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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **The sixth plenary session of the 19th central committee of the CPC continues to dominate Baidu hot search:** A trending report from Xinhua News Agency suggests that high-quality development has become common in CPC-led China. It glorifies the tremendous pace of reforms, innovation, and overall development in China. The report argues that Chinese people should 'work hard' to realize the dream of development. The online post carries interesting comments such as 'Unswervingly follow the party, adhere to the national policy, achieve common prosperity with economic construction as the center, and move towards a better future together.' Several other comments advocate blind worship of CCP. (See Image 1)
- **Celebrity divorce triggers conspiracy theories:** Li Lianglei has issued a long article accusing her recently divorced husband celebrity Leehom Wang of various misconducts during their marriage. This episode has caused a severe dent in Wang's public image and brands named Infiniti, Shuang, Chow Tai Seng jewelry and others have terminated their contracts with Leehom Wang.
- **Tibetan activists' protests against Beijing Olympics by labeling it 'Genocide Games 2022':** Members of Students for a Free Tibet and the Tibetan Youth Association in Europe are protesting at the International Olympic Committee building in Lausanne. The activists argue International Olympic Committee (IOC) is colluding with Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in the organization of what they call 'Genocide Games 2022'. They have raised a red flag about CCP's human rights record and its clampdown on minorities and urged the international community to boycott the upcoming Beijing Olympics. These protests were the topic of hot discussion of netizens.

II. News in China

- The USA has imposed new sanctions on various Chinese surveillance, biotech, and government firms supplying critical equipment in Xinjiang province. The latest sanctions are aimed at China's Academy of Military Medical Science and its 11 research center that leverage biotechnology for military purposes. Recently, the Senate has approved a bill barring all imports from China's Xinjiang region unless businesses can prove they were manufactured without forced labor. Meanwhile, China has expressed strong dissatisfaction against such moves and has urged the USA to ratify its mistakes stating that China has made it clear that it will take necessary measures to safeguard the legitimate interest of Chinese institutions and enterprises.

- Japanese foreign ministry has announced the creation of a new post which will focus on East China Sea (ECS) and Taiwan-related issues. The post will be created in the foreign ministry's first China and Mongolia division in the next fiscal year. It will be headed by a senior official. The senior diplomat will focus on the Taiwan strait and maritime ties related to the disputed Senkaku Islands.
- A recent Bloomberg News investigation has added weight to USA's claims that Chinese companies engage in faulty trade practices, they are opaque and share close ties with CCP. As per the report, in 2012, Australian intelligence officials had detected a complication intrusion into the country's telecommunication system. The intrusion began with a software update from Huawei that was loaded with malevolent code. The Australian intelligence officials shared this information with their US counterparts.

III. India Watch

- The above-mentioned Bloomberg revelation on Huawei should raise red flags in New Delhi because two of India's biggest telecom carriers, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone-Idea rely significantly on Huawei gear. There is a shortage of sophisticated telecom gear in India and Huawei has a cost advantage over its European competitors such as Nokia and Ericsson. India did not outrightly ban Chinese firms like Huawei and ZTE but they were left out of the 5G trials. During these trials, Indian officials said 'we cannot prioritize economic gains if an investment poses national security risk'. In this context, India should be wary of Chinese technology in critical national security infrastructures. India should promote local technology companies and should collaborate with other countries. For instance, the recent talks between India-Taiwan on semiconductor hub is a step in this direction. Chinese tech giant Huawei has been at the center of the USA-China 'Tech War' and countries like India have faced the brunt. Washington has waged a global campaign to block the company from supplying critical 5G networks; the USA even detained Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of Huawei in December 2018. Chinese technology equipment poses a national security risk for any countries relying on them.

Image 1: Screenshot of comments on Baidu on sixth plenary session

