

22.12.21

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Peng Shuai in Shanghai:** A Twitter account has posted an image of Peng Shuai, stating that she was in Shanghai on December 19th to 'perform' at a sports event.
- **Review of Xi's book over Amazon:** A Twitter account has posted that China has asked Amazon to allow only a 5-star rating to Xi's book. Amazon also quietly removed criticism of President Xi's books by scrubbing bad reviews, ratings, and comments from its Chinese site.

II. News in China

- Non-mainstream HK media has pointed out that the real estate companies of China are facing unprecedented difficulties and has ranked them by the degree of risks they are facing with Level 4 being the highest: Level 1: Gemdale property, Sunac China Holdings Limited, Country Garden, Rongsheng Real estate; Level 2: Dexin China, Sunshine City, Agile Property, Seedland, Baoneng Group, Central China Real Estate Limited, Sincere Property Group, Greenland Holdings; Level 3: Hengtai Group, Hongkun Group, Aoyuan, R&F group, Kaisa, Modern Land China, Fantasia Holdings, Jiangsu Zhongnan Construction Group; Level 4: China Fortune Land Development, Evergrande, Tahoe Group, Sichuan Languang, Sansheng Holdings, Macrolink Holding Co. Media has also pointed out that many companies have high debts, overdue loans, and are facing continuous lawsuits; stock prices have plummeted, construction sites have suspended work, and employees have become unemployed, land sales revenue has fallen sharply and a large number of office buildings and shops are vacant.
- The National Working Conference on party laws and regulations was held in Beijing on December 20. The conference was held in the form of a teleconference, and sub-venues were set up in all provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities including Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps. Major state media outlets published articles on the same highlighting the core message to "Exhibit the laws and regulations within the party to maintain the centralized and unified leadership of the party central committee; Ensure the important role in long-term governance of the party and the long-term stability of the country." Ding Xuexiang conveyed Xi Jinping's important instructions at the meeting and presided over the same. Yang Xiaodu, Chen Xi, Guo Shengkun and Huang Kunming attended the meeting. Wang Huning attended the meeting and delivered a speech. He said, "We must resolutely implement the spirit of the Central Committee's decision making and general secretary Xi Jinping's important instructions, and further promote the construction of Inner Party laws and regulations".

- The General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the General Office of the State Council issued the "Opinions on More Effectively Giving Full Play to the Role of Statistical Supervision" and released a notice requesting all regions and departments to conscientiously implement them in light of present conditions. It notes that since the 18th Party Congress, the reform of statistical modernization has been intensified, and statistical supervision has played an active role in serving and guaranteeing economic and social development. However, the statistical supervision systems and policy systems are not perfect; the effectiveness of statistical supervision needs to be improved, and there is still a certain gap between the effectiveness of statistical supervision and the requirements of the new situation and new tasks. China requires regular statistical inspections of provinces, municipalities, and relevant departments of the State Council every five years, and as needed implement "look backs" for regions and departments with prominent statistical fraud problems wherein special inspections will be conducted as appropriate. "Look backs" of statistical inspections mainly focus on the development of regular inspection rectification work, the completion of key rectification tasks, and the construction of long-term mechanisms.
- On December 11, Lou Jiwei, current director of the 13th CPPCC Foreign Affairs Committee and former Minister of Finance, bluntly stated in a video conference that the official statistics do not reflect the negative changes in the economy. As the former Minister of Finance, his doubts about China's statistical data have refocused the outside world's long-standing concerns about the falsification of the CCP's official economic data.
- Non-mainstream HK media has pointed out that the article titled "In training talents, one must train hearts first" in PLA Daily of 19.12.21(report dated 19.12.21), emphasizes the loyalty of the PLA to the party without naming Xi Jinping even once. The articles says to "ensure that the gun is firmly in the hands of people who are absolutely loyal to the party." The first sentence of the article states "to win the crowd but not to have their heart, is the same as being a lone traveler." Non-mainstream HK media believes that this sentence is referring to Xi there was no mention of him as President nor as the chairman of the Chinese Military Commission or General Secretary of the CCP.

III. India Watch

- At the Economic Work Conference held a few days ago, CPC emphasized stability, and the word "stable" appeared 25 times. This means that the CPC itself has to admit that the Chinese economy is facing a status quo where the Chinese economy is suddenly overwhelmed by problems all around.

- It has been seen that provincial/city officials report inflated economic numbers so that their performance looks good in front of their superiors. Interestingly, a memo from the U.S. Embassy in China published on the WikiLeaks website revealed that as early as 2007, the then Liaoning Party Secretary Li Keqiang stated that the GDP data released by China were manmade and therefore unreliable.
- The article titled “In training talents, one must train hearts first” is also being seen in the light of the proceedings report of the National Working Conference on party laws and regulations held on 20.12.21 (report dated 20.12.21) in which Xi has recently issued important instructions to emphasize that the party has always attached importance to the establishment of internal party laws and regulations, and focused on the use of internal party laws to govern the party and improve the party’s governance.” Non-mainstream HK media believes that such words together with the article in PLA daily reflect factional struggle getting intensified inside the party.