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*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

- **Chinese News Outlet Accidentally Releases Orders Relating Ukraine Crisis:** A Chinese news source mistakenly published guidelines for how the country's media should cover the ongoing Ukraine-Russia issue. Horizon News, a social media account affiliated with The Beijing News and owned by the Chinese Communist Party posted the tweet on Weibo. A screenshot of the swiftly deleted post was later uploaded on Twitter which reveals that the media outlets in China were advised not to generate anything that is "anti-Russia" or "pro-West" as part of the instructions.

## II. News in China

- China has announced a master plan for agricultural modernization and rural development until 2025, as the government plans to ramp up initiatives to assure food security, assist farmers in increasing their incomes and solidify the results of its poverty-reduction program. The plan was released by China's State Council and emphasized the importance of ensuring national food security and including small farmers in modern agricultural methods. According to the guideline, the central government will enforce arable land protection and push forward the establishment of high-quality farmland to increase quality, efficiency and competitiveness in the agriculture industry.
- After filing an application in mid-January, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) is starting discussions on joining the RCEP, according to Brian Lo Sai Hung, the Director-General of Trade and Industry. According to the local media sources, the overall trade volume between Hong Kong and the RCEP nations is currently \$962.6 billion, with total service trade volume accounting for \$103 billion. According to reports, Hong Kong has good reasons to join the RCEP and may play a synergistic role in enhancing commercial linkages among RCEP members.
- The Chinese foreign ministry has expressed concern to Japan about the behavior of a Japanese ambassador in China who has been accused of engaging in activities that are quite inconsistent with an individual's capacity in China. In answer to a question on China's temporary detention of the Japanese diplomat, spokeswoman Hua Chunying encouraged Japan to follow Chinese regulations. stating that the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations establishes clear guidelines for diplomats' behavior and foreign ambassadors are required to follow the rules of the host nation.
- China will begin applying the tariff rates it promised under Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) on a portion of Malaysian imports on March 18 according to the State Council Customs Tariff Commission. The new

rates will take effect on the same day that Malaysia's largest trade treaty, which was recently approved by the Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, enters into force. As per the goal of this agreement, more than 90% of merchandise commerce will eventually be subject to zero tariffs inside this trading area, which encompasses almost a third of the world's population and contributes to around 30% of global GDP.

- The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy warships bringing disaster relief supplies are ready to wind up their delivery mission to Tonga after more than a week, as they have begun to offer extra freshwater to relieve the high local demand. According to observers, this voyage has been named difficult which further on has demonstrated the PLA Navy's 'capability' in far-reaching operations and the boats' skill in military duties other than war.

### **III. India Watch**

- According to the Washington Post instructions accidentally made public by the Chinese news outlet about the Ukraine crisis were part of a larger balancing act that China appeared to strike in this situation. China urged all parties involved in the Ukraine crisis to exhibit caution, avoid actions that might exacerbate tensions, and seek acceptable solutions. China's stance on the issue has been very clear, which is, Russia's legitimate security concerns, as well as Ukraine's territorial and sovereign integrity, should be recognized. Although China will avoid openly clashing with the European Union and the United States over the issue, the nation is making sure Russia feels supported on the subject through private channels.