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*DAILY*  
**CONVERSATIONS  
IN CHINESE  
MEDIA**



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**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON  
CHINA AND ASIA**

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## I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Event organised to promote Cultural Tourism and support Winter Olympics:** With the Winter Olympics here, many people are excited about the ice and snow sports. According to China News Service, an event was held for around 10,000 people at the Poseidon Tourist Resort in Harbin, Heilongjiang province. The event aimed to help people sign in for the Winter Olympics and encourage cultural tourism. Children wrote their names on the “signature wall”, and some even wrote blessings for the success of the event.
- **Indian boycott of Olympics discussed:** Si Ma'nan (2.7m followers), a current affairs commentator on Weibo who takes pro-CPC stand and helps in influencing public opinion, uploaded a video on 3.22.22 in which he talks about India's diplomatic boycott of Beijing Olympics 2022.
- **Netizens show patriotism over the hand-in-hand procession of flag:** Netizens showed pride over their country as the national anthem played before the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics. Ordinary Chinese people handed flags to the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in a hand-to-hand procession.

## II. News in China

- President Xi Jinping held talks with Russian President Putin at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing. The head of the two states had an in-depth discussion on Sino-Russian relations and significant international strategic security and stability issues. Xi and Putin were seen together after more than two years.
- The Winter Olympics kicked off without official representation from the Five Eyes countries, i.e. Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States, New Zealand and Canada. The same marks a strong show of solidarity amongst the states.
- During the Winter Olympics introduction, athletes have walked through giant rings in a rare scene. Zhang Xianxian, the director-in-chief, said: The opening session looked forward to giving more appreciation to the entrance: the doorlights of the “China Gate ” were all drawn from traditional tattoos, combining the fineness of the country and making 30 to 40 changes. At the same time, the windows presented the great river mountains of the country in four seasons of a year, “showing the depths of Chinese culture, while opening the door to the world and welcoming people with enthusiasm”.
- In a highly symbolic gesture that sends out a political signal, one of the final torchbearers in the opening ceremony was revealed to be Uyghur cross-country skier Dinigeer Yilamujiang. A Video showing her family members watching her on television and getting emotional was widely shared on Weibo. Social media posts tout her as pride of Uyghur community and of China.

- On the fourth day of the lunar new year, i.e. February 4, Song Hongyuan, deputy mayor of Daqing City, party secretary and director of the Municipal Public Security Bureau, went to various toll stations, including Chengbei Toll Station and Qingdong Toll Station of Daqi Expressway, Longfeng Toll Station of Daguang expressway among many others, for the inspection of epidemic prevention work at these highway checkpoints. He expressed his gratitude to the officers who worked as frontline workers in epidemic prevention during the festival.
- On the eve of the Spring festival, experts from various Harbin Red Cross Central Hospital departments gave some valuable health tips to the general public. Various specialists from Neurology, Cardiology, Stomatology, and Endocrinology gave valuable suggestions on the early symptoms of these issues and how such informations can avoid specific health issues related to these organs. These suggestions would be helpful for prevention and early treatment.

### III. India Watch

- Indian Ministry of External Affairs has said, "It is indeed regrettable that the Chinese side has chosen to politicise an event like the Olympics" while national broadcaster Doordarshan has announced that it would not live telecast the opening and closing ceremony of the Olympics. Like many other Weibo posts in the Chinese social media, Si Ma'nan has also tried to build the narrative that India finally found a reason to boycott Beijing Olympics with the pretext of Qi Fabao becoming one of the torchbearers. He also says in his video that India is following USA, and playing as its errand boy trying to encircle and frame China. He noted that in the recent commander level talks between India China, India's attitude looked somewhat restrained but the fact of the matter is, "China's development and China's rise makes India jealous". He reiterated his comparison of India to just one curry lacking amongst many dishes of Chinese New Year dinner, which would not make any difference to the Chinese people.
- After Xi met Putin in Beijing (which was also the first time Xi Hosted a foreign leader personally in around 2 years), they inked a joint statement together which underscores firm support for each other in safeguarding their core interests. Lots of praise for Putin in Chinese social media was made as he was the first state head to clearly state that he would be attending the Olympics. At least 4 of the top 10 trends on Weibo had Putin or Russia in it, the other mostly being related to the opening ceremony.