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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **“Xinjiang Police List” ridiculed by Chinese netizens:** The infamous “Xinjiang Victim Database” organisation posted a so-called “Xinjiang police list” of over 2000 Urumqi police officers into their accountability database linking them to 1000s of documented victims. The list became a subject of mockery after the photos of Hong Kong actors Andy Lau and Chow Yun-fat ended up on the list. Several netizens complained that Jackie Chan was left out on the list. Danny Haiphong, an independent American journalist tweeted, “It is absurd how two Hong Kong superstars left their lucrative careers to become Xinjiang police.”
- **A BMW rams through pedestrians on a busy street:** At least five people were killed and 13 others injured when a BMW accelerated through pedestrians at an intersection in the southern Chinese hub of Guangzhou on Wednesday evening. The video of the car ploughing through pedestrians went viral and was seen by over 1.2 billion accounts with the trending hashtag (#广州一宝马冲撞人群已致5死13伤#). Videos circulating on Chinese social media Douyin and Weibo appeared to show the vehicle, a black SUV, ramming through pedestrians on two separate crossings in the four-way intersection where dozens of people were walking and crossing the intersection.

NEWS IN CHINA

- China’s National Immigration Administration on Wednesday announced the suspension of the issuance of port visas and visa-free transit policy for the citizens of South Korea and Japan in retaliation to the discriminatory travel restrictions

imposed by several countries targeting Chinese citizens. The first supposed countermeasure came on Tuesday by suspending short term visas for South Korean citizens who want to visit China. Following the move, the Chinese Embassy in Japan also suspended the issuing of ordinary visas for Japanese citizens who want to travel to China. Since China announced its decision to optimise its policies on COVID control and cross-border travel in December, many countries have welcomed the move. However, some nations, such as South Korea and Japan, have imposed restrictions targeting China including mandatory COVID-19 testing upon arrival.

- On Tuesday, Liu Yanping, a former senior party discipline inspector at the Ministry of State Security, was handed a suspended death sentence for receiving bribes worth more than 234 million yuan (\$34.5 million), by a court in the northeastern city of Changchun. The court found that Liu took advantage of his official positions to help others with business operations, legal case handling, work arrangements and licence plate approvals between 2001 and 2022. This transpired while he was serving in government roles including Public Security Vice Minister and head of the discipline inspection and supervision team sent by the country's top anti-graft watchdog to the state security ministry.
- According to a report released by the Science and Technology Commission of Shanghai Municipality on Tuesday, China's first homegrown C919 large passenger aeroplane garnered over 1,035 orders from 32 customers. The plane was given

airworthiness certificate in September 2022 and won the production certificate (PC) in November last year by the Civil Aviation Administration of China. The plane, developed by the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC) is expected to commence its commercial operation this spring.

- On 10th January, police in Yugan county, Jiangxi province reported that the suspect, Zhou, who killed 4 people has been arrested. The old couple and the two girls who had been on winter vacation were killed at home on the morning of 30th when the parents went outside for some work. The youngest girl was only about 14 years old.
 - The deputy county magistrate of Heishui County, Qin Lingling, was fired by the Aba Prefecture Commission for Discipline Inspection and Supervision. She was expelled from the party as well as her public office. Qin Lingling born in January 1988, was a native of Pingchang, Sichuan, and served as the deputy county magistrate of Heishui County in November 2021. She was investigated in May 2022, and fired on January 11, 2023 for serious violations of regulations and law.
 - An ex-official's graft was aired in a documentary on CCTV late night on Monday. Li Jinzao, former vice-minister of culture and tourism used his power to indulge in luxuries and he forged evidence to deny receiving bribes such as gold bars, according to a TV documentary "Forever Blowing the Charge". In April, he was sentenced to 15 years in prison for taking bribes worth more than 65.5 million yuan
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(\$9.7 million).

within India's borders.

INDIA WATCH

- In October, the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) held a debate on the human rights situation in Xinjiang. The draft resolution was sponsored by the US, Finland and other members of the western group at the Human Rights Commission (HRC). At the end only 17 of the 47 members voted in favour, 19 voted against and 11, including India, abstained, which is not surprising, since India traditionally has been against country specific resolutions on any multilateral platform. India has never officially commented on the situation in Xinjiang, despite human rights groups asserting for years that China has been repressing the Muslim population in Xinjiang province. Moreover, various Islamic countries and organisations have also kept silent on the issue. Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), for instance, has often criticised India over Kashmir but has maintained silence on the case of Uyghurs. At the moment, India needs to worry about the impact of this situation on India's bordering states like Jammu and Kashmir. Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP) which is an extremist organisation having presence in Xinjiang seeks to rise against China's alleged suppression in Xinjiang and create a separate state. Additionally, TIP is claimed to have links with Al-Qaeda and Pakistani Taliban. This can result in internal stability in Indian states. Also, such a hostile situation in India's neighbourhood can damage India's interests in the region. Thus, India needs to carefully assess the ongoing situation and take action to ensure that its ripple effects do not extend
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