and WeChat:** Following a nationwide wave of protests, the term "[political coming-out](#)" has gained popularity on Weibo, WeChat, and elsewhere. The term refers to people expressing their political beliefs or positions to those around them, usually through social media ("online political coming out"). 'Chugui' literally means 'to come out of the closet' in Chinese and is commonly used for those who are gay or revealing their sexual orientation. This week on Weibo, there have been numerous discussions about 'coming out politically.' In light of recent events, Chinese internet users report a surge in people coming out about their political orientation and views, mostly within WeChat groups. On December 1st, a Yunnan-based blogger claimed that WeChat was witnessing a large-scale 'political coming out' across friend groups, which at times resembled a 'personality coming out.' Some argue that expressing your political views on occasion is a good idea. "After all the political coming-outs in family, neighbourhood, and business [WeChat] groups, I feel I can relax a little bit," one popular comment said. We now know how many people were hiding in the closet." Another person agrees: "I feel so much better now that I've come out of the political closet."

NEWS IN CHINA

- On Thursday, the [35th World AIDS Day](#), under the theme of fighting AIDS and sharing health together in China, several Chinese cities reported year-over-year decreases in new HIV/AIDS cases. This is indicative of the nation's unceasing efforts to implement supportive policies and strengthen

public education in order to prevent the spread of the disease. According to the National Health Commission on Thursday, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang stated that AIDS prevention and treatment are major tasks to protect people's safety and health. The AIDS prevention and treatment efforts in China have produced outstanding results in recent years. Since 2004, China has skillfully carried out AIDS prevention and control policies, effectively bringing the modes of transmission, such as mother-to-child and drug use, under control. According to the Beijing Municipal Health Commission, the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention's chief epidemiologist, Wu Zunyou, posted on his Sina Weibo account that as of the end of October, Beijing had reported 39,018 HIV/AIDS cases since the first case was discovered in 1985. The commission reported 1,462 new HIV/AIDS cases in the capital city from January to October, a decrease of 11.61 percent from the same period in 2021, with sexual transmission accounting for 96.99 percent of the new cases.

- In a joint statement released after President Joe Biden's Wednesday meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, the United States and France emphasised the significance of preserving tranquility and stability in the Taiwan Strait (Dec. 1). In order to counter China's attempts to change the international order of things, the two countries also agreed to work with Beijing on "important global issues" like climate change. Additionally, in a joint statement, the United States and France said they wanted to improve ties in the Indo-Pacific area to support the resiliency

of the Pacific Islands. The two countries intend to cooperate on regional maritime security, the statement claims.

- Du Rongliang, former deputy mayor of the Changzhou Municipal Government and former director of the Municipal Public Security Bureau, was publicly sentenced on December 2 for accepting bribes and perverting the law for personal gain. The defendant was given an 11-year prison term for bribery and an RMB 1.4 million fine, along which he was given a five-year prison term for breaking the law for personal gain. The fruits were recovered in accordance with the law and turned over to the state treasury, subsequently it was decided to impose a fixed-term prison sentence of 13 years and a fine of RMB 1.4 million.
 - In a show of growing defense ties amid strategic tensions with the United States, Chinese and Russian air forces conducted a joint patrol and an aircraft exchange. On Wednesday, the Chinese Ministry of Defense issued a brief statement stating that the two countries "conducted a routine joint aerial strategic patrol in the air space over the waters of the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea, and the West Pacific Ocean." Meanwhile, Russia's Ministry of Defense reported that several Russian Tu-95MS strategic bombers, accompanied by Su-30SM and Su-35S fighter jets, and Chinese H-6K strategic bombers, flew over the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea for eight hours.
 - Several Chinese cities have abandoned PCR testing, a cornerstone of China's zero-Covid response, in favour of rapid antigen tests, indicating that virus control rules are
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becoming laxer in the country. Beijing authorities have asked hospitals not to turn away patients who have had negative PCR tests for the previous 48 hours. Instead, they can undergo a quick antigen test and be admitted to various zones based on the results.

interests for the Indo-Pacific region to remain calm, and one thing India can learn from this is that it should also have a strategic bomber, as it is one of the few major countries that does not have one, as it aids in creating deterrence.

INDIA WATCH

- On November 30th, Russia and China conducted a joint drill over the Indo-Pacific region, which includes the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea, and included strategic bombers, for which Japan and South Korea scrambled their jets. This was intended to challenge the dominance of South Korea, Japan, and the United States in the region, but these large-scale military drills have heightened Indo-Pacific tensions. China and Russia both have territorial disputes in the South China Sea and the Sea of Japan, and both want to challenge US power in their own backyard. But this is also an issue for India, which has good relations with Russia, as well as South Korea and Japan. In addition, Russia is eager to claim Kuril Island, which is disputed by Japan and Russia. According to [reports](#), Russia was also planning an attack on Japan prior to the Ukraine conflict, which India would have found more difficult to balance. India would prefer that nations friendly with it do not clash, as this would be a difficult test for Indian diplomacy and India will be unable to refrain from condemning Russia at that point. Both Russia and Japan are important to India; one is important for military and energy reasons, while the other is important for investment and development. It is therefore in India's best
