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*DAILY*  
**CONVERSATIONS  
IN CHINESE  
MEDIA**



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**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON  
CHINA AND ASIA**

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## I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Sibling duo drives truck continuously to Xinjiang to help truck driver:** Two brothers in China drove a truck continuously for eight days and eight nights which has caught the attention of netizens. Both have covered the distance of 4700 KM in their trip; according to Beijing Net, the names of the two brothers are Maimaiti Nurdong and Mansour Pattar. Both the brothers took this initiative after they came to know about a fellow driver Zhao Xulei in his way to Xinjiang met with an accident, and that is why Mansour (one of the brothers) took the initiative to help him by delivering the goods to Beijing and help him with the treatment as local authorities failed to aid.
- **Pregnant lady bleeding outside hospital continues to dominate discussions:** A netizen named 'Don't Make It Rain Ok' posted a story of the pregnant lady who lost her unborn due to a miscarriage at a hospital's gate in Xi'an, which is recently in the news because of the increasing number of COVID cases. The story has led to public anger against the authorities. More stories from Xi'an are surfacing on Weibo, which are questioning the claims made by authorities that the outbreak is under control.

## II. News in China

- In a regular press conference held on Thursday, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson in response to a question asked on US's pressure on MNCs to stop importing and using products manufactured in the Xinjiang province of China, stated that the US is continuously spreading false rumors to "hinder" China's development, and also forcing MNCs to choose a side. The spokesperson added to his statement that China believes that the companies can make the right decisions and eliminate political pressure.
- According to News reports, Wuhan – the origin place of COVID-19 – is again facing the threat of a corona outbreak. Wuhan Municipal Transportation Bureau has issued an advisory to all Epidemic Prevention and Control Headquarters (EPCH) and relevant people in charge of expressway management of all districts to hold a meeting to report province for control measures. The latest instruction of EPCH requires monitoring every vehicle and personnel returning from Han province.
- In a working meeting of China National Railway Group Limited a report was released on the railway sector, which contains the sector's robust achievements. The report also contains the future project and prospects of the railway industry. China has recently achieved a milestone of constructing 40,000 KM of High-Speed Railway Transit and is looking forward to reducing the commuting time between twin cities to two hours.

- On Thursday, China has appointed four new vice-chairmen to Tibet Autonomous Region Political Conference. The announcement was made through the WeChat Official account of "Tibet Satellite TV+". The announcement also mentioned that the decision was made after the 11th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).
- To increase Chinese foothold in Africa, China has appointed a special envoy to build diplomatic engagement in the Horn of Africa. Every year in January Chinese Foreign Minister visits Africa; a similar trend has happened this month as the Minister visited Kenya, Eritrea, and Comoros. China has invested in Africa heavily and is concerned about regional security; according to China, the special envoys have also been appointed to foster peace in the turbulent Horn of Africa. Read ORCA's Insight on China's Africa footprint here.
- The situation in Xi'an is still in a confusing state. Press Conference held on Thursday by Shaanxi Province on epidemic prevention and control gave information that the city is using 431 isolation points in which 45,760 people are isolated. According to reports, ten thousand samples are sampled in Xi'an every day.
- General Office of the State Council on Printing and Distributing the Pilot General Plan Allocation issued a notice for the Comprehensive Reform of Factor Market. The notice aims to further improve the efficiency of land factor allocation and to promote the rational, smooth and orderly flow of labor.

### **III. India Watch**

- In efforts by India to regain the strategic leverage in the neighborhood and counter China's rising influence in the region, India has signed a strategic deal with Sri Lanka to revive a strategic British colonial-era oil storage facility. The deal signed with Sri Lanka will provide Colombo a 51% stake in the joint venture, while the rest will be with India. The deal will allow the Indian company to have a 50-year lease on fourteen tanks out of hundreds of tanks and additionally have joint ownership with Sri Lanka in 61 tanks. This deal is crucial in India's energy security and a bold message to Beijing regarding the seriousness of Indian leadership to improve diplomatic engagement with its neighbor.