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CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON CHINA AND ASIA

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Privacy concerns among Weibo users:** Privacy debates piqued after an influencer found the app to be accessing user's photos while working in the background. The company stated that a future update will fix this.
- Chinese influencer under investigation for insulting martyrs: Luo Changping, a Chinese web influencer, is being investigated by the prosecutors in Sanya City, after he posted on Weibo insulting the martyrs of Chinese People's Volunteers army during the Korean war.
- China's CCP Youth League boasts of vaccine diplomacy: According to the Chinese Communist Party's youth league, more than half of the world's vaccines come from China. They posted a video on Weibo that made the claim.
- Response to India-China LAC Tawang clash: A hashtag "Indian media's hype about Chinese soldiers being detained for crossing the line is false" has started trending on Weibo having been viewed 47 million times. China Daily's report carrying PLA's denial of the detention of 200 Chinese troops has started a trend.

II. News in China

- Heavy rains in Shanxi caused <u>multiple areas to be flooded</u>, drowning livestock raised by villagers.
- Following the ban of all cryptocurrencies, multiple provinces are <u>monitoring</u> <u>crypto mining activities</u>, tracking those participating in them and taking action.
- The Chinese Society for Human Rights at the UN Human Rights Council <u>released</u> <u>a report</u> listing out human rights abuses by the West and the United States.
- Xi Jinping gave a <u>speech at the General Assembly</u> to commemorate the 110th anniversary of the revolution of 1919.
- The Putian Public Security Bureau has <u>launched an investigation</u> into the murder of two and injury of three people.
- China will be voting against the UN's death penalty resolution, arguing that death penalty is part of a country's judicial and legislative sovereignty.
- The spokesman for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council <u>commented on</u>
 <u>the speech</u> made by the Democratic Progressive Party; arguing that the speech
 is misleading and demanding for "Taiwan independence" that incites violence
 and distorts facts.
- The government issued a statement asking all regions and department to fully implement the "National Standardization Development Program".
- The Minister of Road Transport and Highways of India, Nitin Gadkari, asked Tesla to move factory to India to make "Made in India" Tesla cars. He asked Tesla to move away from China, as production costs in India will be lower.

- Despite <u>Indian media reporting</u> Chinese troops crossing Indian border, Chinese troops remained on their side of the border while patrolling the region. Jun Zhengping stated in an interview that Indian media "hypes up" fake news in order to play up tensions between Indo-China relations.
- The 13th round of China-India military talks will be held on Sunday.
- China's National Development and Reform Commission released the "Market Access Negative List 2021" to solicit public opinion. This draft aims at banning non-state capital (private companies) from the news and media sectors and live broadcast services of activities and events involving politics, economy, military, diplomacy, major society, culture, science and technology, health, education, sports, etc. It says non-state capital cannot invest in establishing & operating news organizations, which include but aren't limited to: news agencies, newspaper and magazine publishers, radio and TV broadcasters, radio and TV stations and web media publishers. Non-public capital cannot operate sections, frequencies, channels, columns, public accounts of news organizations. Non-public capital cannot introduce news published by organizations outside China. Non-public capital cannot host forums, summits or awards in journalism and the public opinion space.

III. India Watch

- Nitin Gadkari's statement that Tesla should not sell Made in China cars in India is also being discussed on Weibo along with a possible electricity blackout in India due to low availability of coal.
- Market Access Negative List 2021 looks like an attempt to reassert domestic discourse and shift as much dependence on state-owned media as possible. News outlets such as Caixin, Guancha which are perceived to be private non-state media are also heavily invested upon by state-owned enterprises, so they won't be coming in the "non-state capital" category. If this draft becomes official regulation, it will not leave space for private capital media. This news was discussed by Weibo users and the talk of going back to the era of cultural revolution again surfaced in Chinese social media.