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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY

Dev Priye Aryan (Research Intern)
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **The White House threatens to take measures against China:** On March 7, White House Secretary Psaki said at a press conference: "If they (China) do not comply with the sanctions, we always have - you know, we obviously have a way to take measures". The statement was trending on Weibo, a social media site in China, with one netizen saying, "The United States can't even scare Russia, but does it think it can threaten China to scare Russia?"
- **Putin draws up a list of countries committing unfriendly acts:** On March 5, Vladimir Putin ordered the Russian government to draw up a list of countries and regions that have committed unfriendly acts against the Russian Federation, Russian legal entities, and individuals within two days of the time period. Two days later, on March 7, the Russian government approved the list and made it public.
- **The former US Army colonel bluntly said that Zelensky was a puppet, and the Fox host was dumbfounded:** On March 4, former senior adviser to the U.S. Department of Defense and retired Army Colonel McGregor made a poignant comment on the Russian-Ukrainian conflict in an interview with Fox Business Channel. The related video was viewed more than one million times on social media. "A lot of what Ukraine is claiming is actually a lie, which is debunked in less than a day or two." "Zelensky is a puppet... I don't think he has anything to do with heroes." "Someone let Zelensky drag on, poor people who have to go through this." The host expressed disbelief several times in the interview and finally had to say: "I tend to disagree with you, but let's wait and see".
- **Macron emphasized that people in all countries in the world should be respected posted on Chinese social media:** Russian Satellite Network and TASS reported on 8th March that French President Macron said on the 7th during talks about the Ukraine issue that Russia and the Russian people should be respected. According to reports, Macron made the above remarks at a voter meeting held in the Paris region. The Washington Post also reported the matter, stating that Macron emphasized that people in all countries in the world should be respected. Then he mentioned Russia and said, "Russia and Russian people (also) should always be respected". TASS said Macron also emphasized the need to communicate with Russia. "We have to continue dialogues with the Russian and Belarusian people," he said. "We need to do that, and (this requires) the help of representatives of the cultural, scientific and NGO sectors." Macron added France's responsibility was to "maintain a sustainable relationship as much as possible".

II. News in China

- On March 7th Monday, China's foreign minister Wang Yi expressed hope that India

and China will be partners rather than rivals for mutual success. "We must make sure that our relationship moves forward on the right track," he said. Owing to the huge populations of India and China, he said that the two countries achieving stability and harmony will lay a solid foundation for global peace and prosperity.

- In "Two Sessions 2022", China's largest annual political gathering, NPC and CPPCC delegates suggested measures against video game addiction of minors. They suggested a complete ban of video games for minors and holding parents responsible. Although NPC and CPPCC do not directly influence the policy-making of the gaming industry, the two sessions can lead a new path in national policy.
- NPC of China-proposed Expat tax for the wealthy Chinese who live abroad but still make money in China. Chen Jingying, a deputy of NPC stated that the loopholes in China's tax system for the rich Chinese who live abroad need to be looked into. This tax would be applied to those wealthy Chinese who could defend national taxation sovereignty and limit asset flight.
- Winnie Yu, a Hongkong-based activist, and hospital worker were arrested after being suspected of violating bail conditions. She made some online comments that could allegedly endanger national security. Winnie Yu Wai-ming was arrested in an anti-government movement in November 2019 and was released on bail in July 2020.
- More than two million people have now evacuated Ukraine since Russia launched its invasion nearly two weeks ago, says the UN. On Tuesday morning, evacuation from Sumy began with buses heading towards the city of Poltava. Indians and Chinese students were among those evacuated. Later, the Indian government stated all of its 694 students in the city had left with the convoy.
- President Xi warned the French and German leaders that the global economy could be dragged down after the sanctions imposed on Russia, as Europe stepped up a lobbying campaign for China to mediate Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

III. India Watch

- As the conflict between Russia and Ukraine continues, the sanctions imposed by the United States and the West against Russia continue to increase and even spills over to fields such as culture and art. During the conflict, Macron had several phone calls with Putin to mediate. According to previous news from Agence France-Presse, the French Presidential Palace said on the 6th that French President Emmanuel Macron and Russian President Vladimir Putin had a phone call the same day. This was the fourth time (they talked) since the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.