

20.01.22

*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

- **A video of a doctor livestreaming a gynecological surgery triggers controversy:** A doctor who filmed a gynecological surgery while the patient was under the effect of anesthesia triggered controversy in Chinese social media as one of the netizens who watched the video in Bilibili, a video sharing platform, reported against the user. The site, Bilibili, responded to the controversy that it took necessary measures to permanently ban the user from using the platform and stated it has taken the case to Chinese authorities in person. A hashtag related to Bilibili's statement was viewed more than 220 million times on Weibo, making it one of the top trends on Weibo.
- **The story of a COVID positive migrant worker searching for missing son trends, triggers migrant rights debate:** The story of a migrant worker in Beijing who recently got COVID-19 while searching for his son who has gone missing was shared on social media which created sympathy and concern among netizens regarding the status of migrants in China's big cities.

## II. News in China

- As reported in our newsletter dated 19.01.21 cybersecurity group Citizen Lab pointed out that the Beijing Winter Olympics app, which all the athletes, media, and audience were asked to download for daily COVID monitoring, fails to provide encryption and contains many security weaknesses that might lead to data breaches. Another cyber security firm, Internet 2.0, has opined that those who attend Beijing Olympics should bring burner phones and create email accounts for their time in China. Citizen Lab has now also mentioned the app includes certain censorship of keywords which will flag certain politically sensitive expressions among users, although the feature is currently shown inactive.
- People's Bank of China cut its one-year loan prime by 10 basis points to 3.7%. A similar cut in December 2021 had marked the first one to the rate since April 2020; the most recent one is now the second cut within a period of a month. The Bank also cut its five-year loan prime rate by five basis points to 4.6%. China's slashing of its lending rates is a part of a series of efforts to pull back the country's economy from sharp economic slow down by loosening its monetary policy.
- The USS Benfold, a United States Navy-guided missile destroyer, challenged Chinese claims of sovereignty in and around the South China Sea by sailing around the Parcel Islands (known as Xisha Islands in China). The US Navy called it a Freedom of Navigation Operation (FONOP) and reiterated that Chinese unilateral claims to SCS pose threat to the freedom of seas.

- The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) published a policy document that called for a revision of legislation regarding the monopolies and data securities in China's growing online platforms. It also advocated for stronger monitoring over advertising and tax reporting to crackdown unfair competitions and user data issues.
- German Foreign Minister, Annalena Baerbock, had her first online meeting with her Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, and discussed various topics including their bilateral relations and stressed on global issues. She added that close cooperation with China is important especially in terms of their environmental and climate policies as it needs collaboration with the most populous country to fight climate change.
- The Sixth Plenary session of the 19th Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the Communist Party of China was held from January 18th to 20th January 2022. Xi Jinping, along with other major state leaders, attended the meeting. Xi delivered an important speech incorporating the spirit of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party.
- The State Council issued provisions from the 14th Five Year plan for tourism development to reform the tourism sector by focusing on demand management, to innovate and enhance domestic tourism with the deep integration of culture and improvement of the modern tourism system.

### **III. India Watch**

- China's assertive claims in the SCS have long threatened India's energy interests in the region. Most of the world's trade passes through the SCS while India has oil projects in the region; it is important for New Delhi to build a concrete maritime policy vis-a-vis the SCS especially as China's aggression in the area is only growing.