

26.01.22

*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

- **Interrogation over Weibo posts questioning China's language policy:** Language rights advocate Tashi Wangchuk was interrogated at the Kyegudo (Ch: Yushu) city police station in Yushu County, Qinghai Province, in the Tibetan province of Kham for his Weibo posts from his personal Weibo account with a profile bio that reads 'Freedom of expression is the mother of all rights'. In his posts, he questioned China's language policy and expressed his concern over the possible fate of the Tibetan language. Tashi had served five years in prison in an attempt to file a lawsuit against local Chinese officials on charges of inciting separatism.
- **Comments by Netizens on Australia's National Day Celebration:** Based on the British Sky News website report netizens in China condemned the Australian national day celebration as a large number of people went on beaches to celebrate National Day. Circulated pictures depicted that after the celebration beach was full of garbage, inflatable swimming pool toys, and wine bottles. Netizens compared the Chinese celebration of Lunar New Year with that of Australia's, commenting such that the latter's way is "humiliating, disgraceful and the Australian way of celebration." Some netizens further added an anti-west narrative to it stating 'How can Australians celebrate the day when the first European colonists arrived?'
- **Posts paying tribute to soldiers sacrificing their New Year leaves for National Security:** Soldiers being unable to return to their native places for Lunar New Year also dominated the social media discourse. News outlets and nationalist social media handles are repeatedly posting these so that a sense of responsibility and nationalism could be further increased amongst the citizens.

## II. News in China

- Hong Kong's ex-lawmaker Lam Cheuk-ting has been jailed for four months on charges of exposing an anti-graft probe into a senior police officer's handling of a mob attack on democratic protesters in 2019. The National Security Law of Hong Kong outlaws revealing the identity of anyone being probed by the anti-corruption watchdog. Lam was among those wounded in the attack and Yau (the police officer whose identity was revealed by Lao) led a team of police officers to fight the white-clad men. After a search, Yau told reporters that no arrest was made and no weapons were recovered.
- Politburo members, Liu He, Li Qiang, Li Hongzhong, and Hu Chunhua spoke at the meeting focused on the carbon peaking and carbon neutrality work. Observers have analyzed the session was about policy design, implementation, and bureaucratic interpretation, given the experience of late last year.

- Xi made a speech during the China-Central Asian States summit meeting stating that all boundary issues left from history are resolved. He further emphasized that some of the biggest projects like the China-Central Asia natural gas pipeline, the China-Kazakhstan crude oil pipeline, the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan highway, the China-Tajikistan expressway and the China-Europe Railway Express are already accomplished. Xi wishes to now achieve a bilateral trade goal of USD 70 billion by 2030 and speed up the pending projects with each of the Central Asian states. He also promised vaccines and the establishment of a China-Central Asia Health Industry Alliance with Central Asian countries in 2022. Sending a signal for western influence in the region he stated 'I am a foreigner, but I am not an outsider'. He briefed on the Chinese plan for Central Asia in the next three years in which the Chinese government will provide budget assistance of USD 500 million to Central Asian countries in support of livelihood programs and offer 5,000 seminars and workshop opportunities to help Central Asian countries train professionals. The joint statement took the anti-democracy campaign by China a step forward as the joint statement explicitly mentioned that 'Whether a country is democratic or not can only be judged by its own people. Every country has the absolute right to independently choose its path and model of development governance.'
- As lockdown and travel restrictions gear up along with the spring festival, instances of physical fighting and brawls are becoming more common for people living at apartments in China. People to take revenge on their neighbors have installed an electronic floor shaker so that if there is any noise from people living in apartments above a strong signal can be given. This shows social impatience changes which can be connected to the lockdowns as intolerance towards neighbors, increased disposable income, resorting to fighting, the popularity of retribution as a mode of punishment and usage of latest advanced technology to correct the behavior of neighbor is becoming common in Chinese society.
- IMF warnings to Beijing about the economic impact of its aggressive anti- COVID policy were shrugged off as Chinese authorities commented that China has achieved "significant results" and remained a key driver of global growth as the zero COVID strategy for China has worked very well in 2020 and 2021. IMF cut 0.8 points off China's expected growth this year, forecasting it at 4.8 percent.

### III. India Watch

- The teaching of minority languages goes against the Chinese constitution thereby Chinese authorities accelerate forced cultural assimilation and teaching of mandarin. The 'Double Reduction' policy, implemented in July 2021, bans all private after-school tutoring. Through this CCP was able to suppress Tibetan cultural education and language classes.