DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON CHINA AND ASIA

PREPARED BY Anisree Suresh (Research Intern, ORCA) writetous.orca@gmail.com

12.01.22

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- Photos of flood accident at a power station in Danba: The videos and photos of the flood that occurred at the Sanchahe Guanzhou Powerplant in Danba county, <u>posted</u> by a WeChat public account, were shared widely. The flood left eleven personnel trapped and one dead.
- Dutch Olympic athletes advised not to bring smartphones to winter Olympics: News regarding the Dutch Olympic athletes being <u>advised</u> by NOCSNF- the sports organization of Netherlands, to not bring smartphones and laptops to China has been wildly discussed on social media. It is argued that this is to avoid espionage on athletes' personal information, by the Chinese surveillance system. This has angered many Chinese netizens who were shocked at how the Dutch people look at China with prejudice.

II. News in China

- Dhaka officials <u>approved</u> contracts to buy diesel, gasoline, and jet fuel from five countries and China will be supplying nearly 40 percent of Bangladesh's petroleum imports for the next six months. The contract includes deals with UNIPEC for the US \$266 million to supply 400,000 metric tons of refined diesel, gasoline, and jet fuel, and with PetroChina for the US \$113 million, to supply 170,000 metric tons of the same refined fuels.
- Xi Jinping <u>delivered</u> a speech on 'five-dimensional resolutions' at the opening ceremony of the seminar of study and implementation of the spirit of the Sixth Plenary session of the 19th central committee of the CPC at the ministerial level. Xi highlighted the necessity to promote modernization of Marxism in China, understanding the central tasks and social contradictions, attaching importance to the strategic issues, maintaining the Marxist party character, and learning and educating the party history.
- The National Bureau of Statistics in China <u>published</u> a report based on the data that highlights that in 2020 the added value of the national agriculture and related industries was 16.69 trillion yuan which is 16. 47 percent of the GDP. This is 2.5 percent higher than that of forestry, animal husbandry, and fishery.
- According to the National Immigration Administration under the Ministry of Public Security, there were 18,000 criminal cases for obstruction of border management across China. 48,000 criminal suspects have been <u>arrested</u>, and 47,000 who had entered illegally were arrested last year. National Immigration Administration acknowledges that smuggling across key ports and borders is a serious threat to

China's public security and to contain the criminal activities among illegal migrants, China has launched a special campaign to focus on cracking down on these crimes.

- According to the Korean Central News Agency, the North Korean National Defense Academy successfully test-launched a hypersonic missile under Kim Jong-un's presence. The missile's hypersonic glide flight is reported to have covered 1,000 kilometers over water, before hitting the intended target.
- At a regular press conference, the spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office at the State Council <u>said that</u> the Winter Olympics would act as a catalyst in bringing compatriots together from both sides of the Taiwan Strait, and offered to provide necessary assistance to the Taiwanese journalists placed at Beijing to cover Olympics.
- The number of cities in China with a GDP <u>exceeding</u> one trillion yuan has increased to 24, with Dongguan added to the list. Beijing's GDP exceeded the mark of 4 trillion yuan, becoming the country's first officially announced city with a GDP of 4 trillion yuan.

III. India Watch

• The year 2021 marked 60 years of mutual defence treaty between China and North Korea. Beijing has reaffirmed the values of the 1961 treaty and reiterated the commitments of military support to North Korea in the event of an attack, besides economic support for the country. The US-China strategic rivalry promotes China's support to North Korea and strengthens ties between the two neighbours. neighbours. With tensions in the Taiwan Strait rising amidst China's growing aggression regarding Taiwan, Beijing can find in North Korea a partner in the actionable military domain should war be declared on Taiwan. Such a move could offset the start of a greater regional war, especially as involvement by the US should Pyongyang include itself will be a real possibility