

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**

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PREPARED BY

Siddhant Nair (Research Intern) for Team ORCA
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Tool to mute speakers trends on Weibo:** A new trend, where local residents meet at a local park or plaza and perform synchronized dancing. This is known as Square Dancing, and it received backlash by many locals as it was too loud and caused a disturbance. A local resident, in order to counter Square Dancing, made a tool to mute speakers from a distance of 50-80 meters. The term 'anti-square dance magical object' (“反广场舞神器”) has been making its rounds on social media, with many netizens saying they also want to get this 'magical tool.'

II. News in China

- The United States called on China to stop its pressure on Taiwan through provocative flybys by Chinese warplanes. The past three days have marked the highest incursion ever of Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) planes into Taiwanese airspace.
- The Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement on the attack on Chinese consulate in Rio on 16th September. Investigation on the incident has been prioritized, and the Brazilian Ministry emphasized on the need to protect diplomatic relations.
- China is witnessing an increase in the rate of mortgage lending, and some regions are witnessing a relaxation of mortgage interest rates. This is part of Xi Jinping's 'common prosperity' ambit. (Read ORCA's opinion piece on the ideology of 'common prosperity' here.)
- Dai Qi, the US Trade Representative, announced that China did not comply with US-China "Phase One" trade agreement. As per the agreement, China would increase the purchases from the US by importing manufacturing, agricultural and energy products.
- Tourists in Ili Prefecture have been prohibited from leaving the city temporarily due to an outbreak of asymptomatic cases.
- Beijing authorities reviewed the case of a man who caused a fire and killed 5 people after charging electric bicycle batteries at his home. Authorities made the decision to arrest the man responsible for arson.
- Zhang Hanxin died at the age of 85. He was a well-known academician and aerodynamicist.
- The President of University of Hong Kong, Zhang Xiang, met students, teachers and alumni to discuss Hong Kong mob attacking the legislative council and condemn the incident. Zhang Xiang was also renewed as President of Hong Kong University, after receiving unanimous support by the School Council of the University of Hong Kong and Academic Affairs Committee.

- Australian Medicine Agency approved China's Kexing vaccine, allowing Chinese students who have been vaccinated to complete their studies in Australia.
- A 650-pages long report released by the Strategic Research Institute of France's renowned Military College (Irsem) details Chinese influence throughout the world, highlighting how China exerts influence through the "most benign (public diplomacy) to the most malignant, (clandestine activities)." China also manipulates public opinion through think tanks and media.
- 268 Chinese peacekeeping engineering detachment members stationed in South Sudan were honoured with the United Nations Medal.
- The situation along the Indo-China border has been "worrisome", according to Indian Army Commander Naravane. He reported that China has sent a significant number of troops to the border and New Delhi has responded in similar manner. The news comes after Naravane announced that the two countries will hold a high-level 13th round of talks to discuss deescalation. China sending more troops to the border could be in response to India's recent purchases and investment into military hardware, as well as restructuring Indian military.
- Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar spoke at a seminar hosted by the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF). When asked how India should respond to the rise of China, he mentioned that Beijing and New Delhi share substantial relations and that India tracks and responds appropriately to China.

III. India Watch

- The new tool, at present being used by civilians to curb loud music from blaring speakers, is problematic in its creation. The worrying aspect of this tool is that it can be used by the police to block transmissions during protests or civil unrest. The device is a powerful, long-distance remote control that can cause interference with most speakers (hence usage of these during potential protests could now be curtailed from a distance).
- China's control over Hong Kong education system and universities has grown tremendously post the implementation of NSL (as highlighted in our previous reports, search 'Hong Kong'). The term renewal of HKU President Xiang (who is pro-CCP and was vocally critical about the 2019 Hong Kong protests) further accentuates this control; for foreign students --HKU has been a major educational attractions for Indians especially --such a development puts further curbs on their plans to pursue higher studies in Hong Kong.