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# CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



## ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON CHINA AND ASIA

PREPARED BY

Tanishk Saxena, (EOA, Research) writetous.orca@gmail.com

### I. Social Media Chatter in China

- Another debate over whether martyr died in clash with India: Military observer accounts on Weibo have reported yet another soldier named Zhang Haijun has died while serving on the border. A media report says he was born in 1996 and joined the military in 2016. "He died in January 2021 while conducting a training mission in the high altitude" is the official cause given. Images in the news report show a group of soldiers bringing a placard in honor of Zhang Haijun in his hometown where his mother received an official document of "Martyrdom news" and a medal. Images of his diary have also been uploaded where he listed the goals that he wanted to achieve. Some of the military observer accounts on Weibo say he died at the Sino-Indian border clash while others state it was because of altitude sickness.
- Satellite images of Chinese Airbases near LAC: A Twitter user has <u>uploaded</u> satellite images of Chinese airbases near LAC. The images are classified as before and after the standoff (January 2020 and December 2021). The pictures provide insights into the ongoing and upcoming construction of military infrastructure near border areas.
- Time-lapse of new airstrips and Airports on LAC: Twitter account has uploaded the time-lapse of New Airstrips/Airports under construction near Indian borders.
- Chinese commentator remarks on Russia India relations: A Chinese current affairs commentator/CPC propagandist on Weibo(with considerable following) named Si Ma'nan has written on the recently concluded India-Russia Summit. He says that India wants Russia to limit its cooperation with China and notes that the U.S has not been able to shape traditional India-Russia relations. The fact that Putin chose India as his first foreign visit since the pandemic is a strong sign of good relations. But Russia is mostly in it for the money that it gets from its arms sale to India. He also says that by cooperating with India, Russia can get some money, but cooperating with China is about way more than that.

## **II. News in China**

• Video footage <u>released</u> by the CCTV shows that H-6J (a long-range strategic bomber) of the People's Liberation Army Navy Air Force took off at night. It arrived at the designated area in the South China Sea at dawn and was spotted carrying out laying sea mines and dropping bombs on targets located on islands and reefs as part of a live-fire exercise in the South China Sea.

- Ministry of Industry and Information Technology <u>release</u>d a 'big data industry development plan' aligned with Beijing's 2021–25 five-year plan (FYP). It outlines a series of mechanisms and policies that the ministry will introduce over the coming few years to support capability development.
- Taiwanese media has reported that after Taiwan's Far Eastern Group was severely fined by the CPC, a Taiwanese businessman's factory in Xinjiang was demolished without warning. Wang Jinquan, a Taiwanese businessman who returned to Taiwan this year because of the pandemic, after paying millions of land compensation fees to the local government in Xinjiang, obtained a 50-year land use right in 2015. The factory was built in 2018 at an expenditure of around 10 million RMB and was only used for just 3 years. But on November 20 this year the local government razed the plant to the ground without warning and only notified Wang Jinquan two days later. The whereabouts of the facilities, equipment, and materials are unknown.
- In 2019, a user named Niu Tengyu (牛騰宇) allegedly uploaded information about Xi Jinping's daughter, Xi Mingze, on a website called <u>esuwiki</u>. Non-mainstream media has reported that Niu Tengyu's mother has been voicing injustice since then and due to this she is now facing many threats.

### III. India Watch

• The picture of the daughter of Xi Jinping was leaked by website user from Guangdong, Niu Tengyu. He is completing a 14-year jail term for this act. On 7.12.21, his mother said that he has been hearing people at her rooftop in the middle of the night since September this year. The society where his mother is located also claimed that she was mentally ill and tried to put her in a mental hospital, but the neighbors confirmed that she was well and good, and they all heard the noises in the middle of the night. Someone posing as a diplomat called her and threatened that if she dares speak against injustice, she and her son will be killed. Her daughter's family member also received a threat call when he/she was in Niu Tengyu's house indicating that they are undere watch. Human rights groups have criticized the alleged use of torture, sleep deprivation, fraud, acceptance of bribes, threats to lawyers, etc in order to extract confessions from the suspects which included 23 more people(mostly minors) apart from Niu Tengyu.