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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



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

- **Energy crisis in China:** As energy crisis worsens in China, with many people losing access to energy so close to winters, people have taken to Weibo to express concerns over no access to tap water, cellphone service and electricity.
- **Counternarrative against India energy resources trends:** “#India has only 4 days of coal stock left on average” was trending on Weibo. It appears that this trending news was aimed at normalizing the power shortage China is facing at home by citing lack of coal in a neighbouring country.
- **Ikea's discontinuation of toy takes Weibo by storm:** Ikea announced that it would be discontinuing a 39-inch stuff toy shark called Blahaj. After Ikea UK tweeted, users on Weibo had a major reaction to the decision. The topic thread "Ikea toy to cease development" was viewed on Weibo over 72 million times and spawned over 10,000 discussion threads.

II. News in China

- Responding to the US's concerns over Chinese warplanes flying by Taiwan's airspace, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs responded by stating that Taiwan is part of China, and their comments are irresponsible as it violates the one-China policy.
- An oath ceremony was held by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, swearing in third batch of district councilors.
- The spokesperson of the Art Program Center of China Central Radio and Television invited people from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macao to participate and develop their talent and realize the “Chinese dream”.
- Beijing registered its first ever not-for-profit organization for compulsory education and training; the fees for which will be regulated by the government.
- Apple lost a lawsuit that was filed against it by a Chinese consumer, demanding Apple to stop charging 30% commission on purchases through the App Store, while allowing consumers to make payments outside of Apple Pay. China's Supreme Court ruled against Apple.
- China Mobile, China Telecom and China Unicorn, China's three major mobile network operators, are planning to rollout nationwide 5G services. This would include enhanced services such as messaging, video, audio, and electronic payment.
- China's top disciplinary body Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) moves against ex-security officials Fu Zhenghua and Sun Lijun.
- 56 PLA aircrafts have entered Taiwan's southwest air defence identification zone (ADIZ) on October 4, 2021.

- Global Times editor Hu Xijin has discredited the Pandora papers as a plot by hostile foreign forces by creating new tools for political intervention in developing countries. It can be an attempt to pre-empt any Chinese leaders names that come up in the future. No high ranking official from the inner core of CPC has come to light yet. The ones that found their name on the Pandora paper list are former Hong Kong chief executives Tung Chee-hwa, Liang Zhenying and Alibaba's second-in-command, Cai Chongxin, vice chairman of the board of directors of the group, and Feng Qiya, representative of the Henan Province for the National People's Congress.
- Major Chinese media outlets published a video titled "A week with the General Secretary" showcasing the work Xi has done in the last 1 week. It can be seen as an continued effort to ramp up popular support for Xi.
- Xinhua published a mini documentary titled "The Choice of a Big Country", which summarized Xi's achievements in anti-corruption, poverty alleviation, ecological preservation, & fighting COVID.

III. India Watch

- There is a widespread belief that Sun Lijun & Fu Zhenghua's fall is timed and is part of Xi Jinping 's overall strategy for final strikes against opponents in power struggles before the 20th Party Congress. Wang Xiaohong, the current Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Public Security & Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of the Ministry of Public Security, is a close friend of Xi Jinping. Some non-mainstream HK media believes that Wang Xiaohong had repeatedly foiled attempts on Xi Jinping's life , and because of this he was put into important positions by Xi. Fu Zhenghua and Sun Lijun regarded him as a stumbling block on the road to their promotion because both Fu Zhenghua and Sun Lijun had the desire to be Minister of Public Security and wanted to control the police power in China. Wang Xiaohong was originally just a small police officer in Fujian, and in the eyes of Fu Zhenghua and Sun Lijun, he was someone from a marginalized background. But Xi Jinping regards Wang Xiaohong as his confidant, and wants to transfer control of the Chinese police to Wang Xiaohong. Therefore, the desire of Fu Zhenghua and Sun Lijun to be promoted to public security ministers fell through, and there was a fierce power struggle with Wang Xiaohong.
- In the last 4 days, starting October 1, it is the 3rd time China has broken its record of the number of planes it sends in the strait. The need for India --and groupings like Quad --to formalize a more overt Taiwan strategy (if not policy) is now.