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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY

Himanshi Trivedi (Research Intern, ORCA)
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Stationed F-16 Fighter Jet in Japan dropped fuel tank in a residential area:** During a training exercise, USA's stationed F-16 fighter jet dropped fuel tank in a residential area which has resulted in outrage by netizens on social media, and Japan's Defence Minister has sought an explanation from the USA; this news is trending in Baidu in International News segment, with reshares on Weibo about how giving "keys to your house to strangers results in danger" referring to the US-Japan security alliance.
- **New suspected nuclear site in Xinjiang:** A Twitter account posted images of a suspected new nuclear test site located at Lop Nur (in Xinjiang). The picture contains two buildings in a deserted area. It is unclear if these buildings are targets-to-test-some (TGTS) missile or gantry structures for nukes or completely different things. (See Image 1)

II. News in China

- Ping An China Construction held a Commendation Conference that Xi Jinping attended. Guo Shengkun, a Politburo member and Central Secretariate Secretary, addressed the conference and asked to adhere to Xi Jinping's Socialism and develop the Chinese society by keeping the value of "common-prosperity" in mind.
- Lithuania has withdrawn its last diplomat from China and closed its embassy in Beijing. In continuation to tensions resulting from Lithuania's establishment of diplomatic ties with China, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has issued yet another statement saying, "China firmly opposes any forms of official and political exchanges between Taiwan and countries having diplomatic ties with China."
- Chinese banker Wang Chaoyang, the founding chairman and chief executive of China Equity Investment Co. Ltd. has allegedly been involved in financial misconduct. The banker was taken into custody on 30th November and has not been seen publicly since then.
- China has opened its 190th reporter station overseas in Nicaragua. On 15th December, after resuming diplomatic ties with China, Nicaragua has signed its first memorandum of understanding with the Chinese. The MoU was signed by the Ministry of Communications and Civil Affairs Commission representatives and their counterparts.
- On 14th December, the Spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry in a press conference stated that "sports are human rights and politizing Olympics are a clear violation of human rights" and has also urged countries to make a joint effort to make this event successful.

- In the wake of the campaign to reduce the debt risk across sectors, the Chinese Ministry of Finance has initiated a quota of 1.46 trillion Yuan, which will help reduce debt risk from the provisional government.
- Macau, which is a Chinese special administrative region, released the “Second Five Year Plan”. The plan is being praised in China because the plan has emphasized more on integrating Macau and China economically, socially, and culturally.
- Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Borisov has stated in an interview that India could be the “first on the list” to buy S-500 after the Russian Army gets a moderate amount for the same.
- China is conducting research through experts of the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (NATCM) to study if traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) therapy could be used to treat patients with the Omicron strain. Zhang Zhongde, vice-president of the Guangdong Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, stated that TCM is effective in treating COVID-19 patients by reducing their symptoms and adjusting their immune systems.
- China has conducted a military drill in Tibet involving anti-nuclear, chemical, and biological warfare. It was a combat, multidimensional warfare drill and also focused on logistics which showed the Chinese capacity to mobilize their army in an efficient way.

III. India Watch

- As China is not a signatory to Limited Test Ban Treaty (LTBT), it can conduct atmospheric tests legally. In this regard, the suspected nuclear site in Xinjiang can be made operational post tests and must be watched carefully.
- China's drills in Tibet focusing on multidimensional warfare highlights its continued focus on the Ladakh frontier and bodes ill for any potential positives regarding the standoff stalemate in negotiations.

Image 1: Suspected new Chinese nuclear test site in Xinjiang

