

15.10.21

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Rolls-Royce withdraws ad:** Rolls-Royce Motor Cars was forced to withdraw its commercial from Weibo after it sparked controversy, stating that the ad did not reflect the social status of Rolls Royce owners.
- **Chinese singer asks for second-chance, blocked:** Song Dongye, posted a statement on his Weibo accounted asking for a second chance after being caught with drugs. In his statement, he also aired grievances with regards to China's cancel culture, however, he found himself blocked out of Weibo and was criticized.
- **LinkedIn China President gives reassurance amidst withdrawal:** As LinkedIn has decided to exit the Chinese market, Lu Jian stated that LinkedIn's exit is a strategic decision, emphasizing that Chinese users will not be cut off from the world and investments in China will be increased.
- **Market Access Negative List continues to be celebrated by pro-CCP netizens:** In continuation of our report from 14.10.21, an image of a map showing headquarters of media companies in which Alibaba is invested is also being shared widely on Weibo as pro-CCP netizens show support for curb on private media companies.(**see Image 1**)

II. News in China

- Xi sent a letter to Canton Fair highlighting the need to promote a development of trade and circulating with both domestic and overseas market.
- Xi's spoke at the UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference in Beijing. His speech included the need to develop land, sea, air and internet connectivity; as well as deep integration using new technology such as AI, blockchain, big data and more.
- Li Keqiang, the Premier of the People's Republic of China, gave a speech at the Canton Fair, talking about vaccine nationalism, cooperating to promote economic recovery, inclusiveness and common development. His speech also covered China's economy, and foreign trade; highlighting 10 million jobs being created in urban areas, steady economic recovery, expansion of high quality imports and exports, and conforming to norms and principles of the World Trade Organization.
- Following Xi's comments on ageing population, Li Keqiang, Han Zheng and Sun Chunlan spoke at the national conference highlighting Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism and implementing a national strategy to improve the lives of the elderly; from healthcare, insurance, social security to ensuring their social and cultural needs.

- Wang Yi also spoke to Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, Indonesia's Coordinator for Cooperation with China and Coordinating Minister, to talk about vaccine cooperation and trade between the two countries.
- Han Zheng addressed the Russia Energy Week to discuss China's work in optimizing its energy structure, needs, energy sector reforms, energy cooperation and reducing carbon emissions.
- Putin has invited China to use the Arctic sea route to promote trade with European countries. Zhao Li Jian, in response, stated that due to global warming the route has become increasingly important.
- Xi spoke to Charles Michel, the President of the European Council, over the phone to talk about the recent problems between China and EU, and the need to strengthen communication and ties.
- With the Evergrande debt crisis, the Central Bank responded by stating the problem is controllable and that steps are being taken to mitigate the damage done, since Evergrande's liabilities are less than 1/3rd.
- Wang Yi met the Second Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei, Haji Erywan. Yi stated that China is willing to mediate talks between ASEAN chair and Myanmar to ensure a constructive meeting.

III. India Watch

- China's growing investment in climate change driven dialogue is a bid to promote its climate diplomacy --much like the US. While both countries have environmental violations to defend against, climate policy also remains one of the few areas wherein China can be on the same page as the US and other democratic states. India's own bid in improving its climate diplomacy must seek to play the role of a mediator and dialogue partner in this respect.



Image 1: Media companies with investments from Alibaba trends on Weibo