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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

- **Netizens discuss cyberattacks during the Ukrainian war:** On Weibo, in relation to cyberattacks being carried, a user posted that it is very important to cross-check the information about the Russia-Ukraine war as there is much false news which is surfacing on the web. The netizens claimed that the United States has "used top-level cyber weapon evidence against China". Further, he added that U.S cyber attacks can hijack the normal web browsing traffic of any Internet user in any part of the world.
- **Discontent over China's epidemic prevention measures:** On being asked why can China not cancel the epidemic prevention measures like foreign countries, Liang Wannian, head of the expert group of the National Health Commission's Leading Group for Epidemic Response and Disposal, said the protection strategies and specific measures adopted by various countries are based on their prevention and control concepts. China's prevention and control philosophy is "people first, life first". Netizens showed discontent over this remark and criticised the Zero-COVID policy, stating that countries like South Korea have performed better than China which is a mark of "shame" for Chinese citizens.

## II. News in China

- According to the analysis of satellite data, China's increased reliance on coal to combat an energy shortage is affecting the climate which can be seen clearly from space. The European Space Agency detected a plume of methane that traps over 80 times more heat than carbon dioxide in its first two decades in the atmosphere.
- According to research that urges Beijing to support restructuring for those who need it, China and its lenders will be paid almost US\$14 billion by the world's poorest nations in debt servicing costs. According to research by Fudan University, China is the largest single creditor to developing countries after the World bank.
- In a close-call South Korean election, President-elect Yoon Suk-Yeol from the People Power Party won the election with a margin of 0.8 percentage points. Normally election in South Korea focuses on domestic issues, but some international issues also played a role this time such as South Korea's relations with China which raise concerns regarding Seoul's political and economic future.
- Since the initial outbreak in Wuhan in early 2020, China is now facing its worst Covid-19 outbreak. The daily number of cases is as high as 3500. The outbreak has led to a strict lockdown in many cities. The government has decided to double down on its draconian zero-COVID policy.
- On Monday, in a remote mountainous area of southern China, a China Eastern Boeing 737-800 with 132 people on board crashed. The officials said it also set off a forest fire visible from space resulting in the country's worst air disaster in over a

decade. (See Image 1)

### III. India Watch

- After the crash of China's Eastern Boeing 737-800, rescuers have found no survivors till now. The recovery work site in Guangxi province is being hampered by difficult terrain. The plane was carrying 132 people which crashed in hills in Southern China. The families of passengers and crew members are still waiting for further news to come. There was no official word on casualties until China's Civil Aviation Administration held its news briefing, some 36 hours after hours after the disaster. Amidst such an incident, while India shares condolences with the Chinese government that could mark a thaw in tense ties between the two neighbors, Delhi should also conduct a check on its own Boeing 737 fleet.

**Image 1: Trajectory of Crashed Boeing 737-89P with altitude and speed.**

