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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

- **China rotating its jet fighters to airbases:** A Twitter account has posted satellite images showing that China is actively rotating its fighter jets to airbases. J-16 fighter jets and KJ-500 early warning aircraft were located at Hotan near Aksai Chin during December (See Image 1) while during November J-10s, J-11s & early warning aircraft w/ H-6s were stationed at Golmud on the Tibetan plateau. (See Image 2)
- **Garrison at Kangxiwar near Aksai Chin:** A social media post claimed that China is developing a new garrison at Kangxiwar near Aksai Chin. The images attached show permanent shelters built across. It is located 25Km from occupied Aksai Chin and thereby is strategically very important. The same area was used in the form of a Head Quater of Xinjiang military command during the 1962 war. (See Image 3) China is also building a road tunnel to connect infrastructure in disputed Aksai Chin with Hotan Air Base, where China rotates bombers, fighters & early warning aircraft near India. This project is estimated to be completed by 2022. (See Image 4).
- **Discontent against Garbage disposal fees:** Local authorities and district administration of Bazhou City in China is collecting garbage disposal fees for the first time in more than ten years, and no notice has been received from the concerned departments beforehand. The charges are 1yuan per square meter. Controversy arose after a small snack bar had to pay 400 yuan in fees (calculated for two years since it opened) though it was not able to do work amid the lockdowns and operations. The store owner has also claimed that he returned to his native place due to lockdown. The owner was asked to pay fees immediately otherwise he was threatened to be summoned by district administration. This incident has further increased the fear of Uniforms under PLA in the general public as observed via social media posts.
- **Video of a boy offering milk to the armed police on duty goes viral:** In the South Square of Shanghai Railway Station, a boy wanted to hand a milk drink to the soldier but for disciplinary reasons, the armed police soldier refused. The boy responded that he was very impressed with the hard work and he likes armed forces very much. Later on, with orders of superiors in command and requests by people gathered around to accept milk drinks, the men of the armed forces accepted the drink.
- **Chinese Submarine Seen in Myanmar:** In a video shared over TikTok, a submarine of the Chinese Navy Type-035 Ming Class boat flying a Chinese flag entered Malacca strait and is said to be heading towards Myanmar. The submarine was escorted by a Myanmar Navy 5-series gunboat 556.

News in China

- Governor of Guangdong province Ma Xingrui was formally appointed as secretary of Xinjiang region replacing Chen Quanguo. He will become party chief of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. (see report 25.12.21-26.12.21)
- Ding Jiayi, a Chinese human rights lawyer was detained at the Linshi Detention Center in the eastern Chinese province of Shandong. He was held under incommunicado criminal detention on suspicion of "subversion" for taking part in a gathering in the southwestern Chinese city of Xiamen two years back. Netizens were worried about his health as permission to meet with family members or a lawyer is denied by authorities.
- The Nicaraguan government had announced the severance of diplomatic relations with Taiwan and formed diplomatic relations with China. Following that Nicaragua has asked the Taiwan embassy and staff in the country to evacuate by 23.12.21. Reports have claimed that all the assets held by Taiwan in Nicaragua, (even though they were transferred) have also been seized and deeded to China.
- A braised chicken and rice fast-food restaurant owned by Wang Ruo was summoned as his store violated two norms. First for having no alarm for potential safety hazards, and second for blocking the corridor or next shop; it was required to be rectified immediately. The next day, as Wang Ruo took notice to the office of the town government's comprehensive law enforcement brigade he was informed verbally that the fine was 50,000 yuan for alarm and 150,000 yuan for blocking the way. His store has an annual income of 100,000 yuan. On similar lines a nearby education and training institution was fined 100,000 yuan, a foot bath shop 200,000 yuan, tobacco and tea hotels 10,000 yuan, and the property company in the community where the shop is located fined 70,000 yuan.
- The Guangdong Provincial Taxation Bureau issued a notice that celebrity artists and network anchors will be investigated and will be required to produce tax accounts. If done right they could lighten, mitigate, or exempt tax punishments, otherwise, they will be seriously dealt with in accordance with law and regulations.
- China deploys large numbers of police to regional capital Lhasa and imposes restrictions on Tibetans' movements in other areas, Travel restrictions tighten in Tibet ahead of Beijing Winter Olympics on the backdrop of the growing number of COVID-19 cases.
- PLA conducted seminars at army training base to simulate blue army construction. These are initiatives taken by PLA in continuation to Xi Jinping's thought of strengthening the army by implementing the military-strategic policy of the new era. The key focus of Xi's thought to develop a blue army is on building a high-level training support system, matching contemporary technology, construction and application through advanced networks and intelligence.

III. India Watch

- The Detention of Ding Jiaxi, a Chinese human rights lawyer raises serious concerns for human rights violations and the current state of governance in China. The rejection of the applications to meet him by both family and legal representatives raises serious concerns. He is not yet been presented to a court and is not able to put forth his voice for two years. It not only violates human rights but also natural justice as Latin maxim, 'Audi Alteram Partem' states that 'no person should be sentenced unheard'. It also presents the weak current state of bar councils and associations for lawyers integrity in China as none of such Civil society organizations have come forward to protect the rights of Jiaxi. It becomes difficult to guide someone to justice until one is able to secure their own basic rights.
- Xi's vision of building a blue army is capable of shifting the balance of power and raises concerns for India. China is building infrastructure projects on a rapid scale across LAC. It brings security concerns for India that cannot be ignored as these are being constructed close to the tense borders of Aksai Chin and Sikkim. Xi's vision is to promote the scientific and technological content and cost-effectiveness of training conditions, and comprehensively upgrade the deep coupling of combat training by the transformation of the training module.
- The transfer of the Chinese submarine to the Myanmar Navy is confirmed; it is named UMS Minye Kyaw Htin after the King of the Toungoo dynasty. The supply of a submarine by China, most likely gifted or at an extreme discount, raises geopolitical tensions. India had also transferred an Indian Navy Kilo Class submarine last year.

Image 1: Aircraft located at Hotan near Aksai Chin during December



Image 2: Fighter jets stationed at Golmud on the Tibetan plateau.



Image 3: PLA Garrison Construction Kangxiwar, Xinjiang, China



Image 4: China constructing a new tunnel at Kangxiwar, Xinjiang, China

