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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

- **Response to Trump's interview trends on Baidu:** In a recent interview Donald Trump for Fox News stated that "China has ruined the entire world and should pay 60 trillion US dollars for the new crown pneumonia epidemic". The Foreign Ministry spokesperson said the claim is complete "nonsense." The spokesperson's response is the trending news domestic news segment of Baidu.
- **Termination of session as speaker mentions God, Jesus, or purgatory shows CCP detection:** A Twitter account has pointed out that recently at a webinar on Dante organized by Peking University, whenever the speaker mentioned "God", "Jesus", or "purgatory", the Tencent Meeting would terminate the session. Most of the universities in China are now using Tencent meetings for their online classes, including the ones that cater to foreign students. This can be a case of automatic detection of words whose usage is not encouraged by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)

II. News in China

- The recently held legislative election of Hong Kong has gained global attention after the foreign ministers of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States Secretary of States issued a joint statement stating that the outcomes of Hong Kong LegCo elections are of grave concern and the outcomes are erosion of democratic element in Special Administrative Zone. In response to this joint statement spokesperson of the Regional Government said that the government firmly opposes the joint statement and stated that the allegation is an attempt to discredit the elections. The elections were held for 20 out of 90 seats, and pro-Beijing candidates swept all the 20 constituency seats. The election recorded the lowest voter turn-out rate, which stood at 30.2% compared to the 71% in the 2019 District Council Elections.
- On Monday, the White House has appointed a special coordinator for the Tibetan issue, reasoning that it will "promote substantive dialogue" between China and the Dalai Lama to protect human rights for Tibetan people.
- Xiamen, city closest to Taiwan from mainland China that recently hosted the 13th Strait Forum, has completed its 40 years of being a Special Economic Zone. On the 40th anniversary, Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter for the same. He emphasized focusing on the path of socialism and committed to cross-strait integration economically and socially and encouraged to work towards the path of the great rejuvenation of the Middle Kingdom.

- Alibaba Cloud has been suspended for six months by the Chinese Ministry of Industry and Information Technology. According to the reports, the Ministry took this action on Alibaba Cloud after the service provider failed to report a serious security hazard promptly and did not effectively support the Ministry to carry out cyber security threats and vulnerability management.
- With regards to policy reform along the lines of 'Common Prosperity', the recently held Central Economic Work Conference has announced introducing a new tax and fee reduction policy. The policy is aimed to support small businesses and MSMEs who were hit by the pandemic.
- During the year-end speech, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi stated that the Ladakh border standoff has been "effectively managed and controlled." He also added that continuous dialogue between India and China and joint efforts of both the countries has led to substantive disengagement. Concurrently, the Indian side has presented a different image with the Indian Air Chief Marshal saying that the India-China border standoff is a matter of concern, and the Indian Airforce should modernize itself to secure countries sovereignty.
- On December 10, the USA imposed sanctions on Chinese nationals and entities involved in the Human Rights Violation. The Foreign Ministry spokesperson stated that the sanctions are unacceptable and 'we will take retaliatory measures'. On Tuesday, China has responded by banning four American citizens from entering China.

III. India Watch

- In continuation to regulating cyberspace according to its needs, CCP has used various tools and artificial intelligence to control the narrative and information that flows through. Recent experience of users during a Tencent meeting exemplifies the level of surveillance that is being upgraded in China. Also the crackdown on the Alibaba Cloud by the Ministry shows the immense pressure that CCP maintains on the Alibaba group, with imposing fines and suspending services remaining the key tools of the CCP.