

03.02.22

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY

Anisree Suresh (Research Intern, ORCA)

writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Violence against women continues to dominate Chinese socio-political debate:** Jiangsu police authorities are investigating a man after the video of his wife being chained up by the neck caused an online outcry, as reported in the weekend newsletter of 29.01.2022- 30.01.22. Netizens are discussing the rising instances of domestic violence and crimes against women. A county-level joint investigation has begun, searching for the man and his family members. After the video was widely shared, many of the online comments were accusing the husband of sex slavery, harassment and marital rape while many were disheartened at the authority's complacency. Such debate has become frequent in China amidst its #MeToo awakening, especially as most accused are members of the CCP or part of China's business elite.
- **Chinese fans welcome Russian figure skater's team showing public warmth towards Russia:** The Russian figure skating team of Kamila Valieva, Anna Shcherbakova, and Alexandra Trusova will be entering the women's singles at the games and has been warmly welcomed by the Chinese fans on social media. All three young athletes have countless fans in Russia and China, and the video of Chinese fans cheering for them is also widely shared in Russia. This is against the hostile if not unwelcome receiving given to Japanese, Indian and Vietnamese athletes in China.

II. News in China

- As the Beijing Winter Olympics commences, China is taking a step ahead of the Tokyo Olympics to create a sports system that ensures 'virus-free games' amidst the pandemic. Beijing Olympics would witness the spectacle of tech-dominated games and avenues with robots serving drinks, temperature-controlled sleep pods and completely disinfected venues. The infrastructure for the 2022 Olympics is made up of 3 main gated bubble areas spread over a 160 km area hosting 60,000 athletes and personnel. Each bubble, which contains conference rooms, hotels and other facilities, is centered around the main venue and connected through designated transporting lanes.
- The world's first self-driving high-speed bullet train is in action in China, transporting the athletes and officials through the Beijing-Zhangjiakou intercity railway as the Olympics approach. The railway line has been constructed deep underneath China's Great Wall, making it the world's deepest underground high-speed train route.
- MEA has announced that Indian charge d' affairs in Beijing would not be attending the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics. The decision was taken as China chose the fielding army officer of the Galwan clash as the torchbearer of the Olympic flame.

- International dignitaries arrive at Beijing Capital International Airport ahead of the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics. China had invited over 20 Presidents, Prime Ministers and Heads of the state for the prestigious games. Among the dignitaries that have already arrived include Kazakh President Tokayev, Kyrgyzstan's President Zaparov, UN General secretary Guterres, President of the General Assembly Shahid, Director General of the WHO Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and Director General of World Intellectual Property Organization Deng Hongsen.
- Chinese embassies and consulates worldwide celebrated the New Year of the Lunar calendar with various activities and traditional tiger dances. Embassies in Central America, Tanzania, Sri Lanka and Nigeria celebrated the spring festival with grand gestures of colorful activities. For the first time this year, Panama included the Chinese spring festival as a national festival, showcasing its strong bond with China.
- Vladimir Putin will be one of the international dignitaries attending the Winter Olympics opening ceremony, meeting Xi Jinping on 4th February, discussing cooperation in natural gas and finance, and signing 15 agreements on these matters. As Yury Ushakov, Kremlin Presidential aide, has revealed, this visit would be a milestone in China-Russia energy relations with discussions on their natural gas pipeline construction crossing through Mongolia leading the charge.
- The state-owned company, China National Nuclear Corp (CNNC), signed an agreement in Argentina to build an \$8 billion Atucha III nuclear power plant. In this project, CNNC intends to use China's Hualong One technology, making Argentina the second overseas location using this technology after Pakistan. The project involves Chinese investment for engineering, construction, acquisition, commissioning and delivery of an HPR-100 type reactor.

III. India Watch

- Beijing Olympics 2022 marks a prestigious moment of national pride for the Chinese. Over 20 plus international dignitaries were invited to the opening ceremony of the games; around half of them are considered autocrats by Western standards. Many countries and eminent diplomats will be either present at the ceremony or be sending their wishes to China for the success of the games. The diplomatic absence of major democratic powers such as Britain, Australia, Canada and now India portrays a clear image of the existing bipolar power politics and differences in ideology. While the US and other Western democratic nations boycotted the games due to concerns over the human rights violations in China, countries like New Zealand, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Austria have declined citing the strict COVID protocols. India for its part has objected along national pride lines, as Qi Fabao's selection as torchbearer marked a major affront to Indian soldiers martyred in Galwan.

- Russian President Vladimir Putin will witness the Olympics opening ceremony along with Saudi Arabia's crown prince Mohammed Bin Salman and Egypt's President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi. This reflects the emergence of potential new blocs of new cold war politics especially in the Middle East as China-friendly authoritarian regimes steer away from the west. This becomes more prudent to assess keeping in mind the US and India's attempts at building a Middle East Quad with UAE and Israel.