

24.01.22

*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

- **Widespread criticism over footage of a man brutally beating his wife continues to be discussed:** The video, recorded and reported in our daily CiCM newsletter 22.01.22-23.01.22 of a family's living room through home security surveillance, shows a man beating his wife in front of their child. This has raised widespread criticism across Chinese social media. It is now reported that the man, who is a deputy director at a state-owned company, has been fired after the incident sparked major outrage among netizens.
- **Launch of the "torch runner" campaign to welcome Beijing Olympics:** The Press and Propaganda department of the Beijing Winter Olympics organizing committee launched a set of themed activities on social media platforms to welcome the games on the theme "accompanying the torch to welcome the Winter Olympics". These activities were launched to attract netizens to the Winter Olympics and create awareness about the Olympics. A short video titled "Gathering Love, Let's Go Together" launched along with it has been hitting likes on social media.

## II. News in China

- Ministry of National Defense of Taiwan reported that on 23rd January 39 Chinese Military aircraft intruded into Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ), marking the second-largest incursion in a day and the largest incursion of this year. The flights of the PLA aircraft came the day after the US and Japanese navies showcased partnership exercises on the Philippines sea, in supporting a free and open Indo-Pacific.
- The US is suspending 44 China-bound flights from Chinese airlines citing pandemic-related travel rules between both parties between the end of January and March. The order applies to airlines such as Air China, China Eastern Airlines, China Southern Airlines and Xiamen Airlines. Many China-bound US flights have also been canceled by China's Civil Aviation Administration in the last couple of weeks because of China's "Circuit breaker" rule which allows a flight to be automatically suspended for two weeks if it had five or more passengers tested positive upon landing in China.
- Beijing reported new local Covid cases for the seventh consecutive day while four provinces found infections linked to clusters in Beijing ahead of the Winter Olympics. According to the National Health Commission of China, since January 15, a total of 36 cases has been reported in Beijing. Outside of the city, the nearby provinces have also reported many infections which is linked to Beijing. Amidst such rising infections --numbers of which could be higher than official counts -- the pressure to hold Olympics in a safe manner is vital.

- Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson raised Beijing's complaints about the "baseless accusation and attacks" on China at a virtual meeting between US President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. Very in-depth conversation shared between two leaders was on the topics of China's aggressive posture to its neighbors, trade war, and China's nuclear build-up. Chinese officials responded that they have "baselessly smeared and attacked China" and have been interfering in China's domestic affairs. Zhao Lijian, the spokesperson, accused that US and Japan are holding on to "cold war mentalities" against China.
- Xi Jinping is expected to host a video conference on 25th January with five Central Asian leaders, marking the 30th anniversary of formally establishing diplomatic relations. On January 24th Xi and Israeli President Herzog exchanged pleasantries to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.
- According to the 2021 China Economic Annual Report, the software industry's business revenue in 2021 in China was 9499.4 billion yuan, a 17.7% increase from the previous year. With the two-year compound growth rate of 15.5%, the industry continued to be in rapid growth.
- Dozens of protestors belonging to China's Uyghur Muslim ethnic groups based in Turkey protested in Istanbul calling for a boycott of the Winter Olympics because of the human rights violations towards the ethnic minorities. The group was protesting in front of the Turkish Olympic Committee building.

### III. India Watch

- The Taiwan Strait continues to remain one of the most dangerous and sensitive friction points in the world; India is at a critical juncture in its relations with the strait. Although India continues to uphold the 'one-China' policy, India's relations with Taiwan have been growing on a positive note. The various arguments regarding India's growing relations with Taiwan show that New Delhi's drive to strengthen the ties is driven by various factors such as anti-China emotions, India's own role as a vibrant democracy, Taiwan as a vital manufacturer of semiconductors, and a potential supporter in the region in guarding the major Sea Lanes of Communications (SLOC). Taiwan as well has expressed its interest to bound its ties with New Delhi through its New Southbound Policy (NSP); a bilateral focus on NSP and India's AEP is required.