

WEEKEND ISSUE
11.12.21-12.12.21

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **PLA's Electronic Warfare Station near Lake Mansarovar:** A Twitter account has posted satellite images of a PLA Electronic Warfare station coming up at Lake Mansarovar in Tibet. (See Image 1)
- **Akhil Parashar trends on Weibo:** Indian-origin Foreign Correspondent Akhil Parashar, who works China Radio International (CRI) is the subject of discussion in some of the military observer accounts on Weibo these days for his posts about China on Twitter. Weibo posts point out that he speaks ill of China and at the same time he gets to live in China and even work for CRI.

II. News in China

- In a report published by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress in 15.11.21, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Justice stated that they are currently conducting research on the management system of the detention centers. After the detention centers' management system is clarified, they will further listen to the "opinions of all walks of life-based on the opinions and suggestions of the representatives and accelerate the research and formulation of a detention center law". As of now, the detention centers in China are managed by the Ministry of Public Security and there is no law for its management or operation.
- .On 11.12.21, Han Wenxiu, deputy director of the Communist Party's Central Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs, stated at the China Economic Annual Meeting that China's economic development is facing three pressures: contraction of demand, supply shocks, and weaker expectations. The growth momentum of consumption and investment has weakened, and there are obstructions in the supply chain. Enterprise production is facing a shortage of production factors, including lack of chips, lack of electricity, lack of labor, and other issues.
- USA, UK, Australia, and Canada have officially declared their decision to boycott the Winter Olympics, due to be held in February 2022 in Beijing. These governments will not send official representatives to the February games because of China's chequered human rights record. China has warned these nations saying 'they will pay the price for their mistaken acts'. French President Emmanuel Macron has announced that France has no plan to join the diplomatic boycott of the winter games. Mr. Macron has said such moves are insignificant and symbolic. Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has accepted the invitation to attend the opening of the winter games.

- The 13th Straits Forum - a nonpolitical platform that promotes grassroots interaction between China and Taiwan - has started in Xiamen. This Forum uses the term 'compatriot' to address both sides of the participants, and is used to promote reunification of China and support the CCP's narrative. Taiwan has formally warned the participants by saying that the Forum is not an "orderly event".
- President Xi Jinping has sent a congratulatory letter to the Greater Bay Science Forum 2021. Xi desires to leverage the strategic position of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to turn it into a global science technology innovation highland. The theme of this event is 'exploring the future, sharing scientific achievement', which is hosted by the Guangdong provincial government.
- The USA has sanctioned officials and also imposed financial restrictions on 15 Chinese entities. The sanctions came on the day of International Human Rights Day and were initiated by the Treasury Department to restrict investment in Chinese entities who are part of mass surveillance in China.
- The Chinese government has released a white paper on democracy, a week ahead of Biden's democracy summit. This paper claims that one-party ruled China is the largest democracy in the world. It suggests this is evident from the robust electoral process followed in China, for instance, more than 900 million voters participated in elections to people's congresses at different levels in 2016 and 2017. The Chinese government has organized a week-long program to point out flaws in USA-led liberal democratic systems. The Chinese government said the aim of the summit was to defend US hegemony which reflects its democratic malaise and huge democratic deficit; it described the US as a self-styled beacon of democracy.

III. India Watch

- In a response to the summit, the Chinese government and official media have launched a two-pronged campaign: highlight the strengths of China's political system and underline the shortcomings of democratic systems. Such an endeavour, while directed at the US, is also reflective on democratic states like India, Japan and Australia who have fashioned the Quad with the US on the guise of being 'like-minded' democratic states. The Chinese government white paper on democracy warns other countries of the dangers of blindly following other models of democracies.
- Chinese official media routinely publishes stories that highlight the limitations of the Indian political system. For instance, Chinese newspaper CGTN carried an opinion titled 'Women's status in China and India: Who has human rights and democracy?' in which it compared the position of women in India and China using indicators like life

expectancy, female literacy, and women dying in childbirth. It suggests by all these aspects Chinese women have a better quality of life than their Indian counterparts. It notes that “rule by the people, in this case by women, is better in China in comparison to India”.

- Akhil Parashar is a well-decorated journalist who has been covering India-China ties and China affairs for long. He has conducted various high-profile interviews and taken on translation work, having lived in China since 2009. Such an outburst against him on social media suddenly puts him on the map in an adverse manner, highlighting that despite having built a strong career in the country --and being a working professional of high caliber in the state --he remains an 'outsider' to the people, shedding light on cultural challenges for potential immigrants to China.

Image 1: EW / SIGINT station seems to be coming up at Lake Mansarovar

