

WEEKEND ISSUE
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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Weibo discusses income disparity:** After a Chinese movie star, Deng Lun, was accused of a huge tax invasion, netizens talked about the rich who have everything and are still trying to steal wealth when common people are struggling to make their living.
- **Netizens discuss US bioweapons in Ukraine:** According to documents submitted by the US to the Conference of the Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention at the end of 2021, the US has 26 laboratories and other cooperative facilities in Ukraine. Chinese netizens on Weibo discussed the issue with concern and said that the US should explain the purpose of having such facilities around the world.
- **Google Earth changes the status of Tibet and Taiwan:** Netizens talked about a sudden change in Google Earth, but probably only in the Chinese app. It is now showing Tibet and Taiwan as Chinese provinces. Netizens guessed that this change might be because Google wants to enter the Chinese market.

II. News in China

- China has reported the highest number of cases of symptomatic COVID-19 in two years. The cases are more than triple the cases reported yesterday. 78% of the total cases reported on Sunday are from the province of Jilin and the strict lockdown has been imposed in its capital city Changchun.
- Co-editors of the "Xinjiang Year Zero" Darren Byler, Ivan Franceschini, and Nicholas Loubere spoke on understanding the 'terror capitalism' in Xinjiang, and the correlation between China's mass detention of Uyghur minorities and the rise of a high-tech surveillance state in Xinjiang. This category of terrorists has been produced as a result of China's counterterrorism laws, as well as state workers and private contractor law enforcement, and has rendered large portions of the Uyghur population "untrustworthy" placing them under largely privatized regimes of surveillance, re-education, and coerced labor.
- Foxconn, the company which assembles Apple's iPhone in China has halted its manufacturing due to the COVID-19 lockdown in Shenzhen city. The Taiwanese company which assembles and supplies iPhone from its Shenzhen and Guanlun based units have informed that they have shut down their production in view of the new surge in COVID cases in the city, and have adjusted the production line to factories elsewhere in China to minimize the impact on the operations.
- China has delivered the first batch of six J-10CE fighter jets to Pakistan. The Pakistan Air Force held an induction ceremony attended by Prime Minister Imran Khan. The jets were manufactured and delivered by the state-owned Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC), reported the Global Times.

- Russia has sought China's military equipment to aid in its Ukraine invasion, said an US official. White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan warned China to avoid helping Russia evade global sanctions. The Russian economy has been badly affected by the series of strict sanctions imposed on it for its military actions in Ukraine. This development has come just meeting in Rome between top aides for the US and Chinese governments.
- Human rights and democratic movement activist Benedict Rogers, who runs the Hong Kong Watch charity faces charges of "collusion with foreign forces" if he ever returns there. The British national was accused by police in Hong Kong of jeopardizing China's national security. Lord Patten, the former colony's last governor, said it was a "disgraceful example" of China trying to stamp out freedom of expression in Hong Kong.

III. India Watch

- There have been reports of Russia asking for military hardware assistance from China. Although Beijing has refuted any such request from Moscow, the US seems to take this issue very seriously and has issued a warning against helping Russia in any way. India should also be concerned about this news, as it clearly indicates that Russia might be running short of such supplies. Russia is the largest supplier of military equipment for India, and India is also hopeful in getting its increasing oil and natural gas demands met with Russian imports. The prolonging of the Russia-Ukraine crisis is certainly hurting India, which has found itself at a policy crossroad.