

**WEEKEND ISSUE**  
**18.12.21-19.12.21**

*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

- **A Twitter account claims Pakistan conducted its first nuclear test in 1960 with help of China:** A Twitter account claimed that Pakistan conducted its first nuclear test in 1960 in an event named 'Event 35' and not in 1998. The post further claimed that the device was tested in the Lop Nur nuclear test range by China. The post concluded that the Pakistan-CCP nexus is the world's largest Weapons of Mass Destruction proliferator in human history. (See Image 1)
- **Ongoing Intensive winter training of PLA in Ngari:** On 19.12.21, CCTV Military's Weibo account posted that a PLA division in the Ngari prefecture conducted intensive winter training which included carrying a weight of 50kgs and traveling, climbing hills with the help of ropes, and long-distance marches.
- **Rumors of personnel changes in the 20th party congress:** A Chinese dissident lawyer living in the U.S, Dr. Lianchaohan has posted on Twitter that the rumors he has received regarding the personnel changes in the 20th party congress are as follows: Hu Chunhua as the Premier; Chen Min'er as vice premier; Ding Xuexiang as the chairman of National People's Congress; Li Xi as the Chairman of CPPCC; Liu He as the Vice President of China; Chen Quan Guo as the CCDI secretary.
- **Comparison of forces and tanks on the Sino-Indian border:** A military account on Weibo had made a comparison of forces and tanks on the Sino-Indian border. It says that India has five armored regiments deployed in the border region. Each of these armored regiments is equipped with 45 battle tanks, so there are 225 tanks in total. Whereas China has only deployed 120 tanks. Although China is at a disadvantage in terms of quantity there is a catch; it states that India's main battle tanks are about 50 tons which include T-90 purchased from Russia and Arjun Tank developed by India. These tanks have relatively large tonnage and are high-performance machines in the plains but their mobility is greatly affected in mountain areas. It noted that there are no special light tanks that can be used for high altitude and mountain operations which basically means that India's ground forces do not have an advantage when it comes to high altitude and mountain operations. It notes that The Russian Sprut-SDM1/octopus light tanks purchased by India have an advantage when it comes to firepower but their armor is very thin. In comparison, China's Type 15 light tank has been specifically designed keeping those highland and mountain operations in mind. Hence, India's larger number of tanks on the border does not necessarily mean an advantage over China's deployment.

- **The debate over teacher questioning number of casualties during the Nanjing Massacre:** A video of a class recorded by a student and posted online triggered a heated debate on Social Media. The video contained a teacher questioning the number of casualties during the Nanjing Massacre. The video is from the Oriental Film School at Aurora College in Shanghai. The Nanjing massacre is closely attached to Chinese nationalist sentiments and any comments on the issue become a topic of debate.

## II. News in China

- PLA Daily published an article on 19.12.21 titled "In training talents, one must train hearts first". It emphasized building the foundation of ideals and beliefs, cultivating loyalty and serving the country while cultivating moral integrity. Only by virtue of this can we do a good job in cultivating people and minds, and ensure that the gun is firmly in the hands of people who are absolutely loyal to the party. It says that "Our army is an armed group that carries out the party's political tasks. Political standards are the number one criterion for our army's talents, and political requirements are the most fundamental requirements for our army's talents."
- On 18.12.21, it was reported by Chinese state media that a unit of Chinese office developer SOHO China's subsidiary Beijing Jianhua Land Co., Ltd. was fined 709 million yuan (\$111 million) for evading taxes, SOHO is chaired by Chinese real estate tycoon Pan Shiyi. At present, Beijing Jianhua Real Estate Co., Ltd. has two shareholders, of which SOHO China holds 60%, which is the actual controller of the company; and Beijing Huayuan Real Estate Co., Ltd. holds 40%. The former chairman of Huayuan Group, the parent company of Huayuan Real Estate, was Ren Zhiqiang. In a high-profile case, Ren Zhiqiang was sentenced to prison after harshly criticizing Xi earlier in 2020. Although he never held any political post, he was technically a 'princeling', as his father was the vice-minister of commerce. On 2.12.21, SOHO China's property subsidiary Beijing Soho Property Management Co., Ltd.'s Shanghai branches received 7 administrative penalties and fines of 86.64 million yuan from the Shanghai market supervision authority. SOHO China announced in June that it would be sold to US-based Blackstone Group in a deal worth HK\$23.7 billion, but the buyout was later aborted.
- The voter turnout rate in the Hong Kong Legislative Council election fell to a historical low. The general election of the Hong Kong Legislative Council was held on December 19 and the chairman of the Governing Council Feng Hua announced that out of the 4,472,863 registered voters, only 1,350,680 voted, with a turnout rate of 30%, the lowest turnout rate in about 30 years.

- In Peru, the Las Bambas Copper Mine located in the Andes of Aprima, one of the poorest areas of Peru, operated by MMG (a Chinese State-owned Enterprise) - announced that the factory was in a state of lockdown for 29 days, which prevented transporting employees, shifts, or equipment affecting business continuity at large. Thereby complete operations will be suspended from Saturday.

### III. India Watch

- SOHO's ties with Ren Zhiqiang can be a very strong reason for this recent fine and can be a part of Xi's efforts to attack the finances of the groups or individuals who can pose a threat to him in any form. Furthermore, ties between US based Blackstone Group and the CCP must also be reviewed strongly.
- The Las Bambas Copper Mine had to discontinue its operations due to protests from local people. Protestors had blocked roads since November 19; locals have accused the mining companies of polluting their crops and are against the Peruvian government's decision to settle local people near the copper mine. It is expected that about 9,000 employees will lose their jobs; Chinese projects globally are facing high operational risks.

**Image 1: Site of 'Event 35' where Pakistan is accused of conducting its first nuclear test with help of China**

