

WEEKEND ISSUE
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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Act of domestic violence sparks outrage among netizens:** Incident of domestic violence is going viral in Chinese social media. A video of a man beating his wife inside a home in Xi'an Shaanxi Province has sparked outrage among Chinese netizens. An indoor home security camera recorded the video in the living room; the man is reportedly a high-ranking businessman.
- **The undefeated victory of the Chinese women's national team is being celebrated on social media:** In the ongoing women's Asian Cup in China, the Chinese women's team scored seven goals against Iran and defeated them with a 7-0 in the group stage. The win came after the Chinese women team defeated Taiwan with four goals. These undefeated victories by the women's national team are being celebrated across social media networks in China.
- **Video shows winter cold being braved by PLA:** A video uploaded by CCTV military on Weibo shows a platoon leader in the Shigatse Military sub-district with a few other soldiers braving heavy wind and snow, carrying beef, mutton, vegetables and fruits on their backs to a garrison at an altitude of 4676 metres for the upcoming Chinese New Year. The video also says that the platoon leader Fang Hongzhan has walked more than 100 times on this route to deliver vegetables. Other recent videos uploaded by CCTV military recently also make it a point to show that the soldiers have enough supply of food in the winter.

II. News in China

- Kristalina Georgieva – IMF's managing director – on Friday said that China's zero-covid policy is eventually leading to a "burden". Speaking at The Davos Agenda virtual event, Georgieva also added that initially, the policy contained the virus spread but due to stringent restrictions, the pressure is being created on the supply chain, which is putting more risk on the rest of the world.
- According to the reports on China's systematic and state-sponsored oppression of Uyghur Muslims, the State of Pakistan is aiding Chinese repression. International Forum for Rights and Security (IFFRAS), a Canada-based Think Tank in its report, explained the role of Pakistani authorities in deporting fourteen Uyghur students to Beijing designated as terrorists in China who were eventually killed. Such aid has happened even as Pakistan has been on the list of twenty-six countries that have been blacklisted by the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XAR) for fear of cross-border radicalization. Pakistan was included in this because the people in Xinjiang share cultural ties to marriage across the border, and often cross-border radicalization is done. Yet, Pakistan's unofficial aid to China on the question of Uyghur crackdown has continued, even as officially it's presence in the blacklist has been used by Islamabad to cite its support for Uyghurs.

- In the backdrop of the deteriorating situation in Eastern Europe, German Navy Chief Achim Schonbach on Saturday said that Germany is looking forward to good ties with Russia to counter China. His statement sparked intense debate as the remarks of good ties with Russia are totally different from the collective stand of the EU amid the backdrop of the ongoing Ukraine Crisis. After heavy backlash on his remark, Mr. Schonbach has resigned from his office. He was speaking at a defence think tank in India.
- On Friday, Washington announced the suspension of forty-four Chinese passenger flights from America. The announcement is seen as tit for tat response to the restrictive move by Beijing on US air carriers on the grounds of COVID-19 protocols. The restriction is imposed on Air China, China Eastern Airlines, China Southern Airlines and Xiamen Airlines, which are scheduled to take off from January 30 and March 29, 2022.
- As the Communist Party of China is gearing up for the next National Congress meeting that could secure the third tenure of Xi Jinping, China has vowed to ramp up its regulatory crackdown on corruption and shows no mercy to offenders. The statement came during the ongoing crackdown on monopolies and businesses leveraging the political contact in the party to avoid investigation agencies.
- China, Russia, and Iran conducted the third naval drill in the Indian Ocean started in 2019. The naval drill has been conducted at the 'perfect time' where Tehran, Moscow, and Beijing share constrained relationships with the west and especially the USA.
- Pakistan has decided to pay USD 11.6 million to compensate thirty-six Chinese nationals who are either dead or were injured in the terrorist attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province last year. Pakistani Authorities are referring to this decision by Islamabad as a goodwill gesture towards its all-weather ally China.
- Chinese market's continuous bull run came to a halt on Friday as technology and healthcare numbers gave a shock to the market. The reason for the 0.9% fall was the anti-graft watchdog's decision to investigate and punish corrupt behavior of the pharma sector.
- On Friday, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson criticized the USA for imposing sanctions on Chinese companies accused of exporting missile technology. "This is a typical hegemonic action. China strongly deplores and firmly opposes it," said Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian; he also added that the USA should "immediately correct its wrongdoing".
- China's highest government body, the State Council, found the local and provisional office of Henan Province guilty of "negligence and dereliction of duty", as the local authorities underreported the death during the floods in July 2021. According to the investigation report, the death toll was 302 against the official figure of 139. Dedicated authority officials were arrested for this negligence.

- Evergrande has appointed its Energy Vehicle unit's chairman Siu Shawn as an executive director after Lai Lixin and Huang Xiangui resigned as executive directors. The announcement for the leadership change was made on Hong Kong Stock Exchange.
- On the second anniversary of the lockdown of Wuhan (23.1.2020) , Ma Guoqiang , the former secretary of the CPC Wuhan Municipal Party Committee , who was dismissed for accountability after direct orders by CPC top leadership, has made a comeback. At the two sessions (local people's congress and local CPPCC) in Hubei Province on January 23, Ma Guoqiang was elected as deputy director of the Standing Committee of the Provincial People's Congress. Non-mainstream HK media is discussing that Ma Guoqiang's appointment and Xu Liyi's (former Zhengzhou party secretary) recent removal from his post, downgrading of rank and warning given to him as well as the appearance of Zhou Jiangyong (Former party secretary of Hangzhou) in "Zero Tolerance TV Documentary" makes Xi's Zhejiang clan look bad and shows his inability to shield his faction.
- Australia's Sports Minister Richard Colbeck, in his remark over China's warning to "punish" athletes commenting on the Beijing Olympics, said it is "very concerning". Colbeck also added that International Olympics Committee has made clear that athletes have the right to have a political opinion and any threat to Australian athletes for speaking out is not at all supported.

III. India Watch

- Both Zhou and Xu are very small pawns for Xi and they need not be shielded as shielding them would do more harm to Xi. Zhou being involved in serious corruption charges and Xu being the party boss at Zhengzhou during the floods, were both high profile cases and were closely watched by the public. Xi need not shield them as he has enough people(Cai Qi, Chen Min'er, Huang Kunming, Li Qiang etc) in his Zhejiang clan and has rapidly promoted them to top positions in order to serve him better.
- PLA allegedly kidnapped a seventeen-year-old boy from Arunachal Pradesh on January 18 from the jungle in the Siyungla area. When asked about the event during the regular press conference, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian claimed Arunachal Pradesh, a sovereign part of India, as Chinese territory and added that the army would "crackdown on illegal border entry and exit". This rhetoric verbatim of China has once again surfaced as a day after denying any arrest of Indian national at LAC as spokesperson of Foreign Minister said that army is obliged to perform its duty. Indian Army has approached PLA for cooperation, to which PLA informed that they have a boy under "custody" from India side.