

WEEKEND ISSUE
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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY
Shivam Vishal (Research Intern) and Team ORCA
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Praise for Huawei trends:** Netizens talked about the success story of Huawei and how it destroyed its competitors between 2006 to 2021 and dominated the five eras from 2G to 5G. In 2006, Huawei had eight global competitors but only three other international players in the field remain. One is China's ZTE while Nokia and Ericsson are foreign competitors.
- **Indian nuclear submarines gained traction among netizens:** Netizens on Weibo talked about India's increasing nuclear submarine capacities. One netizen warned that China should not underestimate India's growing military strength, while other pointed out that India is expanding its submarine power to counter China.
- **Chinese Women's team wins Asia Cup:** The Chinese women's football team has won the 2022 Women's Asia Cup after defeating South Korea 3:2. The Asian Cup was hosted by India this year, and the final match took place in DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai. The Chinese women's team has won the Asia Cup after 16 years, and the Netizens on Weibo praise their team for their outstanding achievement.
- **Reaction to India's Olympics withdrawal:** Netizens on Weibo talked about India's reaction to China honouring the soldiers involved in the Galwan Valley skirmish at the ongoing Beijing Winter Olympics. India was not happy with the politicisation of the Olympic games and joined the US and other countries in the diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics games.

II. News in China

- China has published a new book on the 1962 Sino-Indian Border War. The publication follows further attempts at inciting nationalism like last year's patriotic movie "The Battle at Lake Chanjing". With the prolonged military confrontation with India along the LAC, nationalistic fervour is on the rise in China. The 1962 war, which is known in China as "Counterattack in Self Defence along the China-India Border", is described as "a complete victory" and cited as a "lesson" taught to India. The book is titled "One Hundred Questions on Counterattack in Self Defence along the China-India Border", dedicated to mark the 60th anniversary of the 1962 war. The book is written by Zhang Xiaokang, the younger daughter of Zhang Guohua, the general who led People's Liberation Army's (PLA) assault on Tibet in 1950-51.
- Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message to Queen Elizabeth II on the 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne. Xi pointed out that the Queen has always supported and cared about the China-UK friendship. This year also marks the 50th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level between China and the UK.

- China has refuted the 'Debt Trap' theory as rumours and blamed India and the West for creating conspiracy to smear its relationship with Sri Lanka. In an 'investigative' article published in the Global Times, China claims that some conspiracists in India have fabricated rumours and have linked Sri Lanka's recent financial distress to the Chinese investments in the country. This year, Sri Lanka declared an economic emergency and reached out for help from India and China. Sri Lanka also requested China to restructure the repayment of the country's debt during a meeting with the Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister, Wang Yi.
- News Corp, which publishes The Wall Street Journal, was hacked, and the Chinese intelligence gathering is believed to be behind the incident. The publisher confirmed the report and added that the data of journalists and employees had been stolen. When the hackers breached the network or how much data they stole is unknown. Still, a cybersecurity firm investigating the intrusion said Chinese intelligence-gathering was believed to be behind the operation. The news company said in a regulatory filing that an investigation is underway "to determine the nature, scope, duration and impacts of the breach."
- President Xi Jinping held a meeting with the Prime Minister of Pakistan on February 6. Prime Minister Imran Khan was in China to attend the opening ceremony of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics. Xi pointed out that 2021 has been a significant year for China-Pakistan relations. The two countries celebrated the 70th anniversary of establishing diplomatic ties, reviewed the history, summed up the experience, and opened up the future of China-Pakistan relations with firmer confidence. He also said that the world had entered a period of turbulence and change, and the significance of in-depth strategic cooperation between the two countries has become more prominent.
- All the 26 venues and three major competition areas of the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 will use "Green Electricity", the People's Daily observed in an article after interviewing experts and members of the Olympics' organising committees. It will be the first time in the history of the Olympic Games that green electricity sources will power 100% of venues. Lin Boqiang, a member of the Energy Expert Advisory Committee of the National Energy Commission, explained that "Green Electricity" is the energy produced through zero or near to zero Carbon dioxide emissions methods.
- Amid the new waves of COVID-19 and new variants emerging in China, around 20.14 million passengers are expected to travel on the fifth day of the Spring Festival. China is also hosting the 2022 Winter Olympic games and has downplayed any concern about the virus spread due to the games and the Spring Festival, which is the biggest festival in China. China has considered using AI and UAVs to monitor traffic and conduct road network safety inspections.

- Russia and China have signed a series of cooperation pacts while Vladimir Putin visited China. Mr Putin attended the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 and also held a meeting with the host President Xi Jinping. During the visit, various departments and enterprises from both countries signed cooperation agreements. Agreements in law enforcement, foreign affairs, commerce and sustainable (green) developments had been the highlights of the meeting.

III. India Watch

- India's foreign policy approach towards China has always been reactionary. Irrespective of the political establishment, the course remained the same. On the other hand, China has been able to do that with impunity whenever their strategic interest demands. It never hesitates in helping Pakistan in preventing notorious terrorists from being listed in the UN list of terrorists or creating border issues with illegal incursions across the LAC. In defence of all these anti-India activities, Chinese politicians and officials have said that India and China have their share of differences on several occasions. Still, both the countries should keep their strategic and economic relations apart, and the former should not influence the latter. But for years, India's response towards China's aggressive policies has been defensive, reactionary, and sometimes delayed. India joining the US and other Western allies in the Beijing Winter Olympic Games' diplomatic boycott is a recent prominent example of a reactionary policy. China did not hesitate to politicise the Olympic games and honour the soldiers involved in the border skirmish against India.
- On the occasion of the opening ceremony of the Olympics, CCTV Military's Weibo and military observer account of Weibo uploaded a video of soldiers building the two mascots of Beijing Olympics with snow on the frozen Pangong lake. Video was well shot and the soldiers in the border area had the model mascots in their hands (which must have been sent to them to make a video). This highlights that the video was produced with proper planning and direction and was not something random or impulsive. Soldiers posted in the border frontiers making figurines out of snow in a disputed lake makes no sense until and unless a deliberate attempt to politicize is in order.
- India needs to internalise the Chinese approach towards it and act strategically. China, with its actions, has always proved the notion of friendship an illusion, be it the shutting down of the consulate in Lhasa, just after the formation of the PRC, or invading Tibet forcefully and then starting a war with India and shattering the illusion of 'Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai'. Even after that back-stabbing, India has been making strategic blunders with China, only to face Chinese aggression time and again. There is no single instance of China helping India on any strategic front, yet our leaders have been emotional and ultra-idealistic in their approach to China.

- The border stand-off between India and China, which began on May 5, 2020, has still not been resolved, and the troops of both sides are standing face to face at several locations on LAC's Ladakh-Aksai China region. In the meantime, nationalistic fervours have been rising in both countries. On the one hand, Indians have been calling for boycotting trade with China, whereas on the other, the Chinese have been crying to teach India a lesson again on the lines of 1962 Sino-Indian border war. China has to be aware that this is not the India of 1962, which could be arm-twisted, and in case of any aggression, the attitude and approach this time would be very different from 1962.