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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

- **Alibaba's Dharma Academy trends:** A Weibo netizen explained the role and achievements of Alibaba's 100-billion-yuan "Dharma (DAMO) Academy". Established in 2017, the academy is dedicated to exploring the unknown through scientific and technological research and innovation. The driving force behind the Academy is the pursuit of the betterment of humanity.
- **Discussion on statement by Commander-in-Chief of Indian Airforce:** Chinese Netizens discussed the Indian Army Chief's recent statement, "India's yearning for peace comes from its own strength, from its inherent power!". Naravane made this statement after the 14th round of commander-level talks between China and India.

II. News in China

- Astronaut and PLA Air Force pilot, Wang Yaping completed 100 days in orbit. She is the first woman in China to achieve such a milestone. She has been part of two space missions, Shenzhou 10 (June 11, 2013, to June 26, 2013), and Shenzhou 13 launched on 16 October 2021. She also holds the rank of Colonel in the Astronaut Brigade of the Chinese PLA and has been awarded the honorary title of "Heroic Astronaut" by the Central Commission of the CPC.
- China is witnessing a huge spike in rural tourism in the last two years. Some see this growth as a result of travel restrictions in many domestic cities and international destinations, but many experts attribute this growth to the efforts and policies of China's ministry of culture and tourism by revitalizing rural areas to support poor citizens. Rural tourism has also become a new driving force in the overall recovery of village and township consumption and tourism market. Li Tang, a tourist from the Chaoyang District, Beijing, said "It feels very good to take the children away from the hustle and bustle of the city and enjoy the simplicity and tranquillity of the village." He was visiting the Cuandixia Village, which has especially designed "ancient village" theme sightseeing, giving the tourists experience of the old and traditional lifestyle of Chinese people. He said that it was both fun and meaningful to visit.
- As Beijing embraces itself to become the first city to host both the summer and winter editions of the Olympic Games, authorities are focused on implementing the concept of a 'green and sustainable' event. The State Council Information Office held a press conference to introduce the green and sustainable development of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics. China is looking to follow the low-carbon emission management system by making full use of the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics venues and using carbon-neutral technologies.

- Recently, China announced 26 additional measures to promote economic and cultural exchanges and cooperation between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait, including “13 for Taiwanese companies and 13 for Taiwanese citizens.” Announcing these incentives on CCTV news, anchor Hai Xia said “We show our sincerity to our Taiwanese compatriots because we are all Chinese. Taiwan's destiny is connected with its motherland. Wan Wan come home!”. Her comment has become a topic of memes and sarcastic cartoons from Taiwanese people who think that they are already at home. Wan Wan is a famous slang used among Chinese netizens to refer to the Taiwan Islands, as heavily censored social media platforms filter out and delete posts and comments related to Taiwan.
- From January 10 to 14, foreign ministers of six Middle Eastern countries including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Iran, and Turkey, and the Secretary-General of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) visited China one after another. Xinhua News reports that due to the uncertainty caused by the changes and the impact of the COVID pandemic, cooperation and ties in several fields have accelerated and deepened between the Middle East countries and China. Such outreach by China is also taking focus on Iran as Beijing-Tehran implement their sweeping strategic partnership.
- A patriotic movie celebrating the 100th anniversary of CPC has become the all-time highest-grossing movie in China, winning the best film award. 'The Battle at Lake Changjin' is a war movie glorifying China's role in the Korean war and was awarded as best movie at the Golden Deer Awards at the 16th Changchun Film Festival (CCFF) in Changchun, Jilin. The movie was officially commissioned by the Chinese government's central propaganda department and was released to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China. It is also the most expensive movie made in China.
- A Naval base in China's Southern Theatre Command conducted combat training for elite soldiers. The training was done on Mianyang ships at certain locations in the South China Sea with a focus on practical combat techniques, such as secondary artillery firing against the sea and air targets, and live ammunition firing with machine guns.

III. India Watch

- CPC celebrated its 100th anniversary with a patriotic extravaganza. Movie theatres and television channels across China were ordered to screen nationalistic movies to incite deeper patriotic feelings among the country's younger generation. Such movies are also now being pushed outside China, with the Battle at Changjin finding pirated copies on movie sites across the world.

- The talks of forming a new “Middle East Quad”, including India, Israel, the UAE, and the USA, seem far from being realized soon. Some experts believe that contrary to India and USA’s beliefs, UAE and Israel are not much interested in countering China. Although India and US both enjoy very friendly relations with the Middle Eastern states, the recent visits of six Middle East countries’ Foreign Ministers and Secretary-General of GCC to China, certainly indicates deepening cooperation between Beijing and the Middle East. In such a situation, the notion of a Middle Eastern Quad must receive more focus by the US and India.