

**10.02.22**

*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

- **Chinese netizens show their support for Japanese skater who fell on final skate:** Despite the political tensions between China and Japan, Chinese netizens showed their love and support for the Japanese skater Yuzuru Hanyu after he fell on his final skate. Hanyu is a two-time Olympic champion with a huge fan base in China. At a time when Weibo was overflowing with messages of support to the Japanese star, Chinese netizens were highly critical of US-born Chinese skater - Zhu Yi, who also fell twice during the games.
- **Gu Ailing, the US-born Chinese skier, once again topped social media as her win inspired Chinese diaspora:** Gu Ailing, who won the gold medal of the women's Freeski Big Air final at the Beijing Olympics, became a hot topic not just among Chinese netizens but as well as among the Chinese diaspora in the US. In the face of growing tensions between both countries, Gu had openly accepted and declared her American and Chinese cultural identity, inspiring the many Chinese Americans to be proud of their dual cultural background amid racial tensions in the US.

## II. News in China

- China suspended beef imports from Lithuania after the UK announced its decision to back the WTO case against China. General Administration of Customs did not disclose any particular reason behind the ban, although such bans usually occur when there is a potential outbreak of disease among animals. On February 7, 2022, the UK announced its support with the US and Australia in backing the EU's WTO dispute with China over its trade curbs on Lithuania. Lithuania's trade with China fell by 91 % in December after Lithuania strengthened its relations with Taiwan by allowing Taiwan to set up its embassy in Vilnius. Taiwan foreign ministry condemned the ban saying that China is 'bullying' Lithuania's foreign policy.
- China's Industry Ministry published a set of revisions to draft rules on data security for business sectors, which dictates how companies and localities should manage the data to further strengthen the country's data governance regime. The revisions removed the statement from the original rules published in September, which says that the core data that poses security threats to China's national and economic interests should not leave the country. Revisions also specified that industry-specific local regulators are responsible for managing and supervising data. The law also requires the companies and local regulators to categorize the data according to its relevance vis-à-vis national interests.
- Shares of China Evergrande group jumped after its chairman said it would resume construction and discard sales by selling the shares cheaply. Presently, Evergrande

Group is the world's most indebted property developer with \$300 billion in liabilities, including \$20 billion in international bonds. Hui Ka Yan, chairman of the group, assured that it would fully restore construction work across China this month and clear its debt.

- At the regular press briefing hosted by the Ministry of Commerce, Gao Fend, the Ministry spokesman, commented that China hoped that the US would remove additional tariffs on Chinese goods and end sanctions to facilitate trade cooperation between the countries. The response came after the US revealed a lack of commitment by China on the trade deal it signed under former US President Donald Trump.
- Global Times responded to a report prepared by BBC on February 8 accusing China of encroaching into Nepal along the shared border between two countries – by calling it a ‘hype a smear campaign’. According to the Global Times, there were repetitive claims by anti-China forces that China has encroached on Nepal’s territory along their shared border in the district of Humla. They also accused BBC of raising the issue again at the time of the Winter Olympics as motivated by Tibetan secession forces advocating the boycott of the Olympics.
- China's Foreign Ministry has responded to the US’ denial of China’s claims that the Starlink satellite endangered the Chinese space station twice. China had informed the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs in January about the US’ Starlink satellites' dangerous approach to the Chinese space station, putting Chinese astronauts in orbit at risk. Responding to the US, China has now also added that it might have to take necessary measures to prevent collision to avoid urgent security threats posed by the satellite. China has reminded the United States that the principle of cooperation and mutual assistance in outer space should not be compromised.
- Starting from 3.1.22, any deposit or withdrawal of more than 50,000 yuan will require the customer to register the source as well as the use of the funds. It is touted as a move that will help improve the anti-money laundering supervision system, crackdown on illegal cash, improve the level of anti-money laundering work, reduce criminal activities, and maintain financial security. The details are available on the Chinese internet state that one would have to fill out an extra form while dealing in amounts greater than 50,000 yuan. Withdrawing amount >50,000 will require to state the usage of the funds; Depositing an amount >50,000 will require the customer to state the source of the fund. This will apply to all commercial banks, rural cooperative banks, rural credit cooperative societies, banks in villages and townships (basically includes all the financial and banking institutions).

Almost all foreign dignitaries that Xi Jinping met during Beijing Winter Olympics have issued invitations to him to visit their country, but none of the CCP officials have so far confirmed that Xi Jinping has accepted an invitation. Only Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of Kazakhstan, who has just experienced civil unrest, announced on the president's official website that Xi Jinping has accepted his invitation and will visit in September this year. This has not been confirmed yet by any Chinese official source. If true, this will be Xi's first visit after around 2 years. But given that the crucial party congress will take place around that time, it still remains to be seen if the Kazakh president's claim is true.

- On 9.2.22 the Supreme People's Procuratorate announced that Gan Rongkun, a former member of the Standing Committee of the Henan Provincial Party Committee and Secretary of the Political and Legal Committee of Henan Province, was suspected of taking bribes. On December 21 last year, it was reported that Gan Rongkun was suspected of taking bribes. A few days ago, the Supreme People's Procuratorate made a decision to arrest him. He has become the first provincial-level official to be prosecuted after the Chinese New Year. Non-mainstream HK media is of the view that he was a henchman of Zeng Qinghong.

### III. India Watch

- China has always tried to establish a strategic footing in South Asia and has been successful via its big connectivity projects and development assistance. Over the years, China's extensions of its influence in Nepal have made New Delhi uncomfortable because it has always considered Nepal under its sphere of influence. Although Nepal has maintained a good relationship with India, it also tried to diversify its areas and scope of engagement with China. To maintain its sphere of influence, New Delhi needs sufficient soft and hard power and adequate resources to contain China's hard and soft power encroachment.
- Regarding changes in deposit/withdrawal patterns, it should also be noted that 11 institutions including the People's Bank of China( the Central Bank of China), the Ministry of Public Security, the National Supervisory Commission, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Ministry of State Security, etc on 26.1.22 jointly issued the "Three-Year Action Plan for Combating and Controlling Money Laundering Crimes (2022-2024)", which will launch a nationwide crackdown from January 2022 to December 2024 to combat money laundering crimes. The above action is also part of this larger crackdown on money laundering. It is entirely possible that this nationwide crackdown can facilitate Xi to subdue any rivals or opposition in his path leading up to re-election for a 3rd term.