

10.11.21

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY

Siddhant Nair (Research Intern) Team ORCA
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Weibo gets sued:** Eefung Software, a small software company based in Changsha in southern Hunan, is suing Weibo due to its anti-competitive policies and restrictions. Refund Software is arguing in court that due to its refusal to share data, Weibo is practicing monopoly. The details of the case and the arguments made in court by Eefung Software were posted on their social media account.
- **Celine Dion's illness gains well wishes from Netizens:** After news came out about Canadian singer Celine Dion's health, netizens quickly took to Weibo to share well wishes with her and a related hashtag gained 140 million views.

II. News in China

- For the first 10 months of the year 2021, China's imports and exports reached 31.67 trillion yuan which was an increase by 22.2%. China's trade with ASEAN, EU and the US increased, with ASEAN being China's biggest trading partner at 4.55 trillion yuan, EU at 4.34 trillion yuan, US at 3.95 trillion yuan. Trade with countries part of China's Belt and Road reached 9.3 trillion yuan.
- Trade between India and China reached \$102.29 billion.
- Coal output has reached 11.93 million tons. Supply has overtaken consumption, easing power prices.
- Federico Mollicone, a member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, in a speech stated that Xi Jinping is an enemy of truth who imprisons dissidents, eradicates tradition of Tibetan people, controls media and the digital platform and continuously threatens the existence of Taiwan.
- As the Party pushes for linguistic unity and increases the popularity of Mandarin, languages such as Cantonese face irrelevance.
- Despite Wang Yaping being the first Chinese woman to go on a spacewalk, she still has been looked through a gender lens, with multiple outlets commenting on her appearance and motherly duties.
- China and the United States announced that the two countries will work together to cut down on greenhouse gas emissions. The announcement came during the COP26 summit.
- According to Taiwan's National Defence Report for 2021, China is increasing its intelligence gathering capabilities aimed at Taiwan by deploying JB and Tiantong series reconnaissance and communications satellites. These satellites are capable of providing high-resolution imagery.
- China, after rejecting India's invitation to its Afghanistan talks, will be attending a "troika" meeting held by Pakistan on Afghanistan. China will be joined by Russia as well.

- After the US's visit to Taiwan, China launched training drills in Taiwan Strait as means to "safeguard national sovereignty".

III. India Watch

- As Taiwan's report highlights, China is deploying reconnaissance and communications satellites aimed at Taiwan. Should the intelligence gathering capabilities be successful in its application and provide accurate data to China, China could expand the usage of these capabilities at the Indo-China border. As our previous reports highlighted, India has also invested in intelligence gathering capabilities. Taiwan proves to be a good trial run for China (especially as smaller tensions due to entering of Taiwanese airspace and maritime zone continue year-round) before deploying them to other regions. China's launching satellites also strengthen its presence in space, with China focusing more on increasing its space capabilities after the successful Shenzhou 13 space mission.
- Additionally, as China snubs India's meeting with Afghanistan along with Pakistan to join the latter in the "troika" meeting, it is a clear indication that China and Pakistan are attempting to lock India out of Afghanistan and the region. Russia's inclusion in the same bodes ill for India-Russia ties as well as the Russia-India-China dialogue; New Delhi must strengthen actively its ties with Moscow.
- Despite tensions, trade between Indo-China passed the \$100 billion mark in 2021. Attempts at decoupling from the Chinese market have been theoretically unsuccessful, and Indian markets remain closely connected with the Chinese market.