

22.02.22

*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

- **Netizens discussed Xi Jinping's call to Queen Elizabeth II:** On 22 February, President Xi Jinping called Queen Elizabeth II and expressed his condolences to the Queen as she reported positive for the COVID-19. He also wished for her speedy recovery. Xi said, "I attach great importance to the development of Sino-British relations and am willing to work with the United Kingdom to celebrate this year as the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries". The same trended on Weibo with a connect to AUKUS as Xi's gesture was lauded.
- **China suspending vaccination at many places:** With increasing cases of COVID and to avoid the further spread of the disease, many places in China have suspended the vaccination drives instead of pushing them forward. As per authorities, "to ensure the health and safety of people, such a measure has been taken". All vaccination sites, including the children's vaccination clinics, have been suspended. Netizens have expressed their dissatisfaction with this step on Weibo.

## II. News in China

- China and the United States are involved in a new race for developing sixth-generation(6G) internet technology. While America is still stuck with the implementation of 5G internet, China is successfully moving ahead with 6G internet. The world was shocked when China used its advanced technology in the military by successfully testing a hypersonic glide vehicle. A hypersonic vehicle can travel at a speed of more than 3800 miles per hour and can surpass most known air defense systems.
- With the recent increase in covid cases, important covid guidelines were laid out by Chinese Communist Party (CCP) general secretary Xi Jinping. As mentioned in Xi's instructions, the government of Hong Kong must "mobilize all power and resources to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and health of the Hong Kong people and ensure the stability of the society." The paper also included that the Hong Kong government must "firmly implement his instructions.
- Survey report by German Chamber of Commerce in China shows that businesses in Germany still place trust in China and prospects for 2022/2023 are looking good. China's economic outlook for 2022 is predicted to be relatively bright with GDP growth forecast at over 5 percent – higher than the global average.
- China will impose bigger tax and fee cut this year to step up the payments to the local governments to overcome the offset it has faced due to pandemic.
- Defence industry giants like Raytheon technologies and Lockheed Martin faces sanctions by China over arms sales to Taiwan.

- In a regular press conference on February 22, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Yi said, “China’s position on the Ukrainian issue is consistent” regarding the current situation in Ukraine . He also said the situation in Ukraine is deteriorating and that China has called all parties to exercise restraint, recognize the importance of implementing the principle of indivisibility of security, ease the situation and resolve differences through dialogue and negotiation.

### **III. India Watch**

- At a panel discussion held on Saturday at the Munich Security Conference 2022 in Munich, Indian EAM Jaishankar had said that India-China bilateral is going through a very difficult phase after the violation of agreement with Beijing. He said, “state of border will determine the state of relationship”. Further he talked about the change in the 45 year’s peace which had been there from 1975, along with stable border management and with no military casualties. He emphasised that the change took place because of the violation of the agreement which had called for not bringing military forces to the border in the region of LAC (the Line of actual control).
- China gets an upper hand in the Indo-Pacific as the invasion of Ukraine by Russia would distract Washington and its European allies. This is being considered as a matter of concern as President Biden’s policy is distracting the administration from the increasing risk of PRC’s dominance in the Indo Pacific region. China is set to use this momentum to further discredit the US' ability as a security provider.