

21.02.22

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY

Anishree Suresh (Research Intern)
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Winter Olympics continued to dominate the Chinese social media:** Chinese social media continued to spread the Olympic wins and controversies even after the official conclusion of the Winter Olympics. Gu Eileen, the US-born skater who won two gold medals and a silver for China, remained at the top of all discussions among Chinese netizens. A 15-year old Russian skater Kamila Valieva was also one of the trending controversies in social media due to the ongoing investigation regarding the banned substance found in her body. Some had opined that the skater was just a 'victim of a conspiracy masterminded by the US'.

II. News in China

- Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison demanded a full investigation by Beijing on a Chinese naval vessel that pointed a laser at an Australian defence plane. He stated that his government had not yet received any official explanation from China over this 'dangerous and reckless act'. The Defence department of Australia released photographs of two Chinese vessels sailing close to Australia's northern coast with a statement that the P-8A Poseidon, a maritime patrol aircraft, detected a laser emanating from a People's Liberation Army - Navy vessel.
- Beijing has decided to include more than a dozen fertility services in the medical insurance scheme. This was another initiative by the government to support childbirth for the Chinese capital as China's birth rate hit a record low. According to the state media, the coverage of medical services using assisted reproductive technologies could help couples from low-income brackets seeking to have children.
- China's home prices hiked for the first time since September to soften the blow from the tough regulatory curbs by the government to cut leverage in the sector amid the debt issues of the Evergrande group. The new home prices in China's 70 major cities spiked 0.1% on average compared with a 0.2% drop in December. There have been many efforts taken by the authorities to ease the situation for developers since late 2021. Previously the authorities had started allowing real estate firms easier access to funds from escrowed accounts and by improving the financial and credit environment.
- Former US secretary of state Mike Pompeo will visit Taiwan next week and meet President Tsai Ing-Wen. Pompeo, while he was serving under then-President Donald Trump, was highly critical of China and many times had attacked the ruling Communist Party with his criticism.
- February 21 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the famous trip of US President Richard Nixon to China as US efforts to establish and normalize diplomatic relations with China in 1972.

- China's metal conception remained at the lowest as China's industrial activity had been disturbed due to Winter Olympics and Lunar Year with inventories piling up. Chinese Central bank had kept the lending rates changed although, there were efforts taken by authorities to bolster demand for the speedy recovery of the industries.
- The 24th Winter Olympics successfully concluded in Beijing on February 20 marking the end of 17 - day-long games. The concluding ceremony was attended by Xi Jinping along with other state leaders.

III. India Watch

- On February 21, 1972, US President Richard Nixon landed in China, beginning normalized relations between the US and China, where he met Mao Zedong, the Chinese Communist Party chairman. At that time, the US needed the allyship of China against the Soviet Union and Mao's support in exiting from Vietnam war. Fifty years later today, China and the US stand at a crucial juncture of diplomatic history. If that visit in 1972 was mainly for economic reasons, today the security realm gets the most important focus in their relations. Although the geopolitics have changed dramatically, one can still draw parallels with the past via the Russia-Ukraine crisis and Cold War alike bipolar divide.