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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Concerns over missing tennis player:** After her Weibo post accusing a Chinese politician of sexual abuse, Peng Shuai has seemingly disappeared. The Women's Tennis Association and Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka have taken to social media to pledge their support for Peng Shuai while also asking about her whereabouts and wellbeing.
- **Zhou Guanyu congratulated on Weibo:** After Alfa Romeo signed Zhou Guanyu and shared he will debut in Formula One racing for the 2022 season, motorsports fans took to Weibo to congratulate Guanyu.

II. News in China

- The historical resolution passed by the Chinese leadership during the 6th Plenum reiterates the rejection of the Cultural Revolution, blaming Mao Zedong for the failure that plunged the country into decades of violence and chaos. The resolution also emphasizes the role that Xi Jinping played in achieving national rejuvenation. The resolution cements Xi's position as a leader.
- New satellite images show four Chinese villages built in the past year in Bhutan's territory. The territory in question is a disputed land near the Doklam plateau which is a tri-junction for India, China and Bhutan.
- An article that talks about how Xi has visited Xihaigu, once the poorest area in China, four times and that had rejuvenated the region, relocating people away from barren lands, ensuring water supply by building cisterns and wells, and planted trees. As per the article, his poverty alleviation measures have removed Xihaigu from the list of counties in poverty.
- Construction of the Sichuan-Tibet rail project continues, despite the hostile working environment. The tunneling project goes through areas considered to be extremely hot for humans and machines to bear.
- Xi, while speaking to Biden, mentioned four priority areas where the two countries can work together ranging from energy to economy to the environment. Scholars and analysts across China saw the meeting between the two as constructive and productive, calling it an important diplomatic step.
- Russian experts have stated that India's weapon and equipment-making capability is not up to par. Despite attempts to remain self-sufficient, Indian-made weapons, weapon systems, and equipment have been "below-par", according to Alexei Kupriyanov, head of the South Asia and Indian Ocean Regional Group of the Institute of World Economics and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

- US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin warned India in March 2021 to not buy Russia's S-400 system, stating that it would be in violation of US's sanctions law.

III. India Watch

- Rejection of the Cultural Revolution and blaming Mao Zedong shows a very direct attempt at white-washing the Chinese people of the importance the leader holds. Instead, that mantle is now increasingly being passed to --and cemented by --Xi for himself.
- China's land-grabbing attempts at Doklam --where India and China were in a 70 day stand-off in 2017 --shows Beijing's attempts at ensuring a ideological, if not late, victory for itself. The Doklam stand-off had overall been a mark of diplomatic victory for India, with Indian troops not backing down and ultimately leading to a mutual withdrawal. China's present move there is particularly alarming for India as it is responsible for the territorial integrity of Bhutan, which maintains a limited armed force. Historically, India has been advising Bhutan on its foreign policy and continues to train its armed forces.
- With the increasingly polarized world order as competition between China and the US continues, India and Russia have maintained ties and continue to remain strong partners. Even the threat of US sanctions has not deterred India from buying the Russian S-400 missile system. As criticism in Russian defence circles over Indian defence capabilities is visible, Delhi could leverage this opportunity in cementing deals with Moscow for further defence cooperation.