

WEEKEND ISSUE
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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Anti-Russia and Pro-Ukraine sentiments on Chinese Social Media:** In recent days, cracks in the ruling Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) online censorship of Russia's invasion of Ukraine have appeared, with social media users posting video footage of downed Russian planes, Ukrainian civilians killed by Russian troops and Russian soldiers requisitioning food from local stores to avoid hunger. Following the murder of his 23-year-old son in Kharkiv, the Weibo account Ukraine Super Chat broadcast a subtitled video clip of a Ukrainian father asking Russians not to come and join the conflict. All this defied CCP propaganda guidelines which has forbid the spread of anti-Russian content from Chinese social media platforms.

II. News in China

- According to White House sources, US President Joe Biden cautioned Chinese President Xi Jinping that Beijing would suffer harsh repercussions if it supported Russia's invasion of Ukraine. According to Chinese state media sources, Xi told Biden during a two-hour video chat that China has no interest in a conflict in Ukraine and that negotiations between NATO members and Moscow should take place to resolve the concerns of all players. The Chinese leader made no mention of Russia's involvement in igniting the crisis. Officials from the Biden administration later described the discussion as more "direct," telling reporters that the two leaders "spent most of their time condemning Russia's unprovoked and unjustifiable invasion of Ukraine."
- While COVID-19's recent reappearance slows life in China's Pearl River Delta, collaborative efforts are being made to maintain the region's supply chain integrity. Authorities and businesses in the area, which serves as China's industrial heartland, have taken a number of steps to reduce the impact of the new epidemic on production and commercial activities. Since March 13, strong and careful preventative and control measures have been adopted in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen to curb the virus's spread. Suspension of bus and subway systems was one of the measures used. According to the Shenzhen COVID-19 prevention and control headquarters, communities and industrial parks have also been placed under closed administration.
- In 2022, China's top economic planner has outlined big goals for new urbanisation and integrated urban-rural growth, pledging to further reform the household registration system and assist migrant workers in better integrating into cities. According to the National Development and Modernize Commission's proposal, cities with a permanent resident population of less than 3 million should abolish all constraints on household registration in order to further reform the system. According to the plan, the reconstruction of aging urban areas would be expedited

with the government aiming to enhance the fundamental living circumstances of 8.4 million families by 2022. The availability of government-subsidized housing will be expanded, with an emphasis on addressing the needs of newcomers and young people in major cities.

- According to experts, China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp, the country's largest missile manufacturer, is using additive manufacturing technology, often known as 3D printing, to speed up the design and production of cruise missiles. "It takes hundreds of technicians and labourers around one to two months to build a gas rudder using standard machining methods since it includes a series of operations including casting and welding," Zhang Chunhu, a senior technician at CASIC's Third Academy, explained. "However, thanks to 3D printing technology, a rudder can now be made in less than a week by a small group of employees. When it comes to weight and precision control for our goods, the 3D-printing-enabled technique can save us a lot of time, money, and effort, and is far superior than mechanical machining."
- The work on China's first Beidou positioning system for subways began on the Beijing Subway Capital Airport Express line. China's largest indoor space navigation and positioning system is set to be completed this year. This project will involve a 30-kilometer segment of the Beijing Subway Capital Airport Express line, as well as five stops. The BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS), an important piece of Chinese space infrastructure, will offer positioning, navigation, and timing services. However, location and navigation need to be improved in areas where satellite signals are obstructed and cannot be used, such as underground, underwater or within structures.
- China's ambassador to the United States said claims that his nation is assisting Russia in its confrontation with Ukraine are "disinformation." "That is something we oppose. Food, medication, sleeping bags, and infant formula are being sent by China to Ukraine," Ambassador Qin Gang. Despite the fact that the US and NATO are supplying Ukraine with billions of dollars in military and other aid and enforcing sweeping economic sanctions on Russia, China has maintained its non-military role.
- In the months of January and February, bilateral commerce between China and the European Union (EU) grew rapidly, indicating the vitality and endurance of their trading partnership. According to Gao Feng, a spokeswoman for the Ministry of Commerce, trade between China and the EU increased 14.8% year on year to 137.16 billion dollars in the first two months of this year, making the EU China's top trading partner during the time. China and the EU, as key trade partners, have a high degree of economic complementarity, extensive areas of collaboration, and considerable development potential, Gao said during a regular news briefing.
- China's first cargo airport in Ezhou, Hubei Province conducted its maiden flight test, making it the country's first successful flying trial of a new airport employing an air

freighter. Ezhou Huahu Airport is also Asia's and the world's first and fourth professional freight hub airports. In 2025, the new airport's passenger throughput is expected to exceed 1 million, with cargo and postal traffic expected to reach 2.45 million tons. The airport is anticipated to open to the public by the end of June. It will function as an aviation cargo hub and a feeder airport for passenger transit, with two runway and taxiway systems and a freight transfer facility spanning about 700,000 square metres.

III. India Watch

- China is willing to collaborate with the EU to further liberalise and ease trade and investment, as well as to ensure the steady and efficient functioning of industrial and supply chains. Both exports and imports between the EU and China fell in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 and deteriorating ties stemming from sanctions post fallout over human rights violations in China. In March 2020, imports totaled a minimum of € 24.7 billion. The return of momentum to the trade, even as EU continues to view China as an economic threat, bodes well for the paused trade agreement between the two. India must focus on its own EU outreach, especially via SCRI.