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CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- Weibo influencer withdraws 5 million yuan over bad service: Weibo user withdrew 5 million yuan from the Bank of Shanghai, quoting "horrible service". His withdrawal <u>attracted the attention</u> of his 1.79 million Weibo followers, sparking online discussion over Bank of Shanghai's service.
- Fan culture pressure revealed: Speaking about China's fan culture, Chinese table tennis player Fan Zhendong wrote a letter to his fan base on Weibo. Fan spoke about extreme fandom and the toxic culture of extreme idolization that leads to polls, fundraising, and gifting for the celebrity.
- **Hotel collapse triggers debate over corruption:** A hotel in Quanzhou city collapsed, leading to the deaths of 29 people, <u>prompting online outrage</u>. The building collapsed became a trending topic on social media. Nearly 20 people were jailed for corruption over the collapsed hotel.
- Positive reaction to China-Russia naval exercise: Japanese media has reported that 10 ships from China and Russia (5 Chinese and 5 Russian) made a transit through Tsugaru Strait from the Sea of Japan to the Pacific Ocean on Oct. 18. Military observer accounts have written that this is the first time Chinese and Russian ships have sailed through the Tsugaru Strait. On Weibo, netizens stated this was is a great counter to the Freedom of Navigation Operations that are held in the South China Sea and near the Taiwan strait of other countries.
- Vlog reveals China pays citizens living in border villages along LAC: A Weibo account has uploaded a vlog type video (which has been shared by military observer accounts) in which a Chinese man living in a border village in Tibet says that the Chinese government gave 6,600 yuan allowance money to every border village citizen in the last one year aged between 16-64 living along the frontline Sino-India border in Tibet.

II. News in China

- The sixth plenary session of the 19th Central Committee will be held in Beijing from Nov. 8 to 11, where a resolution titled <u>Resolution on the Major Achievements and Historical Experience</u> of the Party's Century of Struggle will be passed. The resolution states that the Party has enabled socialist ideology and the Chinese people towards development, allowing China to catch up. Additionally, China is now more united than ever.
- Li Keqiang met Angela Merkel, hoping that Germany would continue a <u>positive</u> <u>China policy</u>, and continue strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

- Han Zheng speaking at the second Belt and Road Energy Ministerial Conference stated that <u>multilateral cooperation is necessary</u> for promoting green, inclusive, smart energy.
- <u>Wang Yi spoke with Zambia's Minister of Foreign Affairs</u> and International Cooperation Stanley Kakubo and discussed sharing 1 million vaccine doses with Zambia.
- There have been <u>personnel changes as per the CPC Central Committee</u>: Xu Qin was appointed as Secretary of CPC Heilongjiang Provincial Committee, Wu Zhenglong appointed as secretary of the CPC Jiangsu Provincial Committee, Yi Lianhong appointed as secretary of the CPC Jiangxi Provincial Committee, Zhang Qingwei appointed as secretary of the CPC Hunan Provincial Committee and Wang Junzheng appointed as secretary of the CPC Tibet Autonomous Regional Committee.

III. India Watch

- The positive reaction by netizens to Russia-China naval exercise through Tsugaro Strait shows the Chinese public's views regarding FONOP's done by other states in the China Seas. They appreciated the Russia-China exercise as a 'great counter', showing that such actions by the CCP have a base of supporters which will only furthermore Chinese naval drills in contested and non-contested but critical waters.
- The vlogger who talked about China paying citizens living along LAC has further said that his household has 3 members and the total money his household needs is 19,800 yuan. He himself says in the video that the reason the Chinese govt is paying them an allowance is for Indians on the other side to see how prosperous their villages are. He further says that they have been helped financially by the Chinese government to build houses as well. He notes that people in so many countries and especially in border areas in India people struggle to even fill their stomachs due to financial problems, but the Chinese are so fortunate. (See Image 1) Indian government must look to reassess how it cares for its border villages as well, especially as locals are the first source of intelligence gathering in such sensitive areas.

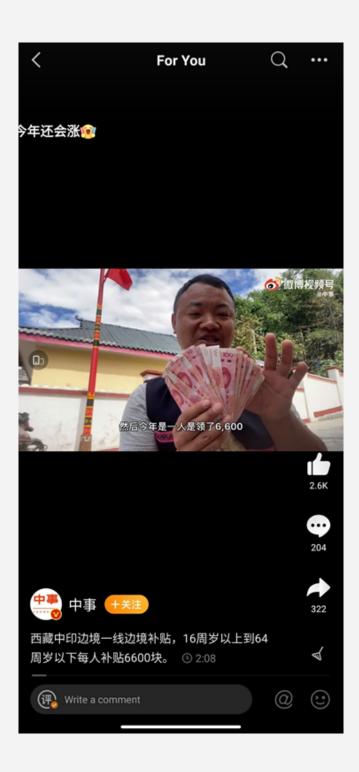


Image 1: Screenshot of Vlog video with citizen showing money paid by CCP to him as a border village local