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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



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

- **Abduction by PLA from Indian Territory:** A social media account posted details of the abduction of Sh Miram Taron, a 17 year old resident of Zido village. His friend, who escaped, has alleged that the Chinese PLA is responsible for the abduction. The location of said abduction was within Indian territory, in Lungta Jor under Siyungla area (Bishing village) of Upper Siang dist, Arunachal Pradesh. Other social media accounts posted possible locations of his abduction on a map. (See Image 1)
- **PLA building a major facility in the Lop Nur area:** A Twitter post claimed that PLA is building a major facility in the Lop Nur area in Xinjiang known for China's nuclear testing program. The facility is connected to the Hami ICBM field via Hwy S235. The facility features a massive complex of unknown purpose and a nearby airfield. (See Image 2)
- **Student's personal belongings negligently disposed of by authorities to make school a quarantine ward:** Students from Tianjin have expressed their discontent on Weibo over school dorms being converted to COVID-19 quarantine facilities. The city is under a partial lockdown and schools were already shut. The new Omnicrom infections in Tianjin and Jinnan district have led to these steps by the authorities. Students from Tianjin College of the University of Science & Technology Beijing (北京科技大学天津学院) and the Pearl River College at the Tianjin University of Finance and Economics (天津财经大学珠江学院) were shocked and furious to discover their belongings were thrown out in trash bags. As videos of staff throwing away personal stuff of students went viral, students started expressing their support for the school being converted to a quarantine ward but expressed discontent over mishandling of their personal items.

II. News in China

- Hong Kong independence activist and politician Edward Leung, who advocated the separation of Hong Kong from the mainland is under a 'supervision order' requiring him to delete his social media account, stay silent and not talk to the media. He has been released from jail after six years post his arrest on charges of rioting and "assaulting a police officer" during the 2016 "Fishball Revolution". His family posted a warning to supporters asking them to not try to visit him at home to maintain safety.
- Taiwan is facing a rapid surge in migration from Hong Kong following a crackdown by CCP on dissent. Taiwan, to mitigate risks, has refused residency to applicants that were born in mainland China and as Taipei lacks clear communication due to its complicated immigration bureaucracy, it has led to discontent amongst applicants willing to migrate to Taiwan.

- Omicron variant cases have surged in major cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangdong of China. Beijing winter Olympics will commence from 4th Feb. Already a ban exists on international spectators and direct sales of tickets. No specific details are yet provided of how spectators would be selected. China is trying to limit nationwide travel ahead of Winter Olympics and Lunar New Year. Authorities in Beijing will decide permissions for travelers and returnees on basis of COVID testing. As a precautionary measure Public schools are operating under a closed system, while Private schools have gone online. Lunar New Year vacations are utilized by Chinese nationals to visit home and many of them were not able to visit their home since the imposition of the first lockdown back in 2020.
- A Japanese foreign policy expert told reporters during an online seminar that China may engage further in dispute in the South China Sea but is unlikely to attempt an invasion of Taiwan for the reason that Chinese President Xi Jinping would not like failure ahead of the Chinese Communist Party National Congress. Xi will seek to first confirm his position to stay on as party chief for a third term.
- An internet watchdog cybersecurity group, Citizen Lab, warned International Winter Olympic participants about a popular app that will be used by mostly all event attendees, including audience members, press, and athletes called the MY2022 app. It will be used by the International Olympic Committee and require attendees to download the app before arriving in China. The warning states that the app contains security flaws and thereby athletes were advised to take a burner phone. The app has a variety of uses, including voice chats, file transfers, and weather updates.
- Citing Rule 50 of the Olympic Charter, deputy director-general of Beijing 2022's International Relations Department states that "no kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in any Olympic sites". He further clarified that China's legislation will be used to punish the offenders that make speeches against the Olympic spirit. Rights groups have voiced their concern about the safety of competitors if they protest at Winter Olympics.

III. India Watch

- As per The International Olympic Committee (IOC), athletes should not express any form of dissidence during the competition or medal ceremonies even as during press conferences and interviews within the Olympic bubble athletes are free to do so. Human Rights Watch had also warned athletes about speaking on human rights issues while in China. Such stringent measures must be a cause of concern for Indian athletes participating in the Beijing Olympics, especially as post-Galwan Chinese public sentiment towards India is hostile.

Image 1: Possible location of abduction of Indian national

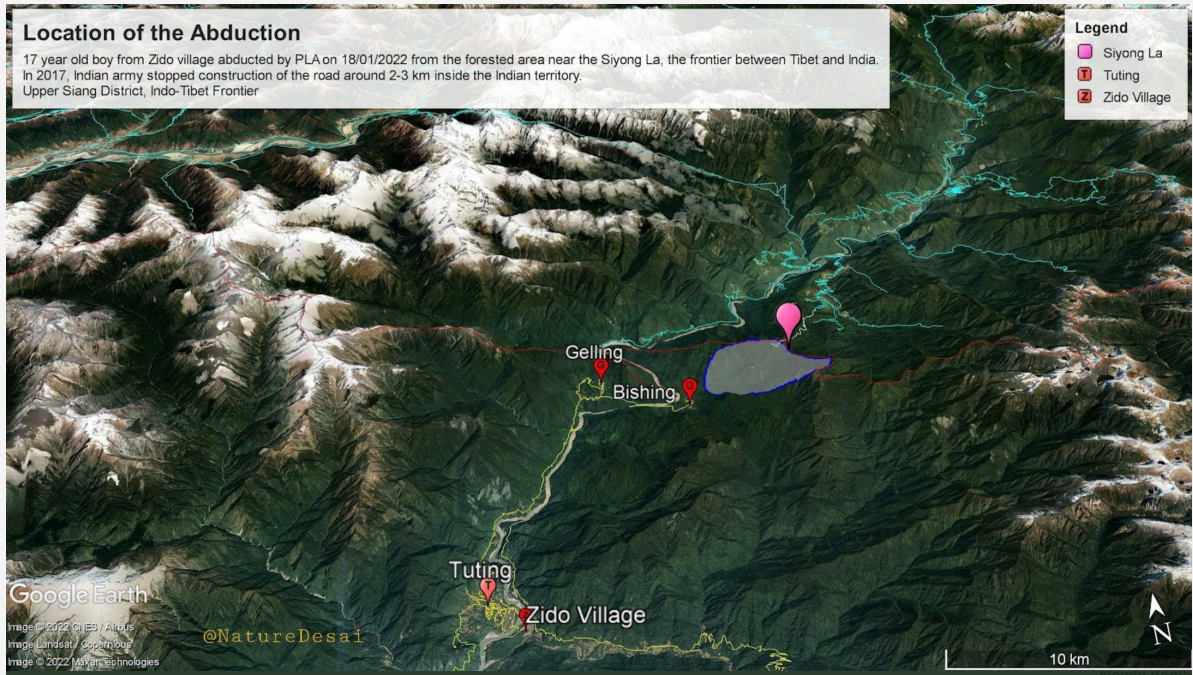


Image 2: PLA facility in Lop Nur, Xinjiang

