

15.12.21

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY

Umang Verma (Research Intern, ORCA)
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **A long post glorifying the CCP trends on Baidu:** An article on the spirit of the Sixth Plenary of the Communist Party of China is trending on Baidu as the session continues to be a 'hot post' on the platform. This article describes the four historical periods of CPC or 'four great leaps' and highlights various achievements of CPC. It has idolized the CPC and notes 'CPC has united Chinese people in all struggle, sacrifices, and creation'. A pertinent feature is its emphasis on 'history'; it notes the party should learn from history and should actively re-shape the course of history.
- **PM Modi's temple visits in Varanasi trends on Baidu:** On 14th December 2021, Indian PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the recently built Kashi Viswanath Temple corridor in Varanasi. Modi took a bath in the sacred river and performed several rituals. Visuals of this event were trending on Baidu on 14th December 2021.
- **Young girl goes missing increasing debate on women security:** Niu Jianjun, a 23-year-old girl working in Wuxi and belonging to Hefei, went missing on 9th December. CCTV footage caught her in a dilapidated state. Netizens discussed the issue of women's security and the security of working professionals in China. Numerous working professionals, actors, social media influencers, and celebrities have gone missing in the recent past while there has been an active spike in women speaking out against aggressors likened to China's #MeToo movement.
- **Popular actor Wang Leehom files for divorce:** A popular American-born singer Wang Leehom, renowned for his fusion of hip-hop with traditional Chinese music, has announced on social media that he has filed for divorce with his wife Li Jing Lei. Chinese youth widely followed western pop culture and its fusion with traditional Chinese music make it even more popular showing acceptance of other cultures in China even as the CCP has tried to build a narrative against it. As most of Leehom's followers are youth, they have shown support for his divorce as well, which is otherwise considered a 'taboo' brought in by Western culture.
- **Enhanced fortifications for the Lhasa/Shigatse area:** PLA has constructed additional fortifications for the Lhasa/Shigatse area. The garrison in Gyantse is along with a SAM site. The site began construction in April 2020 and looks nearly complete. (See Image 1)
- **Jimmy Lai, jailed media mogul, denies participation in the vigil at Victoria Park:** Hong Kong Free Press posted a prison letter by Jimmy Lai, former media mogul, on Twitter. In this letter, he denied participation in the vigil in Victoria Park. He contends about lighting a candle with the reporters to commemorate the people who died in Tiananmen square. He writes 'if this commemoration is a crime, then inflict upon me that crime and let me suffer'. He suggests the virtues of love, goodness will prevail over violence and brute force. (See Image 2)

II. News in China

- Chinese internet regulator has imposed a fine of 3 million yuan on Chinese internet giant Weibo for repeatedly publishing illegal information. The company has 'sincerely accepted criticism' from the regulator and is planning action in repose to the penalty. This seems the latest step towards the promotion of what Chinese authorities call 'Civilised Internet'.
- Uber is planning to sell its stakes in Beijing-based Didi Global Inc. Uber's CEO described China as a tough and opaque market. Currently, Uber holds 12.8% of Didi; after suffering a huge loss, Uber itself pulled out of China in 2016.
- A national ceremony to commemorate Nanjing Massacre Victims at the memorial hall of the victims in Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu province, was held. The Nanjing massacre was one of the most barbaric events of World War 2 in that Japanese troops invaded Nanjing and brutally killed around 30,000 Chinese civilians and unarmed soldiers.
- China's South to North mega water diversion project marked its seventh anniversary. A report claims this project has transferred 50 billion cubic meters of water from major rivers in the south to drought-prone regions in the north until now, having benefited 140 million people and contributed to economic development.
- China is promoting Kung Fu in Africa through its embassies and Confucius institutes. The martial arts form is gaining popularity in big African countries like Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania and becoming a medium for people to people contact and promotion of cultural ties.

III. India Watch

- China has for long run campaigns wherein it has highlighted that conditions of women in other countries, especially India, is really bad, as noted in our newsletter dated 11.12.21-12.12.21, and that women have better standing in China. But recent events, such as Peng Shui's #meToo and working professional going missing bring the ongoing campaigns into question.
- Kungfu promotion contributes to Chinese soft power expansion; promoting it in Africa adds to Chinese influence over African culture. Enhanced soft power and cultural exchanges help acceptance in distinct areas; as most of the Chinese projects receive a negative response from the native population, such instruments are vital for China. India has also effectively used Yoga to build its soft power, as seen with celebration of International Yoga Day in the US, Canada and even parts of Europe, but specific importance should be given to broader outreach in Africa.

Image 1: New construction in Lhasa/Shigatse area



Image 2: Prison letter written by Jimmy Lai

I DID NOT JOIN THE JUNE 4TH VIGIL IN VICTORIA PARK. I LIT A CANDLE LIGHT IN FRONT OF REPORTERS TO REMIND THE WORLD TO REMEMBER AND COMMEMORATE THOSE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN, WHO 31 YEARS AGO IN TIANMEN SQUARE PUT TRUTH, JUST AND GOODNESS ABOVE THEIR LIVES AND DIED FOR THEM.

IF COMMEMORATE THOSE WHO DIED BECAUSE OF INJUSTICE IS A CRIME, THEN INFLECT ON ME THAT CRIME AND LET ME SUFFER THE PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME, SO I MAY SHARE THE BURDEN AND GLORY OF THOSE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO SHED THEIR BLOOD ON JUNE 4TH TO PROCLAIM TRUTH, JUSTICE AND GOODNESS.

LORD, REMEMBER THOSE WHO SHED THEIR BLOOD, BUT DO NOT REMEMBER THEIR CRUELTY. REMEMBER THE FRUITS THOSE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN HAVE BORNE, BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY DID. AND GRANT, LORD, THAT THE FRUITS OF THOSE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN HAVE BORNE MAY BE THEIR REDEMPTION. MAY THE POWER OF LOVE OF THE MEAK PREVAIL OVER THE POWER OF DESTRUCTION OF THE STRONG.