

DAILY
CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA

06.12.21



ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA

PREPARED BY

Tanishk Saxena, (EOA, Research)
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Outburst by a man against spicy food at Changsha:** A post on Weibo went viral as the capital of Hunan province, Changsha, known for its spicy food had an unusual incident as a customer had an outburst for food being spicey. The chatter in response to the same on social media highlights that Hunan's spicy food is attached to the culture and identity of the region and any insult to the same is met with sensitivity.
- **Story of Little red Mansion owned by Zhao Fuqiang goes viral:** The story of the little red mansion ha sgone viral on social media. This place was owned by an underworld Don (King Pin) of China - Zhao Fuquiang. In 2020, he was sentenced a death penalty on charges of leading and participating in organized crime since 2004 sentenced. Zhao is originally from Taixing in Jiangsu; a compelling business and government network were his strong pillars of support.
- **HQ-9 SAM to be placed at Shigatse Airbase:** A Chinese propaganda Twitter account has posted images of two new SAM(Surface to air missile) sites in Shigatse Airbase that will possibly house the HQ-9 long-range air defense system (similar to S-300 of Russia). (See Image 1)
- **Discussion on Weibo over Putin's India visit:** Weibo users were discussing the India-Russia 2+2 summit and Putin's India visit. The dominant tone among users was that India and Russia have very close ties and that is why it is impossible that India will fully embrace the U.S. As the U.S considers sanctions against India (for buying S400), summits like this only help offset U.S influence as per netizens.

II. News in China

- Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian commented on an announcement made by the US regarding diplomatic boycott of China by not sending any official representatives to the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics. He commented that this decision is based on ideological prejudice and backed by lies and rumors while also saying that this could further lead to the decline of morality in the United States and also loss of credibility.
- A submarine primarily identified as a Chinese Navy submarine transited through the Taiwan Strait. The submarine transited from the submarine base at Yulin in the South China Sea. The submarine is escorted by another vessel. It surfaced and a Sentinel 2 satellite low-resolution image was taken.
- The CPC Politburo held a meeting presided by Xi on 6.12.21 to analyze and study the economic work for 2022; economic and anti-corruption work seemed to be the main agenda of the meeting.

- Professor Zheng Rong from the University of International Business and Economics at the National Tobacco Control Symposium stated that there is a need to enhance tobacco control measures as China's smoking rate is expected to increase from 26.60% in 2018 to 27.64% by 2030. China aims to reduce adult smoking to 20% by 2030.
- After Evergrande, Kaisa, and Fantasia were faced with debt repayment issues, Sunshine 100 (a real estate developer company) said on 6.12.21 that it had defaulted on a \$170 million dollar bond due to liquidity issues.
- The latest data released by the General Administration of Customs of China shows that from January to October this year, China's grain imports have had a sharp increase of 23% over the same period last year. However, state media is not mentioning this data. Instead, they claimed that China's grain harvest has increased by 2% over last year. The National Bureau of Statistics of China announced on 6.12.21 that China's grain output this year has "a new high", with a total output of 682.85 million tons, an increase of 2% over the previous year. Food imports from January to August this year alone have exceeded the annual level of 2019.
- Hubei Provincial Disaster Reduction Office predicted that during these winters, Hubei temperature may drop down to 12°C followed by freezing disasters throughout the province. There is a high probability of winter drought and forest fires that have immense destructive power.

III. India Watch

- Having an airbase for SAM in Shigatse which is very close to Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh is most likely a response to India getting S400 from Russia.
- The wake patterns shown by the submarine passing Taiwan Strait are characteristic of a vessel with a typical rounded bow. This length best fits a Type-094 Jin Class SSBN. Such a Chinese nuclear-powered submarine, as a part of routine repair returned to the Bohai sea; hence this transit is likely routine. Chinese People's Liberation Army-Navy (PLAN) had conducted a live-fire drill in the Bohai Sea and it is of vital importance to China. During times of naval conflicts, any place of refilling and repair becomes one of utmost importance thus is generally placed at a secure place. (See Image 2)

Image 1: Satellite images show two new SAM sites



Image 2: Satellite images of a submarine in Taiwan Strait

