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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

- **Meng Wanzhou trends on Weibo amidst her potential return to China:**
Huawei's chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou will appear in Federal District Court for the Eastern District of New York by video. Meng's house arrest at her home in Vancouver, Canada (she was arrested in 2018 at Vancouver International Airport at the request of the US) is set to end as the US Department of Justice is poised to drop their request for her extradition. Her return is being greatly anticipated by the Chinese citizens and netizens alike, harkening it to the return of a 'true patriot'.

II. News in China

- China's commitment to rural development promises grain production capacity at 650 million tons for 6 years, doubled incomes for farmers since 2010, revitalizing rural areas deployment by 19th National Congress of the Party, rural sanitary toilet penetration rate at 68%, waste collection and disposal in rural households at 90%, "return to rural home towns" policy seeing nearly 10.1 million people return to rural areas to start businesses and innovate the area.
- Xi will address the opening ceremony of Zhongguancun Forum 2021.
- Qinhuangdao/ Caofeidian onshore power project has started its operations.
- Sun Chunlan, Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China, visited the Fujian province amidst the rising COVID-19 cases to investigate and inspect infected cities. Xiamen is the worst hit city, however reports suggest that things are under control, infected are quarantined at home and there is virtually no community transmission.
- Foreign Minister Wang Yi attended via video link the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. He delivered a speech affirming China's stance against racism and called for zero tolerance as well as a legal framework to combat racism.
- Wang Yi attended the G20 meeting and spoke about Afghanistan. He expressed the need to lift sanctions and restrictions on Afghanistan; continue Chinese aid to Afghanistan and asked "those responsible" to take up a bigger role in helping Afghanistan by providing financial support to ensure poverty reduction and sustainable development. He stressed the need for an inclusive and predictable Afghani government and highlighted China's commitment against terrorism, asking the UN to play a bigger role.
- Wang Yi also met the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and called on them to uphold peace and multilateralism. He reiterated the need to stop making investigation of COVID-19 origins a political tool.

- China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has brought a total direct investment of USD25.4 billion over the past eight years.
- China's ambassador to the US, Qin Gang, attended an event held by the Carter Center and The George H.W. Bush Foundation for US-China Relations. He stated that China's governance process is democratic as it aims to represent the overall interests of the people and ensure their satisfaction.

III. India Watch

- As India moves to restructure its military, the Foreign Ministry Spokesperson of China Zhao Lijian commented that India should maintain the treaties and agreements the two countries. Meanwhile, following the theme of previous reports, India spent approximately USD 1 billion to purchase 118 locally-made MK-1A tanks. This shows focus on bolstering defense via hard power.
- Before the QUAD summit, the Prime Ministers of both India and Japan met to discuss the growing threat of China in East China Sea and South China Sea region. Both countries have expressed concerns about China, while reiterating the need for free and open Indo-Pacific region and a rules-based international order. The meeting indicates that priority for both countries in countering China in different geopolitical arenas. India and Japan are also likely to expand and develop their Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI).