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*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

- **China's internet erupts in protest against censorship of Shanghai lockdown videos:** A virtual protest has taken place on China's heavily monitored social media platforms, where citizens took turns to keep a censored video called the Voice of April alive and overwhelm censors. This video was posted on 22 April 2022 at 8 pm and 11 PM; it has exceeded 3 lakh retweets and has around 30 million views.
- **China censors are losing control over social media?:** China's censors are working on overdrive, blocking hundreds of links to videos, articles and documents related to the lockdown. But it is not easy to cancel millions and millions of people when most of them are digitally literate. Chinese authorities are losing grip over social media. One video posted on Douyin (China's version of TikTok) shows a quarantined man shouting, 'You can shut us away, but you can't shut Douyin away'.

## II. News in China

- China is planning on building an asteroid monitoring & defence system and will carry out an experiment as early as 2025 on a threatening asteroid by closely tracking & attacking it to change its orbit.
- Myanmar anti-government fighters have threatened to attack the Chinese-invested mines if projects are not shut down. Anti-resistance army has alleged that they enrich the military junta and bring no benefits to local people. China's Wanbao Mining runs the Letpadaung & Sapetaung-Kyesintaung copper mines jointly with the military. The attack on the nickel mine and other Chinese-invested projects led to the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar contacting the parallel National Unity Government and urging it not to harm Chinese projects.
- The National Energy Administration announced that as of the end of March, China's total installed power generation capacity was about 2.40 billion kilowatts, a year-on-year increase of 7.8%.
- Local authorities in Shanghai are fencing off apartment building entrances to further restrict movement in the city hit by a surge in Covid-19 cases. Chinese authorities have said that the strict lockdowns will continue till all of COVID is 'gone'.
- The first China cellular Agriculture Forum discussion panel was held on 19 April 2022. The panel included attendees from thirty organizations, representing leading cultivated meat companies, ecosystem builders, research institutions, and upstream and downstream partners.
- The former prime minister of Australia Tony Abbott said that China is not trustworthy partner as it has been weaponizing trade. It is noteworthy that he has previously said that the answer to almost every question about China is India

especially vis-à-vis supply chains.

- WTA to continue China tournaments suspension until Peng Shuai resolution is found. WTA chief added that he is hopeful of returning to China next Year if progress is made over Peng Shuai case.
- China's navy has appointed its first woman commander to one of its destroyers. She will be the First Lady in the 73 years of the PLA navy who is going to become a commanding officer on a service combatant vessel.
- The Philippines has announced that it will suspend its exploration of oil and gas in the disputed areas of South China Sea. Many analysts said that Philippines is halting its exploration because of coercion from China.
- A Uyghur academic who studied in Germany has been sentenced to 13 years in prison in northwestern China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, according to a security officer at a university where the man worked.
- A Rwandan Court sentenced a Chinese man, Sun Shujun, to 20 years in prison for brutally beating one of his employees last year. Sun said he was frustrated and fed up with them constantly stealing minerals.
- Australian Defense Minister Peter Dutton 'sremarks on Chinese lending practices in Africa to show his outlook about the threat he feels Beijing poses to Australian interests in the South Pacific.

## India Watch

- India has suspended tourist visas for Chinese nationals. This decision came in response to China's reluctance to allow Indian students back to study in China. More than 20,000 students from India are affected by China's decision to not issue student visa. Their careers and education have been on hold since the start of the pandemic, and the Indian government now seems to be willing to take stricter action to protect their interests.
- Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has warned China that a military base on the Solomon Islands, whom the Chinese recently signed a security deal with, would be a red line for both Australia and the United States. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Wang Wenbin responded to Australian PM Scott Morrison concerns about the Solomon Islands. Spokesman Wang Wenbin said that the island nation of the South Pacific is an independent and sovereign state, not the backyard of the US & Australia, and it is impossible to repeat the Monroe Doctrine. Amidst such tensions, it is important to note that both Australia and US as well as Japan are looking more and more to India as a solution and Delhi must build on this momentum.