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*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

- **Chinese actor faces 'cancel culture' over historically insensitive posts:** Chinese actor Zhang Zhehan is facing Chinese 'cancel culture' post his social media posts wherein he is seen attending a wedding at controversial Japanese shrine. An older picture from 2018 has also resurfaced wherein Zhang is at another Japanese shrine Yasukuni which is seen as representing Japanese militarism and aggression.
- **Beijing's ban on foreign textbooks trends:** Beijing has become the latest city to heed calls from the central government to ban the use of foreign textbooks during compulsory education from grades one through nine. This has trended on Weibo with opinions against the decision being censored at a sharp rate.

## II. News in China

- China has published a White Paper on "Moderate Prosperity in All Respects: Another Milestone Achieved in China's Human Rights" by the help of achieving Xiaokang (which means moderately prosperous society). The focus is on infrastructural development as well as increase in political rights for the people. Its publication as a white paper highlights Beijing's focus on its goal of building a moderately prosperous society with Chinese characteristics.
- People's Daily has carried a piece on the development in Tibet with a focus on villages along the border. *More on this is covered in our India Watch section.*
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Hua Chunying's remarks on the Dasu attack (wherein Pakistan claimed Indian and Afghan intelligence forces were involved) have unsurprisingly not seen Beijing issue a counter-narrative. Instead, he has stated that China "opposes any force using terrorism to seek geopolitical gains". Hua also reacted sharply to the US and European Union's comments regarding China's recall of its ambassador to Lithuania, stating that it is a matter of upholding One-China principle and a "legitimate measure".
- An incomplete and full-scale replica of the Titanic, which has been motionlessly sitting at a tourist resort in Sichuan for 7 years, has drawn concerns by the public and regional papers with regards to the finances of the project.

- Japanese Defense Minister Shino Ki visited the Yasukuni Shrine on the afternoon of the 13th August; Chinese Defence Ministry has responded to this action asking Tokyo to "reflect on the history of aggression" and learn from its mistakes, again asking it to not follow 'Cold-War mentality' which China associates with the US and its allies.

### III. India Watch

- The People's Daily piece on development in border villages in Tibet provides important insight into the area. For instance, it states that 604 border "demonstration villages" have been built with high standards along the borderline wherein they "shine like pearls". The piece highlights that these villages have now been connected to larger provinces, their own power grids and have complete mobile network coverage for communication. Such villages --also called 'border defence villages' --are selected based on their limited population, remote location and strategic connectivity for facilitating trans-border movement.
- Reports have come in that China is ready to recognize the Taliban should Kabul fall even as it pressures the group to finalize a peace agreement with the Ghani government (a future that China does indeed seem to want). For India too, which has historically supported an 'Afghan-led' and 'Afghan-owned' peace process, the ideal outcome would be finalization of peace talks. However, considering China's deep ties with the Taliban, if sources are correct and Beijing indeed is preparing to accept the group if Kabul falls, the chances are that a full-blown Taliban insurgency into the Afghan capital could be soon underway.