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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

- **Biden's remarks trend amidst lack of trust:** As US President Biden reiterated that the United States does not seek to fight a "new Cold War" with China, and that the US does not overtly support "Taiwan independence", Chinese netizens warned that China should not listen to what he says, but should see what he does.
- **China looks to clean cyberspace:** Cyberspace Administration of the People's Republic of China has deployed and carried out 15 series of special actions. More than 22 million pieces of illegal and 'bad information' have been cleaned up, and 1.34 billion accounts have been disposed of. More than 7,200 streamers were banned, over 2,160 apps and mini programs were removed from the shelves and almost 3,200 websites were closed. Netizens also seemed to be in support of the "real name system of internet access."
- **Biden's old remarks go viral:** After the US president Joe Biden termed the Russian president Putin as a "War Criminal", an old video of Biden advocating the bombing of Belgrade went viral among the Chinese netizens. They discussed the NATO and the US led bombings of the past which have killed many civilians.

II. News in China

- Chinese President Xi Jinping upheld Moscow's narrative to shift the blame of Ukraine crisis from Russia to the US and Europe. Although president Xi agreed that both the US and China have an obligation to promote peace in Ukraine, he refused to blame Putin or the Kremlin for the crisis. Xi said to Biden, "He who tied the bell to the tiger must take it off." The Chinese proverb means that whoever created the problem must solve it. In Xi's view, Putin is the tiger and NATO tied the bell.
- Hong Kong government's inconsistent and conflicting strategy in virus prevention has left the city with a staggering number of COVID cases, and chaos among citizens. Chinese experts say that the Hong Kong authority's incompetence and non-adherence to mainland China's zero-COVID strategy has also given Beijing an excuse to accelerate its authority over the semiautonomous territory.
- China's zero-tolerance approach towards the COVID-19 is pushing the local governments of poorer regions to the brink. It has become extremely hard for the authorities to maintain the balance of debt control with strict virus prevention measures, as the cost of keeping up with the strategy of stringent lockdowns, mass testing and quarantine in government facilities is growing fast. As a result, authorities are opting for more rigid and crude lockdowns.
- As the discussions about US bio military activities in Ukraine is heating up, China has accused the US of having double standards and acting as a hegemon. In an article published in the China Daily, China blasted US for only forcing other countries to adhere to the rules, but does not accept verification itself. It further

added that the U.S. behaviour of using international rules if they are suitable and discarding them if they are not, shows the true nature of U.S. hegemony.

- US President Joe Biden held a two-hour phone call conversation on Friday morning with China's President Xi Jinping to discuss Russia's invasion of Ukraine. As Moscow has asked Beijing for assistance in its war, Biden warned Xi of global backlash if China helps Russia's attack on Ukraine. Both the parties disagreed on who is responsible for the suffering in Ukraine.

III. India Watch

- The Russia-Ukraine war was never just a European conflict; it has huge global implications both strategically and economically. China and India are monitoring all the developments closely. China has been preparing itself for similar conflicts with the US and its allies, be it the invasion of Taiwan in name of its reunification with the mainland or its incursions in Indian territories. Apart from the military lessons, China is following the economic implications of the West led sanctions. India meanwhile is keeping watch over the extent of international aid being provided to Ukraine. In such a scenario, a sound and far-sighted foreign policy is needed for India so that it does not find itself on a strategic crossroad when similar tensions arise in the Indo-Pacific region.