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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY

Tanishk Saxena, (EOA, Research)
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Reaction to op-ed on obligation of party members to follow a 3-child policy:** An opinion article published by China Reports Network, an affiliated body of state-owned China International Publishing Group, promoting the idea that party members should follow 3-child policy was taken down off the internet but went viral on Weibo i.e 9.12.21. The article stated that, "No party member should make any excuse, objective or personal, to not marry or have children, nor can they use any excuse to have only one or two children. Every Party member should shoulder the responsibility and obligation of the country's population growth and act on the three-child policy." The article also called for party members to not be indifferent when their friends and family do not marry or not have children.
- **Debate over rewards for testing positive via Nucleic Acid (COVID-19) test on Weibo:** The reward for testing positive for Nucleic Acid (COVID-19) test by Government is 10,000 Yuan for Harbin, Fuxin, and Jinzhou in Liaoning. While for Harbin in Liaoning the reward is 20,000 yuan that is awarded after confirmation. Reward policy led to an heated discussion over Weibo as some netizens argued that such a reward will further carelessness by citizens in following COVID-19 protocols and also leads to immoral marketing of the Nucleic Acid testing while others suggested that this amount should be paid to epidemic workers.

II. News in China

- During a CCTV 4 minute special show, Regimental Commander Qi Fabao (who returned to duty after recovering from head injuries in Galwan Clash) was invited. He thanked the team of doctors and said he is now reporting back to his motherland and will carry out battle preparations. The host pointed out that he was transferred to different hospitals and finally major operations on him were carried out in Xi'nan Hospital in Chongqing. He stated that the first thought that came to his mind post revival from wounds was whether the "enemy" has been defeated or not and whether his comrades are safe. When asked by the host that what keeps them going/what props them up in difficult situations, Qi Fabao replied that guidance of "Xi Jinping thought on strong military"; the Karakoram spirit that has been forged generation after generation since the formation of the corps 50 years ago; the spirit to stick together in life and death; and the unyielding courage to go a step further and die than to retreat half a step alive are their guiding philosophies. It was also pointed out that this year marks Qi Fabao's 25 years of service to the party. The host pointed out that because of soldiers like Qi Fabao, China has a "great wall of steel forged with blood and flesh", referring to the words of Xi's centennial speech.

- On December 9, "People's Daily" published an article titled "Reform and Opening-Up is a Great Awakening of the Party," by Qu Qingshan, Current Dean of the Chinese Communist Party History and Documentation Research Institute. The article did not mention Xi Jinping or Mao Zedong, but only mentioned Deng Xiaoping and his contributions to the party. When talking about the party and the economy, not mentioning Xi Jinping at all is very rare in the current CCP political situation. Non-mainstream HK media has pointed out that Qu Qingshan has had documented ties with the Jiang Faction during the early days of his career.

III. India Watch

- China had followed the one-child policy for a long to control its population growth but the low birth rate and fewer number of people getting married, and so on has resulted in a declining population leading to a demographic crisis. This largely has been driven by an upsurge in career-oriented approach in Chinese Society, endorsed by strict laws for marriage leaves. Now Chinese policymakers have taken the issue into consideration, building the two-child policy and even revising marriage leave in many provinces. The attention of policymakers on the issue was ultimately delayed and hence immediate steps are being taken to control the situation. The recent opinion piece and discontent over social media that recommends Party members take on responsibility to battle the demographic gao shows displeasure in the society regarding the delay in policy amending.
- Reports of rewards across districts for COVID-19 testing varies and thereby it could be concluded that China lacks a set of mature and standardized epidemic prevention measures. Rather, these measures are defined according to local conditions. Reports of corruption in testing have also caught the attention of netizens as people are paying bribes as part of the reward policy to get reported positive; such corruption could also be self-defeating for the policy.