

25.02.22

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY
Tean ORCA
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Survey report on differences between regions and populations vis-a-vis the use of cash in China:** According to the sample survey of residents' payment diaries conducted by the central bank in 2019, there are obvious differences between regions and populations in the use of cash in China. From a regional perspective, the proportion of cash used in the northeast is the highest, and the proportion of cash in the western region is higher than that in the eastern region. Fan Yifei, deputy governor of the People's Bank of China, said that from the perspective of regional structure, the focus of national cash distribution has begun to shift from the Yangtze River Delta and the Pearl River Delta to the central and western regions. The contribution of net cash investment in the central and western regions to the national net investment has changed from negative to positive, reaching 20% in 2021. (See Image 1)

II. News in China

- Carrie Lam made a statement that Hong Kong will carry out mandatory nucleic acid testing of their entire citizens to control the current round of the epidemic as soon as possible.
- The additional funds to be allocated by developed countries for the developing countries which are hit hard by the financial fallout due to coronavirus pandemic fell short of expectations, with the large G20 economies pledging a total of \$60 billion. World leaders have repeatedly called for special drawing rights allocated to the rich countries should be made available to poorer countries who need it more. But according to internal G20 documents seen by the Financial Times, only 13 countries have so far committed to lend \$10 billion in SDRs to low-income countries through the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT), while an additional \$50 billion will be provided by the yet-to-be-established Resilience and Sustainability Trust for Low- and Fragile Middle-Income Countries.
- Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security held a press conference for Q4-2021 to introduce the progress of human resources and social security work in 2021. According to the Economic Information Daily, this regular press conference released 100 occupations that have "maximum shortage of workers". Among them, marketing staff, restaurant waiters, commodity salesmen, lathe operators, housekeepers, security guards, packers, customer service administrators, cleaners, and courier servicemen are among the top ten occupations. The person in charge of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security said that compared with the third quarter of 2021, the "ranking" reflects that the labor shortage in the manufacturing industry continues, and the shortage of workers in the "smart manufacturing" field has increased.

- On February 22, 2022, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi had a telephone conversation with US Secretary of State Blinken at request to exchange views on the nuclear issues in Ukraine and the Korean Peninsula. Wang Yi said that China's position on the Ukraine issue has been consistent. The legitimate security concerns of any country should be respected, and the purposes and principles of the UN Charter should be upheld. The evolution of the Ukraine issue so far is closely related to the delay in the effective implementation of the new Minsk agreement. China will continue to make contact with all parties based on the merits of the matter. China once again calls on 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. On US-DPRK relations, Wang Yi said that the core of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue is the issue between the US and the DPRK. The US side should pay attention to the legitimate concerns of the DPRK and take substantive actions. China advocates direct dialogue between the US and the DPRK and will, as always, play a constructive role in promoting the settlement of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue.
- "Opinions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council on Promoting the Key Rural Revitalization Work in 2022", that is, the No. 1 Central Document of 2022 was released. This is the 19th No. 1 Central document to guide the work of "agriculture, rural areas, and farmers" in the 21st century. The document emphasized to adhere the two bottom lines viz. ensuring national food security and preventing a large-scale return to poverty, while it also highlighted annual tasks, targeted measures, and practical orientation. It also highlighted the key tasks of rural construction and rural governance, and also promoted new progress in rural revitalization and new steps in agricultural and rural modernization.
- Non-mainstream HK media reported that the Political Bureau of the CPC will hold its monthly plenary meeting this week. The National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) will open on March 4. All the members of the PBSC and Vice President Wang Qishan will be attending it. They are also expected to attend the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Paralympics that night. On March 5, the National People's Congress will open. All eight people (PBSC + Wang Qishan) will attend, and Li Keqiang will read the government work report. Non-mainstream HK media has also reported that some officials have asked for a leave to be absent from the 'two sessions'. Tung Chee-hwa, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference from Hong Kong, has announced through public relations that he is currently recuperating at home and is not expected to go to Beijing to attend the "two sessions" next month.

- Tang Yingnian, the former Chief Secretary for Administration of Hong Kong, who is a member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, will also be absent from this year's 'two sessions' due to his close family members being tested positive. Hu Dingxu, a member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese people's Political Consultative Conference, has asked for leave to attend the two sessions because he will be staying in Hong Kong to fight the epidemic. Li Zeju, member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese people's Political Consultative Conference and chairman of the Hong Kong Cheung Kong Group, is also said to be absent from the two sessions of the Chinese Communist Party on the grounds of the epidemic. It remains to be seen whether senior officials such as Wang Zhengwei, vice chairman of the CPPCC National Committee, Bu Xiaolin, former chairman of the Inner Mongolia government, Chen Jining, mayor of Beijing, and Yuan Shuhong, former party secretary of the Ministry of justice, can appear at the two sessions. At the Sixth Plenary Session of the CPC Central Committee last November, these people were absent from the meeting for unknown reasons.
- Japanese Foreign Ministry has posted on its website that on 21.2.22, a member of the Japanese Embassy in China was temporarily detained by Chinese authorities against his will. This case is a clear violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. On 23.2.22, the Chinese Embassy in Tokyo posted on its website that the Japanese diplomat mentioned in the report was engaged in activities inconsistent with their identity.
- On 22.2.22, CCDI website posted on its website that on 15.2.22, Hangzhou party cadres held a meeting presided by Hangzhou Party Secretary Liu Jie. In the meeting it was emphasized to learn lessons from the Zhou Jiangyong's case and completely eliminate his bad influence. It notes that the officials should make a positive list and negative list in establishing their relations with businesses. Officials should establish clean but not distant relations with private businesses to support and guide standardized and healthy development of capital (*as opposed to disorderly expansion of capital which Xi has been warning against*). It also notes that a lack of strict self- discipline will inevitably harm ourselves, others and families.
- As of the first half of 23.2.22, conspicuously no hashtags related to Ukraine issue can be found even in the top 20 Weibo trends which shows that the authorities are trying to suppress discussion on the Ukraine issue on Chinese social media. However, news related to the situation is being shared by Weibo accounts of state media outlets with hashtags such as "#Putin recognizes the independence of eastern Ukrainian civilian armed areas" and "#Change in Russian Ukrainian situation", "#Russia will provide military assistance to the two eastern Ukrainian regions".

III. India Watch

- As our Daily Newsletter [dated 24.02.22](#) covered, Horizon News, a subsidiary of Beijing News(state-media) mistakenly posted censorship directives (that it may have received) on how to cover the Ukraine situation on its Weibo page. It is a very important post because it gives us a rare window to look into how the narratives in social media are controlled through state media outlets. The post says that any content showing Russia unfavorably as well as any pro-Western content would not be published. It also says "Show me (the news item) before posting it for the first time. The comment section is to be controlled with featured comments. Enable top comments first, and then pick out the appropriate ones, make sure they are responsible for what they comment. Really pay attention to the comments. Keep your eyes on each post for at least 2 days. Ensure proper handover. If you are running a topic(hashtag), only use it from People's Daily, Xinhua, and CCTV.

Image 1: Survey report on differences between regions and populations in the use of cash in China

