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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

- **China's "Post-00" athletes trend:** At Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games, China's "Post-00" athletes have trended for their performance in the ice games. As of February 8, the Chinese sports delegation had won three gold and two silver at the Winter Olympic Games, of which the "Post-00" athletes contributed one gold and two silver. Post-00's athletes refer to the younger generation of Chinese sportspeople, ranging post the 2000's.
- **Screenshot of a video of Yang Xiaoping addressing guests posted on Twitter:** Non-mainstream HK media, as well as a Chinese Twitter account, has posted a screenshot of a video in which Yang Xiaoping, son of Yang Yong, a full general in PLA and former commander of Beijing Military Region. The video is from the Chinese New Year which coincided with Yang Xiaoping's birthday. Yang Xiaoping (born in 1942) addressed the guests and said that he has reached very old age, and there is not much to come. "But I am confident that I want to see that day when China realizes constitutional democracy." "I want to see that day." The fact that he was able to say that among his peers (Daily Tracker 8.2.22 noted that He Dehua, son of Hu Yaobang was also present in the gathering), and there was applause and cheers when he said that shows that the second generation of red leaders is not a monolith. It is possible that Yang Xiaoping's comment may not necessarily be directed at the CPC regime, but more like an attack on the Xi administration.
- **Another video of soldiers making the Beijing Winter Olympic mascot out of snow on the Pangong lake:** CCTV military Weibo account has posted another video showing soldiers making the Beijing Winter Olympic mascot out of snow to wish winter Olympic athletes a good result but this time they have made it in some other location and not on the Pangong lake. A military observer account on Weibo has posted a video clip in which Shigatse's plateau-stationed model battalion's Company Commander Wang Xu (32) says that he also wants to get a girlfriend to spend his life together but as a company commander he needs to put that thought aside as defending the borders is more important. "No matter if it is the Spring festival or anything else, we are here to defend. And use our youth to defend and safeguard our motherland."
- **Weibo account claims the Statue of Unity and Statue of Equality to be Chinese made:** Military observer accounts on Weibo have posted that both Statue of Unity and Statue of Equality are essentially Chinese-made.

II. News in China

- On 8.2.22, an article was published in PLA daily by Shi Wei, a political commissar in the 73rd group army of the Communist Party of China. Highlighting his work as a

political work cadre full-time responsible for monitoring the officers and soldiers, the article shows how Political commissars intend to keep a close watch on the officers. The article narrates that after dinner, a soldier named Zhang Yu, made a midnight meal for himself, took photos and posted it on WeChat with the caption that "Tonight's dinner was hard on my stomach". It was soon met with a rebuke by his squad leader and he was made to delete it. Shi Wei, the political commissar stated in the article that "in the past, military leaders used to understand soldiers' psychology through watching the amount of food they eat and their sleeping patterns etc. Now, they should learn to take the ideological pulse of officers and soldiers from their posts, replies and association on the internet, so as to make regular ideological work more accurate and in place."

- The Chinese authorities set 2030 as the new deadline for peak emissions for the steel industry, against an earlier target of 2025. This means that before the 20th party congress, the CPC has given priority to economic growth by relaxing the carbon reduction target of the steel industry for five years in order to ensure a stable economy which is one of the biggest front that needs to be managed for Xi to have a smooth re-election. Taiwanese media reports that it is also be a broader sign that the Chinese government is readjusting its climate strategy in light of last year's surge in commodity prices.
- India rejected the reference to Jammu and Kashmir and the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that passes through Pakistan occupied Kashmir (POK), made in the recent China- Pakistan joint statement. India asserted that the region and Union Territory of Ladakh have been, are and will always be the integral and inalienable parts of India.
- On February 8th, one of the top middle schools in the district, expressed its gratitude to Tongjiang Public Security Bureau for ensuring the safety of common people and efficiently managing the traffic situation inside the campus. For a long time now, the Public Security Bureau has been responsible for the arrangement of special police force for the safety of students.
- According to the Heilongjiang Provincial Health Commission, two new cases of local asymptomatic infections have been registered in Aihui District, Heihe city, Heilongjiang Province. Out of the two cases registered, one has been found by regional nucleic acid detection screening, and the other has been detected by centralized isolation control screening.
- At the press conference of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation(CASC), its Deputy Director Ma Tao announced the induction of six manned space flights in 2022 for the construction of its space station. According to the 2021 blueprint of CASC with 55 space launch missions in 2021, China ranked first in the world to in carrying out maximum space launch missions.

- The winners of the Winter Olympics skating group competition have not received their medals yet. The competition was held two days ago and the cause of the delay is the need of “legal consultation” with the skateboarding administration, said Mark Adams, spokesman of the International Olympic Committee. The award-giving ceremony was scheduled for Tuesday and the awards included a Gold medal for the Russian team, Silver for the USA and bronze for Japan.
- Essa Kayd, Foreign Minister of Somaliland met with Tsai Ing-wen, President of Taiwan on Wednesday. In a statement, he said that his visit to Taipei signifies their mutual determination to expand and deepen the two countries’ friendship and cooperation.. Somaliland separated from Somalia in 1991 and lacks any formal diplomatic relations with any country.

III. India Watch

- China’s reference to issues sensitive to India in a joint statement with Pakistan is reflective of the growing bonhomie between the two countries. It also reflects on Pakistan’s continued focus on Jammu and Kashmir region despite its recent National Security Policy’s emphasis on economic security at its core.