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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA



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

- **North Korea conducts hypersonic missile test:** A Twitter account shared pictures of a hypersonic missile test conducted by North Korea on Jan 6, 2022. (See Image 1)
- **Construction of a helicopter base in the TAR region:** A Twitter account posted that PLA is building a helicopter base in Kangmar County in Tibet. The specific location is close to the Chumbi valley area- about 23 kilometres from the nearest border with Bhutan and 65 Km from Sikkim, India. The image suggests an early stage of construction. Netizens commented that Pinaka and Bramos missiles or even SAAW and Rudram can target it perfectly.(see Image 2)
- **Parents of a Child called to the school at midnight for disciplinary reasons:** A school in Hebijun County of Henan Province called parents of all students in the dormitory as a child talked after the light is turned off in the primary school dormitory. The main accused was a student from Class 9, Grade 6. Netizens discussed the strict discipline standards and criticised the approach which caused extreme inconvenience to parents coming from far away towns in the winter months.

II. News in China

- Authorities in western China's Sichuan province were seen beating and arresting Tibetan monks. It was reported that eleven monks from Drago's Gaden Namgyal Ling monastery- suspected of informing outside contacts about the destruction of a sacred statue- were arrested.
- An Uyghur Muslim woman from the Xinjiang region- Hasiyet Ehmet- was sentenced to 14 years in prison for providing religious instruction to children in her neighbourhood and hiding copies of the Quran. Hasiyet's husband was also convicted on "separatism" charges and sentenced to life in prison in 2009.
- China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a joint press conference with Maldivian Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid and stated that China has pushed and upgraded the Velana International Airport project, built over 10,000 housing units, and constructed the China-Maldives Friendship Bridge. He also remarked that a new batch of assistance cooperation programs will provide momentum for Maldives' economic development. It is part of initiatives to develop 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.
- It is reported that 57 new locally transmitted cases of COVID-19 were reported in Shaanxi, and 56 in Henan Province. Beijing is on high alert for new outbreaks as it prepares to host the Winter Olympics next month, sticking to a "zero-Covid" strategy of targeted lockdowns, border restrictions and lengthy quarantines for millions.

- Chinese embassy expressed its discontent on the Joint statement of the Australia-Japan leaders' meeting stating that it interferes in China's internal affairs on issues related to Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Wang made the remarks in a joint press conference with Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs Raychelle Omamo. He also stated that the debt trap is overhyped and that 'China-Africa cooperation is South-South cooperation- demonstrating mutual support and help between developing countries.' Wang also noted that Kenya owes 80 per cent of its foreign debt to multilateral financial institutions such as World Bank, IMF and its debt to China is mostly concessional loans. This statement was made against growing concerns and protectionist measures undertaken by African states against Chinese projects.
- The new 40,000-ton dry dock is being built by China CAMC Engineering Co Ltd to strengthen the position of the 'Belt and Road Initiative' in Myanmar in a green-field site just north of the Thilawa Shipyard as part of phase 3 of the Myanmar Thilawa Shipyard Expansion on the Yangon River. Based on analysis of the construction work- the new facility is 150 meters (490 ft) wide overall and over 400 meters(1,300 ft) long. The docks, when finished, will likely be narrower. But the scale is much larger than Myanmar Navy's warships. (See Image 3 and 4)
- Foreign Ministers from West Asia will be visiting China soon. In late March 2021, Wang Yi visited Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Bahrain. He had also recently concluded a visit to Srilanka. Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Faisal, Kuwait's Foreign Minister Ahmed, Oman's Foreign Minister Badr, Bahraini Foreign Minister Zayani, and GCC Secretary-General Naif will visit China again.
- Zhu Fenglian, a spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council. stated that 'We will never allow anyone to interfere in Macao affairs in response to a recent report released by the DPP authority, that commented on Macao affairs and assailed the principle of "one country, two systems."

III. India Watch

- Blue roofed huts are visible nearby a construction site in Myanmar. It is observed that Blue roofs are often an indicator of Chinese infrastructure projects around the world even though many buildings in Myanmar also have blue roofs.
- Since the CCP officially released the "double reduction" policy that made parents responsible for the behaviour of Children, the policy is being observed as harsher than expected. This could be seen with a recent incident from Henan when parents rushed to school at midnight for a minor incident of a child talking after lights were closed in a dormitory. The schools are strictly following the guidelines, even for day boarding and hostels such strictness is worrying and represents PLA's vision to bring up the next generation under stricter adherence to the law.

Image 1 : North Korea conducts hypersonic missile test



Image 2: PLA constructing a new helicopter base in Chumbi Valley



Image 3 : China's dry dock construction in Myanmar



Image 4 : China's dry dock construction in Myanmar along with other markings

