

14.10.21

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **LinkedIn is shutting down its service in China:** After it received criticism for censoring posts made by US journalists in compliance with the Chinese authorities. Microsoft cited that it found it challenging to operate in a such an environment.
- **After severe flooding affected northern China,** Tim Cook pledged support to help assist the communities in need after he posted an announcement on Weibo.
- **Military account posts on 13th round of talks with pictures:** A military observer account on Weibo has posted 2 images and written that the 13th round of corps commander level talks was a failure because India was insisting that China should abandon the Jiā nán dá bǎn(加南达坂) forward post and retreat back to China's Galwan Military Security Base post which India will retreat back to Alfa-III. It further says that India invaded China through Jiā nán dá bǎn(加南达坂) and unlawfully established a post which was uprooted by the Chinese during the 1962 war; this is where China's Galwan Military security base is now located. (See image 1 and 2).
- **CCP supporters celebrate new media control law:** The pro-govt circles in Chinese social media are rejoicing at the fact that the likes of Alibaba (Ant Group) & Caixin won't be able to have control in media. In the narrative that is being pushed forward on social media is that capitalist media companies don't fit in the socialist system. They even call it "Alibaba's media empire" which will come to an end. ORCA covered the Market Access Negative List on 13.10.21.

II. News in China

- Xi Jinping met Germany's Angela Merkel, highlighting how under Merkel the two countries relations blossomed and was beneficial for both. Merkel expressed that the EU should always maintain and develop its relations with China independently.
- Xi spoke about the need to address ageing population, while maintaining and developing new plans that support the elderly through financial plans, social security, healthcare systems and more.
- Inspections teams have been sent across China to 25 financial institutions for a two month assessment period, to ensure financial security and developing modern economy. These teams have set up special services to receive feedback, information, and complaints on these institutions.
- With the recent energy crisis in China, Zhao Chenxin, the secretary-general of the National Development and Reform Commission, reassured people that the Party is doing all it can to ensure supply of electricity and boosting production of electricity.

- In the first three quarters of 2021, China's total imports and exports expanded by 22.7% to 28.33 trillion yuan. China's top trading partners were ASEAN, the European Union, and the United States. China's import and export accounted for 13.2% of the world total. China-India trade stands at \$90.37 billion.
- Zhao Lijian, spokesperson for China's Foreign Ministry, stated that Taiwan remains part of China and the US needs to stop making irresponsible statements.
- Wu Jianghao, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, attended South Korea's National Day and Army Day Reception.
- Xi will speak at the UN's Global Sustainable Transport Conference.
- Han Zheng went on an inspection tour of Yunnan and spoke about boosting and strengthening biodiversity protection capabilities and conservation.

III. India Watch

- Alibaba became a media empire since it started investing in media companies in 2012. This is not a well-known fact for the Chinese (implying that it acts as a media company without much of the public knowing about it) who mostly only think that Alibaba is a company majorly dealing in e-commerce and finance. In China, the narrative at present is that the new media laws are good because before individuals like Fang Fang (a famous Chinese writer who wrote 'Wuhan Diary', depicting the plight of Chinese people in Wuhan when Covid broke out and portraying the suppression, censorship and restriction by the Chinese authorities) are given platform to malign the government and the country through foreign forces as well as the domestic private media companies. Caixin played a big role from behind the curtains in making Fang Fang's Wuhan Diary so famous. The posts and videos by the pro-CPC social media accounts gives a sense that they are trying to vilify these media houses. A famous current affairs commentator on Weibo even said that due to the media houses influence, one can get anything trending on the internet apart from the top 3 trends. Most of the people in comments are in favour of this move but there is also a group that is visibly against it and believes that this will seriously threaten the freedom of speech, and outrightly classifies all the non-public enterprises as hostile forces that will eventually act against the interest of the country. Hence, the divide between the pro-CCP and 'others' lobby seems to remain as vast as before.

Images 1 and 2: Comment on 13th Round of talks and focus on Jiā nán dá bǎn(加南达坂)

