

**WEEKEND ISSUE**  
**29.01.22-30.01.22**

*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

- **Concerns for domestic violence in China:** Chinese netizens are expressing their anger towards the inaction of Feng County officials after a video of a woman went viral on social media. The mother of eight, a woman surnamed Yang was allegedly neck tied with a chain in a congested area outside her house by her family members who argued that she is suffering from mental illness and is often involved in violence against her own children. According to recent updates, the woman is getting medical treatment.
- **Netizens discuss egg donation and its impact on young women:** Statement by the National Health Commission of China on egg donation triggered an online debate on Chinese social media. The commission, in its statement, said that they firmly oppose the commercial sale of eggs but are in favor of “establishing and improving legal egg donation and storage channels”. Netizens have opposed the stand. Many are arguing that this step will worsen the already deteriorating condition of safety for young women in China, as this step can lead to the encouragement of black market fertilization in the country which suffers from demography issues.

## II. News in China

- On Saturday, the Chinese State Authority released an Irish businessman after a three-year exit ban. Richard O'Halloran, an executive with CALS Ireland – an aircraft leasing company- traveled to Shanghai in February 2019 for an investor meet and resolved a crowdfunding issue; while attempting to return home, he was detained by authorities at the airport. The announcement of his return was made by Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs on Friday.
- After violating Taiwanese airspace on January 23, 2022, the Chinese ambassador to the US threatened the USA by saying that both China and USA could face “military conflict” over the future of China. During an interview with US' National Public Radio (NPR), held on Friday, Qin Gang expressed his concerns on US-Taiwan relations and reiterated the Chinese stand on Taiwan.
- The University of Hong Kong, in the name of routine maintenance, covered up the city's last Tiananmen Square memorial on Saturday. The state-sponsored campaign of covering up and removing any memorial related to the Tiananmen massacre is rampant in Hong Kong.
- Winter Olympics is in its full swing in Beijing despite the COVID outbreak in the country because Omicron. After all the necessary protocol in place according to Beijing Olympic Authority, the rise of cases among the athletes and team members is on the rise. On Friday, the daily COVID infection in the Olympic village rose to 19.

- Federal Communication Commission (FCC) of USA voted unanimously to revoke China Unicom's – a Chinese state-owned telecom giant based in Hong Kong – license to operate in China and directed to stop providing telecom service in the USA within 60 days. The commission backed its decision by citing national security concerns over the telecom giant. Chinese embassy to the US has not replied to this development yet.
- In the backdrop of growing tension between China and its western counterparts, the British parliament's foreign affairs committee is expected to make a trip to Taiwan in February. The trip is seen as a calculated move from the UK after Brexit in its bid to redefine their Indo-pacific policy. Through this trip, the UK is trying to revamp their Taiwan policy. This direct collusion with China's 'One China Policy' is a major diplomatic move; its geopolitical cost for stakeholders of Indo-Pacific will unfold in the near future.
- According to reports, Chinese authorities have ordered over a million people living in the periphery (Xiong'an New Area) of Beijing to stay at home over five COVID cases. Authorities passed this order before starting Beijing Olympics; the stringent protocol was imposed on the people of the area stealthily without any official announcement.
- According to 'The Telegraph', Chinese authorities are potentially using Interpol to hunt down Human Rights activists who are actively advocating and criticizing the crackdown on dissent in Hong Kong. People and activists living in the UK are fearing issuance of red notice by Interpol.
- Race against time has started in the South China Sea as one of the USA's deadliest and currently most advanced Fighter Jet F-35 came down in international waters. US Navy has described the event as a "mishap" during take-off from USS Carl Vinson. Even after the Chinese Foreign Minister denied any interest in the stricken F-35, US Navy has scrambled to find the jet as soon as possible.
- In the ongoing Asian Cup the Chinese women team has reached the semi-finals after defeating Vietnam (3-1). Chinese nationals are now set to face off Japan on February 3. The undefeated Chinese national team is looking forward to clutching the title with the best stats on the table against defending champion Japan. The sports rivalry has yet again led to historical attacks and animosity amongst Chinese and Japanese citizens, who have taken to social media to express support for their national teams. Meanwhile, news reportage of the event on both sides has seen similar fashioning focused along their traditional political rivalry.
- PLA Airforce delivered thirty-ton disaster relief and post-disaster reconstruction materials to the Kingdom of Tonga as the country is facing a state of emergency after a tsunami hit the coastlines. The tsunami was triggered after a submarine volcano erupted on January 15. The relief materials were supplied after an official request from the Kingdom of Tonga, to which Chinese authorities responded swiftly and delivered the material through two Y-20 transport aircrafts.

- While extending greetings to the nation on the occasion of the Lunar New Year, Xi Jinping underlined the achievement of the country from last year. During his greeting, Xi extensively covered Hong Kong and highlighted the situation of the autonomous region by saying that Hong Kong has been “transformed from chaos to governance”, and the struggle against “independence” and the promotion of reunification had been intensified.

### III. India Watch

- Beijing on Thursday said that China is working and will work “closely” with India to address the ongoing border tension in the Ladakh sector. During regular press conferences, Chinese defense ministry spokesperson Wu Qian criticised the USA's unnecessary involvement in the bilateral issue of India and China. This statement from a Chinese official came in response to the comment made by White House press secretary Jen Psaki where she underlined the “destabilising” behaviour of China and added that the USA “continue to stand with our partners on that.”
- October 2022 is going to be the 60th anniversary of the Indo-China war, which has been constantly in the news in Indian mainstream media amid the ongoing border tension with China. The 1962 war is generally remembered as the forgotten war in China, but this time an unprecedented act of remembrance has been observed as the official Chinese military researchers have compiled a new history of the war reassessing its significance and legacy. The officials are set to release a book titled One Hundred Questions on the China-India Border Self-Defence Counterattack.