

28.04.22

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **NGO trends on social media:** Anne Armstrong, Executive Director of Second Chance Animal Aid, a non-profit organization based in Shanghai – has come forward to help to stray animals and pet owners during this new wave in Shanghai. Second Chance runs a “virtual shelter” that places animals with foster homes while seeking adoptive owners. The initiative also includes helping pets stay fed, get medication, while their owners are quarantined, delivering pet food suppliers, boarding kennels and providing help through volunteers, personal contacts, WeChat groups, cleaners, and drivers with an “epidemic pass” to legally be on the road. The venture has trended on Chinese social media amidst fears of pet care upon forced quarantine.

II. News in China

- On April 28, during the meeting of the Central Financial and Economic Affairs Commission, Xi Jinping emphasised on the development of national-security-related infrastructure to increase the capacity of the country in order to deal with adverse conditions. He said that the development must be well synchronised with effective contingency plans. The Commission also identified new and advanced varieties of technological infrastructure that are of supreme importance, including supercomputing, cloud computing, artificial intelligence and broadband internet access.
- On April 27, Chinese news portal Duowei News, known for its Chinese political news and commentary, closed its website and mobile app after 23 years of operation, citing operational changes. All the content has been removed from the website originally known as Chinese News Net. The notice on the portal said that this closure is due to the adjustment to company operations.
- On April 26, China's research icebreaker Xuelong, also known as Snow Dragon, arrived to Shanghai, signing off the country's 38th Antarctic expedition. Xuelong 2 arrived 6 days ago marking the end of 174-day Antarctic expedition. The expedition involved series of tasks counting replenishment of materials and staff rotation at China's Zhongshan Station and Great Wall Station in the region, as well as marine observations and oceanic ecosystem investigations.
- On April 27, official records revealed that China's profits from industrial firms rose from 8.5 percent year on year to hit 1.96 trillion yuan (about 298.8 billion U.S. dollars) in the first quarter of 2022. During Jan- March, 24 out of 41 industries saw a year-on-year expansion in their profits, while 15 others recorded declines. The percentage of liabilities to assets stood at 56.5 percent, unaffected from a year ago.
- On April 27, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and visiting Chinese State Councillor

and Defense Minister General Wei Fenghe have come to an agreement to advance multidimensional military cooperation. Two sides discussed over international and regional security situations – including the Ukraine Crises as well as Iranian Nuclear issue. Both the parties have agreed to fortify strategic communication on the military level and deepen the cooperation and exchange in services and arms, joint exercises and training. Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Mohammad Bagheri also with Wei, who also held talks with Iranian Défense Minister Gharaei Ashtiani.

- On April 27, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson condemned Tuesday's terrorist attack in Karachi, adding that China and Pakistan will work together to catch the offenders. Spokesperson Wang Wenbin labelled the incident as a deliberate suicide terrorist attack against Chinese citizens. The terrorists targeted teachers, the inheritors of human civilization and promoters of cultural exchanges, making the attack a very vile and a heinous act, said Wang. He also requested Chinese citizens in Pakistan to pay close attention to the local security situation and prevent security risks.

India Watch

- Increasing closeness between China and Iran indicates their common ground of interest- counter the “hegemony of US and its sanctions”. Cooperation at the military level reflects the eagerness of both the countries to defy the sanctions (over Iran) and criticism (of China over not criticizing attack over Ukrain by Russia) put up by the US. The cooperation also indicates that both the nations are preparing themselves to have a greater influence over regional as well as international politics by strengthening their economic and military capabilities. Iran’s strategic location and China’s point of interest in the Middle East, Central Asia and as well as South Asia simultaneously are also a major factor of this cooperation. In addition, India’s relations with Iran also makes it essential for China to have influence and increased level of cooperation in the region to secure its interests.