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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

- **Tennis star Peng Shui reappears after sexual harassment controversy with CCP leader:** In an interview with L'Equipe, a French newspaper, Peng Shui said that there has been a huge misunderstanding regarding her previous Weibo post which alleged rape accusations against a former CCP leader. The post was taken down within half an hour of posting and Ms. Peng had disappeared from the public eye for a couple of weeks. Officials maintained that she was living a 'normal life' when concerns regarding her disappearance were raised.
- **US born Chinese Olympic skier placed at the centre of debate on geopolitics and representation amid rising Sino-US tensions:** World champion skier, Eileen Gu, the 18-year-old who has already won eight international skiing events, made her Olympic debut. She is the topic of discussion not just for her gold-winning talent but on the question of the representation of country in Olympics as a US born Chinese. Although in 2018 when she began her skiing career she participated as an American, but in 2019 she changed her affiliation to China. The debates and discussions had begun after Red Bull, a corporate sponsor, announced that Ms. Gu had denounced her US passport while she declined to disclose the status of her nationality. Although China does not recognize dual citizenship it made an amendment in 2020 expanding the rules for foreigners to obtain permanent residency for those who got international recognition in certain fields. Meanwhile, the US born figure skater Zhu Yi is facing criticism on Chinese social media after she fell on the ice while performing as many questioned why she was picked to represent China when many talents raised in the country are denied.
- **Beijing Big Air venue sparks debate over its backdrop of industrial area portraying dystopian image for sustainable ideals:** One of the Winter Olympics venues, the Big Air Shougang generated debates for its industrial look as it was; built at the site of a former steel mill. The Big Air venue at Shougang is one huge ski ramp in a middle of an old industrial park repurposed for the event and hosted free ski qualifying events. One twitter user had commented that this has invoked certain dystopian feelings since it is a nuclear facility as a backdrop to a sporting event. Another twitter user has said that the Big Air venue is right next to Springfield Nuclear Powerplant. The officials responded that the reason for choosing the Shougang industrial park site is to represent sustainability by turning an industrial area into that of leisure and culture as it goes along with the theme of China's green Olympics.

II. News in China

- US officials called out China to make 'concrete actions' on its commitment to purchase \$200 billion in additional US goods and services in 2020 and 2021 under

the phase 1 trade deal signed by former President Donald Trump. They added that US is losing 'patience' at the lack of effort by China in bridging the gaps in the two-year commitment which expired in 2021. Although, China was engaging with US on the deal, US requires serious intent from China to enforce purchase commitments.

- Ambassador Zhang Jun, China's United Nations envoy has rejected his US counterpart's remarks on the choice of an ethnic Uyghur as a torchbearer at the opening ceremony of Olympics as an attempt by China to distract the world from its human right violations. Zhang said that Dinigeer Yilamujiang, the ethnic Uyghur, is one among the 20 best athletes from nine ethnic minorities competing for team China. In a press conference hosted by Foreign Ministry, the spokesperson announced that Xinjiang Uyghur athletes as torchbearers symbolizes China's national unity and US accusations on the genocide in Xinjiang are lies propagated to dim the light of Winter Olympics.
- According to the statistics published by the Paper, official representatives from nearly 70 countries and international organizations attended the opening ceremony of Beijing Olympics. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Xi Jinping held talks with 19 foreign heads of state and official representatives within 72 hours of opening ceremony, reflecting that the Olympics was not just a sporting event but also as a major diplomatic event.
- The Central Disciplinary Committee's National Monitoring team at the people's Bank of China and the Yunnan Provincial Supervisory committee issued a notice that Yang Xiaoping, former secretary of the party committee at the Kunming central branch of the People's Bank of China, is under disciplinary inspection as he is suspected of serious breaches. He is the first 'corrupt' official under suspension since the New Lunar year who is also a long serving member of the central bank. The anti-corruption efforts have increased in last few years in every government department to materialize Xi's vision of a corruption-free China while also targeting political opposition.
- Thailand plans to hold a travel bubble talk with China and Malaysia this month after resuming a quarantine free visa program to boost the tourism of the country. Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-Ocha's government will discuss the bilateral travel deal with the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

III. India Watch

- Recent diplomatic boycott of Olympics and tensions over Taiwan have further deteriorated the US-China relations. According to political risk analysts, this will continue to dominate US-China relations and the wider Asian geopolitics. As the geopolitical and geoeconomics center of the world is shifting towards Indo-Pacific, India's entanglement in US-China-India triangle is clear.