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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

- **Netizens praise efforts of Chinese embassy to evacuate Chinese students from Ukraine:** After issuing a notice on the evacuation of Kiev at around 4:00 am, on March 2, 106 Chinese students in Ukraine led by Miao Fei, the Science and Technology Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Ukraine, successfully cleared customs and entered Poland. Netizens have praised the efforts of the Chinese embassy and Miao Fei.
- **Paralympic cross-country skiing competition:** The Paralympic cross-country skiing competition of the Beijing Winter Paralympics will be held at the National Biathlon Center in Zhangjiakou Division. There will be 20 events in total, divided into three individual events of short distance, middle distance and long distance, as well as mixed relay and open relay

II. News in China

- The ongoing Russia-Ukraine war is going to be a test for the China-Europe relationship. Earlier events like the mutual sanctions between China and Europe in 2021, Lithuania's withdrawal from the "17+1" mechanism, and the establishment of a "Taiwan representative office" in Vilnius among many others have already deteriorated their relations over the years. Now, China speaking for Russia and avoiding calling the "special military operation" launched by Russia an invasion will surely be fruitful for its friendship with Russia but can also be bad for its relations with Europe.
- After Western governments have announced sanctions against Russia on its invasion of Ukraine, China stated it will give permission for wheat export from Russia. This kind of announcement can prove harsh for China as it majorly depends on international trade. To maintain economic and political stability, President Xi cannot ignore the sanctions imposed by the West. However, with his one eye on the Ukraine crisis, Xi has his other on Taiwan.
- With the big surge in international market prices and severe winter conditions, areas of Northern China suffered a shortage of natural gas. While China does not depend largely on coal imports, the imports for natural gas stand at over 40 percent. Weinan city's natural gas company sent a letter of apology to its residents, stating the reason for the sudden shortage of natural gas.
- China's effort in shaping online views and opinions continues with the introduction of new algorithm law. Under the new algorithm law, tech companies have been asked to "promote positive energy" and permit their users to decline personalized recommendations. The draft of the regulation was announced last August by the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) and the final rules were published in January.

- Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on a Fuji TV program on the 27th that "Putin has repeatedly told me that 'NATO does not keep its promises'" and that "He has no territorial ambitions, and is taking actions based on the perspective of defending Russia and ensuring security". Abe also said that in the current unstable international situation, Japan should follow the example of the five NATO countries to discuss the deployment of US nuclear weapons on Japanese soil.
- The "Regulations on the Administration of Algorithm Recommendations for Internet Information Services" jointly issued by the Cyberspace Administration of China and other four departments will be officially implemented from March 1. Citizens have stated that it is required to protect the user's right to know and choose the algorithm, and the user should be provided with options that are not specific to their personal characteristics, or they should be given the option to conveniently close the algorithm recommendation service
- The Central Bank of Russia issued a statement on the 27th saying that Russia has the necessary resources to maintain financial stability and ensure the operation of financial services. Russia will guarantee the flow of cash and non-cash in Rubles of various banks. The Russian banking system is stable, with sufficient capital and liquidity, and all banks in Russia are currently functioning normally. In addition, the Russian side will use the local version of the Financial Information Transmission System (SPFS) to complete related business. The United States and other Western countries issued a joint statement on the 26th, excluding some Russian banks from the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Communication (SWIFT) payment system, and imposing restrictions on the Russian central bank to prevent its allocation of international reserves to weaken the impact of sanctions.

III. India Watch

- China has chosen to build a strategic alliance with Russia in order to jointly face the United States. President Xi and Vladimir Putin met just before the start of the Beijing Winter Olympics, and the two sides signed 15 significant cooperation agreements covering a wide area of geopolitical and trade issues. China stated on the day of Russia's invasion that it would allow wheat imports from Russia. This level of cooperation at such a time when Russia has invaded Ukraine and Putin's negative image has been formed in international politics demonstrates China's dedication and support to Putin, increasing his confidence in his aggression against Ukraine and Russia's ability to withstand Western economic sanctions.