

DAILY  
CONVERSATIONS  
IN CHINESE  
MEDIA

29.12.21



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ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON  
**CHINA AND ASIA**

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## I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Prison-Run Factories in 'Xinjiang':** A Twitter account posted information on "Prison-Run Factories in 'Xinjiang'. The information was translated into English and posted in as an MS Excel sheet on their website as well.
- **Call for release of Zhang:** A Paris-based press freedom group has called through its social media accounts for the release of award-winning citizen journalist Zhang Zhan. Her family has claimed she is close to death after a partial hunger strike she has been conducting to protest her innocence in Shanghai Women's Prison. Zhang was sentenced last year to four years imprisonment on charges of "picking quarrels and stirring up trouble" a charge frequently used to target peaceful critics of the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

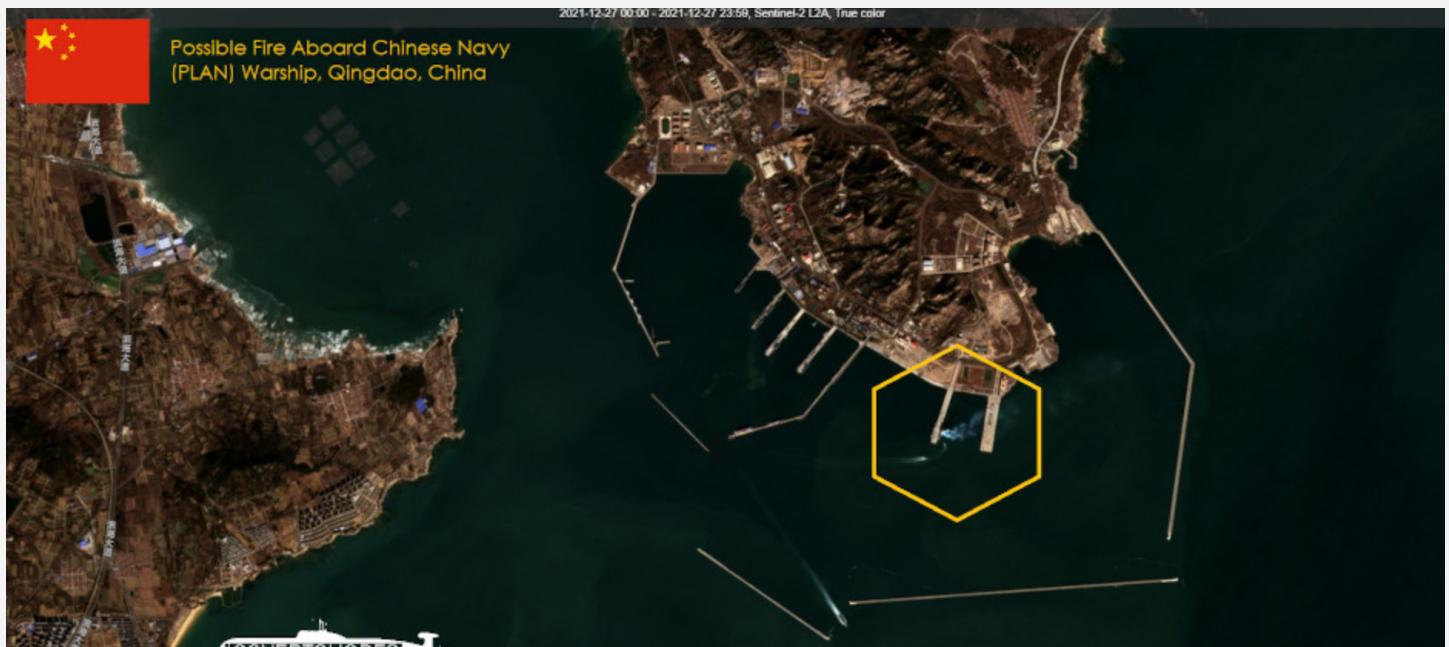
## II. News in China

- Iraqi security officials reported that China-Manchuria Oil and Gas Group Co., Ltd. (Sino-Manchuria Petroleum) office at Gharraf oilfield, Iraq was attacked by guns and rockets. No casualties and injuries were reported. The attack seems to put pressure on PetroChina to force it to provide employment opportunities for the local residents.
- China signed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) agreement with Cuba.
- Malaysians consider it an insult to their nation as a Chinese group has invited ex-PM Najib (convicted of massive corruption last year) as a keynote speaker to give a speech at the World Chinese Economic Forum.
- The Chinese city of Hegang announced that it will be freezing the hiring process on all posts as the city is facing massive debts and is also unable to fully pay employees already on its payroll.
- It is claimed that a People's Liberation Army- Navy (PLAN) warship caught fire on December 27. The vessel and smoke are visible in Sentinel-2 satellite imagery (see image 1) of Qingdao. The warship appears to be destroyer-sized. There is also a possibility that it may be a warship with old-fashioned boilers that release smoke.
- The images of the Chinese Type-035 Ming Class submarine sent to Myanmar are released. The ship is marked with the number 53 and is locally built in China. The vessel is smaller than the expected Project FF-135 frigate.
- A parade was organized on December 29 by local authorities of Jingxi, Guanxi to insult the offenders and warn others of the consequences of breaking the law. The people paraded in the streets were allegedly being disciplined for helping others to illegally cross the border during the pandemic. These people are alleged to have violated China's strict border health quarantine laws. These offenders even helped two foreigners cross the border, as per reports.

### **III. India Watch**

- Chinese Communist Party (CCP) gets activists and journalists based in China on charges of 'picking quarrels and stirring up trouble'. A significant number of journalists are jailed on the same charge and the term of punishment ranges around four years depending on the severity of dissent. There are several hunger strikes being conducted in prisons of China by such jailed persons.
- The current state of Hegang is just the tip of the iceberg; the Chinese economy is not performing well in remote areas. This came along with a decline in housing prices as the real estate sector is on a decline and the energy shortage in China. The local governments are in debt and are not getting enough to even pay their current employees thereby are imposing unreasonable fines on local vendors to generate revenue as covered in our daily newsletter dated 27.12.21. There is a huge gap in states revenue across China and such fragile conditions of Chinese states authorities and district administration will surely hinder Xi's idea for common prosperity.
- China's signing of BRI agreement with Cuba must be viewed by India as an adverse move vis-a-vis Indo-Pacific security and maritime trade routes considering its important geography.

**Image 1: Possible Fire Aboard Chinese Navy (PLAN) Warship, Qingdao, China**



**Image 2: First Images Of New Inlay Class Warship For Myanmar Navy**

