

30.12.21

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Death of Chinese doctor who first cautioned about COVID mourned:** Chinese netizens mourned the death of Dr Li Wenliang on his Weibo account. Dr Li first shared his concerns over COVID-19 in late 2019, however, was later arrested for spreading online rumors.
- **Chinese officials questioned over delivery of groceries:** Following the commencement of lockdown in Xi'an, Chinese netizens took to Weibo to ask them where their groceries where after officials announced that essentials would be delivered to them.
- **Mercedes faces backlash for advertisement:** The auto-mobile company faced backlash on Weibo for reflecting Western stereotypes about Asian people.
- **Post by employee of the Hangzhou municipal government on her paycut trends:** A young professional from the Hangzhou municipal government has shared: "My annual pay is going to be slashed by around 25%. That's 50,000 yuan (\$7,850) less.". What has caught everyone's attention is not the steepness of the cut without explanation as the same is common in China due to the Party's control, but rather what surprised many was the revelation that a nonexecutive worker in the capital of Zhejiang Province was receiving an annual income of 200,000 yuan.

News in China

- After Chinese authorities raided Stand News office and received international condemnation of its crackdown on press, two senior editors of the same were arrested with charges of publishing seditious content.
- Filing a complaint to the UN, Chinese authorities stated that they were forced to move its Tianhe space station to avoid impact with SpaceX's Starlink Internet Satellite.
- As COVID-19 cases continue to flare up across China and subsequent lockdowns to deal with the cases, people across the country harbour hopes that this would be last winter with the pandemic.
- Chinese and American researchers find that SARS-CoV-2 did not just originate from Wuhan, but also had its origins in Europe. The finding shows that COVID-19 had "twin beginnings".
- Chinese General Administration of Sport announced that Chinese national players are banned from having tattoos on their bodies. The administration announced that those with tattoos already are requested to either remove them or cover them up.
- Speaking with the media, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi spoke about the current international situation and the role that China and its diplomacy plays.

- Wang Yi, the Chinese Foreign Minister, stated that as long as China and Russia are on the same page, world order will maintain and not collapse into a hegemony.

III. India Watch

- Chinese local governments, as covered in our previous reports from 29.12.21 and 27.12.21, are under immense debt. The new added example of huge paycuts only furthers this deduction.
- China's attempts at forwarding its diplomacy are gaining traction across the world. By advocating its model of governance, China has long attempted to discredited the Westphalian institutions and democratic method of ruling. The Quad, as the regions premier democracy led grouping, must focus energy on furthering a pro-democracy outlook by building on partners in Europe via ventures such as B3W, SCRI and Global Gateway strategy.