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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Xi'an authorities claimed that the outbreak has been contained:** A Chinese government official's Twitter account announced that the COVID outbreak has been effectively contained before it spread to the societal level while another Twitter account claimed that the cases have spread to the neighbouring cities of Xi'an as well. The residents of Xi'an took to social media, appealing for assistance regarding lack of access to medical care and low running food supplies.
- **Taiwan's Air Force jets in a war simulation drill:** Taiwanese air force showcased the military readiness of the Taiwanese forces amidst increasingly growing military tensions with China.
- **Demolition of Buddha statue:** A Twitter post commented on the news of Chinese officials forcing the Tibetan monks and local residents of Sichuan province to watch the demolition of Buddha's statue, comparing this ideology to that of religious fanatic groups like Taliban.

II. News in China

- As China harshly continues the 'zero COVID' strategies, it is taking a toll on the health system and food supply. Although the country strictly monitors its social media, the residents of Xi'an and Yuzhou took it to the internet, calling for serious actions.
- A remarkable protest took place on 4th January outside China's Evergrande Group's Guangzhou offices, showing concerns over their investment returns in light of the group facing a \$300 billion debt.
- China launches iPhone and Android apps for digital currency. This app allows the users to use digital yuan. As the winter Olympics get closer, Beijing aims to use this to make payments easier for tourists.
- Xi Jinping signed the first mobilization order of the Central Military Commission in 2022 for the training of the armed forces.
- China's Renmin University has fired its retired professor Zhou Xiaozheng. He currently lives in the US, and commented- 'How can I be fired if I am already retired'.
- State Cyberspace Administration of China issued guidelines for digital platforms aiming to deepen the comprehensive governance of Internet information service algorithms. To those companies it is applicable to, it suggests against using algorithms creating a monopoly and unfair competition.
- Taiwan has started deporting Chinese nationals for the first time in over a year following China's return of a Taiwanese fugitive in a rare act of cooperation as tensions rise.

III. India Watch

- The probability of a war between China and Taiwan is continuously increasing. China has always believed that Taiwan needs to be reunified with the mainland for achieving the dream of national greatness. Xi has often mentioned the current Taiwanese democratic government as a natural enemy to China, standing in the way of Chinese unification and rejuvenation. China's past strategy of coercion through economic diplomacy is not as functional anymore as China's economic dependency has been growing on Taiwan. Domestic sentiment in Taiwan is against reunification as they strongly believe in a resilient domestic economy that is becoming increasingly less dependent on China. Considering these developments, China has changed its strategy to military provocation and assertive diplomacy. Taiwan and the cross-strait relations spectators are now calculating the potential timing and method of war while Taiwan is building its deterrence through alliances, combat readiness, and economic diplomacy.