## DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA





# ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON CHINA AND ASIA

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#### I. Social Media Chatter in China

#### • Draft security cooperation agreement leaked, circulated on social media:

China is about to <u>finalise</u> a new security pact with The Solomon Islands that will enable Beijing to make a military presence through these bases. This base will boost the strategic support of China in the Oceania region and will be a major threat to Australian national security, interest, and sphere of influence in the region. The agreement will allow China to make ship visits, carry out logistical replenishment, and have stopovers and transitions in the Solomon Islands. The draft of the same was l<u>eaked</u> and shared extensively.

 Video on Social Media claims that police in Hong Kong are arresting people for wearing Ukraine flags and curbing anti-Russia stands: A video is trending on social media that claims police in Hong Kong arrested people for wearing the flag of Ukraine in public. Mainland China Netizens commented that any public gathering is "disturbing good social order". It is also claimed that people are not being allowed to have more than two people in public in HK for weeks now. Families and domestic helpers have all been slapped with fines amid the recent spike in COVID-19 infections. Other Provincial governments are mandating university teachers to attend lectures for correcting students thoughts on the Ukraine crisis. The main conclusion of these lectures is that Russian military action is legitimate and it is the fault of the west. (See Image 1)

#### **II. News in China**

- China's state-run media <u>reported</u> Wang Yang, a top Chinese Communist Party (CPP) official and Politburo member, visited Xinjiang on an inspection tour from March 18 to 22. During his visit, he visited the major cities of Urumqi (Wulumuqi), Kashgar (Kashi), and Hotan (Hetian) as well as rural areas. He met with CPP and local government officials during his visit.
- Yusup Saqal, a charity organizer for Uyghur soccer teams, was <u>sentenced</u> for intentionally destroying ethnic unity as he allegedly helped families of detainees in Uyghur camps. He was also summoned by China's national security policy in 2014 and interrogated about why he had given up drinking alcohol.
- Hong Kong police charged a 59-year-old coach of martial arts and a 62-year-old assistant for sedition on <u>allegations</u> of setting up a martial arts training center to "incite hatred" against mainland China. He is also accused of forming an armed force for Hong Kong's independence.
- China has <u>launched</u> a mass training program for "religious content reviewers" to help censor and erase non-government religious content from China's tightly controlled internet. The reviewers will also monitor sessions on religious policy and regulation under CCP and be trained to report anti-socialist and anti-CCP content.

- The second black box of the China Eastern Airlines passenger plane is still <u>missing</u> on the fifth day of the crash. China has deployed technical forces and professional geophysical equipment to find the same.
- China is to <u>implement</u> Measures for the Management of Points for Road Traffic Safety Violations from April 1, 2022. These will add a mandate of the "cross-provincial" driving qualification test. Thereby driving tests could be undertaken anywhere in the country to restore the driving license within two years of suspension or expiry.
- National Health Commission (NHC) of China <u>reported</u> that from March 1st to 24th, more than 56,000 local infections have been reported nationwide. Despite public discontent, NHC stated that restricting the movement of people has an immediate effect on rapid epidemic control.
- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi <u>reached</u> India and met National Security Advisor of India, Ajit Doval, and later met Minister of External Affairs of India, S. Jaishankar. There is a low possibility of any significant outcome as Wang Yi mentioned about Kashmir in the OIC meeting in Islamabad and got retaliation from the Indian Ministry of External Affairs.

#### III. India Watch

- Wang Yang's visit to Xinjiang came 11 days after Michelle Bachelet, the U.N.'s High Commissioner of Human Rights, announced that she would visit China and the Xinjiang region in May to check the current situation on the ground. It is expected that more high-profile visits will happen till May in Xinjiang.
- The visit of the Chinese foreign minister to India is happening against the backdrop of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. China is to chair the BRICS summit soon and balancing the increased pressure from the west on China and Russia via the ongoing visit is very crucial for China.

## (Image 1: Provincial governments in China mandating university teachers to attend lecture over Ukraine crises)

