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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **US Position on Taiwan:** US Secretary of State Blinken asserted that the "United States has a commitment to ensure that Taiwan is capable of self-defense and many countries believe that unilateral use of force is a major threat to peace and security. If this happens, they will also take action." Netizens trolled the post commenting "What action? A press conference can also be called an action".
- **Viral Video of Dinner Party:** Two videos of the Health and Welfare Department head Chen Shizhong's dinner party with many business elders went viral. In the video, he took off the mask, drank, sang, and had a female waiter accompany him. The 46-second video exposure provoked an uproar. Netizens have commented saying "Only state officials are allowed to set fires, and the people are not allowed to light the lights."
- **Energy Crisis in North China:** There are concerns about energy shortage in China. Severe cold waves struck last winter and currently, the grid load in many provinces has hit a record high. Power shortages have appeared in Hunan and Jiangxi. The temperature in the north this winter is lower than normal. The fuel supply security and climate conditions are the main uncertain factors that affect the power supply and demand situation this winter.
- **Promotion of Xinjiang by Zhao Lijian:** Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian titled 'Xinjiang Non-Staff Propaganda Committee by Netizens'. He posted multiple Weibo posts inviting Netizens to enjoy the snow scene in Xinjiang together. Some of these posts are displays of Xinjiang's food and beauty, as well as popular science videos about Xinjiang's geography and humanities. "Xinjiang is a good place" most commonly used tag by him. Tianshan.com commented that Zhao Lijian's microblogs present a real Xinjiang where people live happily and live and work in peace. He told netizens about diversity in Xinjiang, reposted videos of netizens, explained why Xinjiang does not provide free shipping, and reposted the video of the PLA News about the opening of more than 10 plateau patrol routes in Xinjiang's Kashgar Army Division.

II. News in China

- COVID-19 continues in China. There are 13 closed control areas (containment zones), 13 control areas, and 8 prevention areas consisting of 1 high-risk area and 12 medium-risk areas. There are still more than 20,000 people under quarantine and observation in Chengdu, Sichuan despite no new local confirmed cases in Chengdu. A total of only 24 local confirmed cases were reported in Chengdu in this round of the epidemic. Measures in closed control areas include house isolation while in control areas, no people out of the area, and no gatherings. Prevention areas have restricted the gathering of people.

- As Winter approaches operation preparedness is being checked across LAC for certain border defense regiments stationed in Tibet's Shigatse Military Sub-district in Yadong County. The outposts are mostly distributed in the life exclusion zone between 4000 meters and 5000 meters, and the mountain is closed for about 5 to 7 months each year. In winter, the terrain is icy, and with the snowy ground, frozen roads, and there are difficulties in supply, officers and soldiers on the border face severe challenges. Extreme cold, ice and snow, strong ultraviolet rays, hypoxia, dryness, and other harsh environments affect officers and soldiers to perform tasks such as daily patrols and defenses, training, and preparation for war. PLA's current logistics support capabilities can ensure that frontline officers and soldiers carry out routines. (See Image 1-6)
- The Presidential Palace of Honduras announced that the president of the country, Juan Orlando Hernandez (Juan Orlando Hernandez) will be invited to visit Taiwan. Castro, a candidate for the Freedom Reconstruction Party, a left-wing party in Honduras, stated that if he wins the election, he will prioritise diplomatic relations with China. Local residents in Honduras generally support Honduras's main left-wing opposition party "Liberty and Reconstruction Party" (LIBRE). Taiwan's foreign affairs department issued a statement for Honduras not to accept the "showy and false promises" of mainland China.

III. India Watch

- China is promoting Xinjiang through its Foreign Ministry Spokesperson for tourism and other attractive ventures mostly likely targeted to change the identity politics associated with the region. Such antics look to enhance the soft power status of China.
- The COVID-19 situation in China is worsening; even as Beijing maintains there are no active cases, types of containment zones set up for almost 2000 people signals towards data manipulation or something severe that authorities are attempting to hide. There is discontent amongst people on these restrictions and moreover, Party officials not obliging to protocols have further enhanced the discontent.
- 180 Countries accept One China Policy and Honduras is one of the few nations that recognises Taiwan. Recent visit of Honduras Prime Minister to the USA and upcoming visit to Taiwan as opposed to opposition leaders calls to recognise China brings the geopolitics towards the Cold War era with power competition between great powers China-US seeing Honduras as a proxy table to mark their wins on.

Image 1: Officers and soldiers of a certain regiment of border defense in Tibet's Shigatse Army Division "insisted on patrolling" against the wind and snow



Image 2: The Zhanniangshe post of a certain regiment of the frontier defense regiment of the Xigaze Military Sub-district of Tibet



Image 3-6: Winter storage of supplies in a PLA regiment along LAC



Image 4



Image 5



Image 6

