

WEEKEND ISSUE
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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **'Hard Isolation' is Shanghai's new word of the day:** While some Shanghai families have already been isolated for weeks, a new term has been introduced to their epidemic lexicon today: 'hard isolation' or 'strong quarantine.' On April 23rd, the rumour spread over Chinese social media after several Shanghai residents shared photographs of gates being erected around their communal building to prevent inhabitants from leaving. "I've coined a new phrase: harsh solitude." One user remarked, "Shanghai is rotten to the core."
- **Trending of movie 'Voices of April':** The hot topic of the day on April 23, a day after the film 'Voices of April' temporarily swept over social media before being blocked, is a hashtag relating to fresh COVID-19 instances reported in Shanghai. Although official media created the hashtag to inform the public on the Shanghai COVID-19 problem, netizens began to use it to criticise Shanghai's handling of the crisis, with more comments doubting China's zero-COVID plan.

II. News in China

- According to analysts, the Global Security Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping with a vision of upholding "common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable" security has offered China's solution to the world's security dilemmas as the Russia-Ukraine conflict continues and its spillover effects loom large. The initiative's central tenet is that all countries' legitimate security concerns should be taken seriously, and no country's security should be built at the expense of others' security, according to Xi, who delivered a keynote speech via video at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2022 on Thursday.
- At the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2022, which finished in south China's Hainan Province, delegates from foreign firms discussed their new investment projects and enterprises in the country, focusing on China's increasingly developing new industries. The basics of China's high-quality development and long-term economic progress, according to Qualcomm senior vice president Qian Kun, will not alter. Qualcomm and its partners will have additional development prospects as a result, and they may look forward to future growth in China. According to a study, China led the way in efficiently managing the COVID-19 outbreak and completely restarting work and production, with industry and supply networks running smoothly and some outgoing manufacturing lines returning to China. China's digital economy is the world's second biggest and growing at the quickest rate.
- According to scientists and industry executives, Chinese pharmaceutical companies, particularly those focused on breakthrough medicines, are playing an increasingly crucial role in worldwide new drug development. An out-license deal

for a new medicine candidate known as HBM7022 was completed earlier this month between Chinese biopharmaceutical company Harbour BioMed, or HBM, and UK corporation AstraZeneca. The drug, which is now in preclinical testing, cross-links tumour cells and T cells by targeting a particular tumor-associated antigen and a protein complex, resulting in powerful T cell activation to combat the tumour.

- China is aggressively implementing its long-standing employment-first policy into its pro-growth initiatives in order to protect the economy from the effects of increased uncertainty. In the first quarter of this year, China's measured urban jobless rate was 5.5 percent, up 0.1 percentage points over the same period last year. Job security and price stability are both important grounds for keeping major economic indicators within a reasonable range, according to Chinese authorities. Prioritizing employment allowed China to expand at 2.2 percent in 2020, making it the only major economy to grow at all during the year when the COVID-19 epidemic broke out.
- According to a major member in China's space sector, the country has started developing a defensive system against near-Earth asteroids that may potentially impact Earth. China has begun creating a research and development system for defence against near-Earth asteroids, according to Wu Yanhua, deputy director of the China National Space Administration, to increase the world's capabilities for monitoring, warning about, and dealing with extraterrestrial risks. The first phase, according to Wu, is to build satellites and ground facilities to create a comprehensive tracking and early-warning network. The administration also aims to conduct an experimental mission in 2025 or 2026 to send a vessel to closely examine and then take action against a specific asteroid, according to Wu.
- According to a senior official of the China National Space Administration (CNSA) on Sunday, China will begin engineering development of the fourth phase of its lunar exploration programme this year. The Chang'e-6, Chang'e-7, and Chang'e-8 lunar probes will be launched in sequence, with the country aiming to make key technological breakthroughs and establish an international lunar research station, according to Wu Yanhua, CNSA's deputy director, who spoke at an online launch ceremony for China's 2022 Space Day on Sunday. According to him, the Chang'e-6 will collect samples from the moon's far side. To offer communication and navigation services, the administration plans to build a satellite constellation orbiting the moon.
- On Sunday, China's Ministry of Transport urged local governments to keep highways open, prohibiting them from closing roadways, service facilities, or toll booths without permission. If expressway service areas must be closed as a result of COVID-19, the ministry stated in a statement that it should be submitted to

provincial-level joint preventive and control management before implementation. It further said that if toll stations must be closed owing to the presence of infected patients or close contacts, preventive and control management at or above the county level must submit to the higher-level management for permission prior to implementation. The public should be notified in advance of the closure of service facilities and toll booths on expressways, according to the government.

- Defense Minister Wei Fenghe said at a meeting with his Vietnamese counterpart on Saturday that the Chinese and Vietnamese military should improve their cooperation in safeguarding maritime security and cross-border stability. As part of the sixth China-Vietnam Border Defense Friendship Exchange, the two defence ministers met in Chongzuo, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, and Cao Bang, Vietnam, which borders the area. The exchange has turned into an annual event for the two sides, with the goal of increasing political trust, friendship, and collaboration between border troops, authorities, and local residents.

III. India Watch

- According to the analysts, the growth of Vietnam-China bilateral ties is a top priority for Vietnamese diplomacy, and that defence cooperation is a crucial component of the comprehensive strategic relationship. The Vietnamese military has been observed to be eager to increase collaboration with China in border management, military political work, and military medical, as well as make new contributions to border peace and stability and bilateral ties. India, which shares strong ties with Vietnam, must view this progression of China-Vietnam ties with caution.