

**WEEKEND ISSUE**  
**15.01.22-16.01.22**

*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

- **The decline of Printed news agencies:** According to Yi Magazine survey, there were three thousand newsstands, and as of 2019, only 200 are carrying the flag of the conventional newsstand. The decline in printed news agencies has been seen since 2008, because of the rapidly growing digital platform of news.
- **Beijing reports the first case of Omnicron:** In a press conference held on Saturday Beijing authorities informed that the National Capital has reported the first case of Omnicron variant. The authorities also informed that due to the upcoming Winter Olympics and given the new development in the confirmed cases which now includes omicron the city is on high alert. Authorities also conveyed that there will be even more stringent health monitoring protocols and urged citizens to cooperate. Netizens expressed their concerns over lockdown.
- **Students in Beijing sued for Defamation:** Two postgraduate students of a university in Beijing have been sued in court for defaming an online education website known as Wenkao.com. The students posted their views on the platform Zhihu to which both were subscribed. Surprisingly the court passed the verdict in the favour of Wenkao.com by asking both the defended to pay a fine of fifty thousand yuan with a public apology for the same. This has made netizens worried about posting disagreements on the online platform.
- **Dissatisfaction regarding the advisory given by the Dutch Olympic Committee to their athletes:** Chinese netizens are posting their disagreement and dissatisfaction regarding the advisory given by the Dutch Olympic Committee to their athletes to not bring their laptops, mobile phones, and tabs to China because of the threat of espionage. This advisory triggered the Chinese netizens, also leading to sarcastic comments on advisory such as the ban is because “they’ve (Dutch Athletes) watch too many movies”.

## II. News in China

- On January 14 Centre For Strategic and Security Studies (CISS) released two research papers – “2022 China External Security Risk Outlook Report” and “2021 Annual Report of the Centre for Strategic and Security Studies of Tsinghua University”. The report has mentioned four real and potential crisis which curtail Sino-US relations and the uncertain security concern in Asia.
- China is going through a rise in the scope and range of whiskey in the Chinese market. Recently beverage company Diageo, the owner of reputed whiskey brands like Johnnie Walker, has invested in a single malt distillery in Yunnan Province. The market share of whiskey in China is only 1% per cent against the 96% of Baijiu Spirit, and that is why rather than bringing foreign taste the investors are trying to explore regional climate and taste.

- The rise in the cases of new coronavirus variants is on a rapid surge in China; one after the other every province and county is implementing prevention and control measures to contain the spread of the virus. Recently Henan Province's Tangyin County authority has announced three rounds of nucleic acid testing. The authority has also placed advisory and urged residents to cooperate; if they fail to do that the health code of that resident will be marked yellow.
- Xi Jinping's dream of making Chinese bureaucracy corruption-free which he launched just after coming in the power after 2013 is still in function. According to data published by National Prosecutor General nineteen thousand people on duty were prosecuted on the charges of corruption in the year 2021. The campaign however also allows for easy targeting of Xi's opponents, and such a tactic is seeing rapid resurgence amidst the upcoming elections.
- As Beijing has reported its first case of a new coronavirus variant – Omnicron – schools in Haidian, Tonzhou, and Toyota district in Beijing city have issued notice to parents regarding the shift in the mode of education from offline to online. Online classes will be held from 17 January to 21 January.
- Chinese news agencies are extensively covering the Phase 1 trade deal with US which is expired, as on Thursday Chinese Commerce Minister Shu Jueting in a press conference said that China has worked hard to make the deal successful and hope that the USA will create a "favorable environment" for expanding trade deal. The deal made China make a commitment to the USA that they will purchase \$ 200 billion worth of goods from 2020 to 2021, the deal was the result of the Trade War during Trump Administration. Meanwhile, the western media is criticizing China for not meeting the target of purchasing the agreed amount of goods from the USA.
- In the wake of growing concern about the third wave of COVID, and the pledge by the Chinese leadership to stabilize the economy this year, the People's Bank of China can reduce the interest rates in the coming days. The speculation is made by Scotiabank strategist Qi Gao. If PMOC reduces the interest rate then it would be a unique move in two years as the last interest rate cut was done in 2019.

### III. India Watch

- Even during the rising border tension, the trade between India and China has crossed the \$125 billion mark showing the growing demand for Chinese goods in the Indian market. Still, buying local has led to some improvement as data released by China's General Administration of Customs show that the bilateral trade which was standing at \$92 billion in 2019 is reduced to \$87 billion in 2020. Given the volume of trade India has with China, economic cooperation is the potential platform for India to push forward its demand to decrease the trade deficit.