

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

- **Kids Quarantine Site causes outrage on Social Media:** A 'Baby Quarantine Site' in Shanghai has sparked outrage on social media after videos posted on Douyin revealed children as young as 58 days old being separated from parents and put into isolation wards.
- **Egg donation and surrogacy trends:** Netizens praise a woman for rallying against egg donation and surrogacy advertisement displayed in a public toilet. The woman wrote, with her lipstick under the display, "Don't hurt yourself". It is to be noted that surrogacy is illegal in China.
- **Pfizer's new drug introduced in China:** Pfizer's new antiviral drug 'PAXLOVID' has been used in more than eight provinces, regions, and municipalities under the central government. After a five day course, the patients' viral load has been reported to drop significantly. Jilin and Shanghai will be given priority for distributing the new drug. However, the drug is relatively expensive, at 2300 yuan per box which has led netizens to complain.

II. News in China

- On 1st April, President Xi Jinping met with the European Council and the European Commission. Beijing emphasized that its policy towards the EU will remain stable and coherent. Key points from the meeting include developing China-EU relations, promoting the development of economic globalization, and investment by European countries in China. Both sides discussed the Ukraine situation.
- Foreign investment in China showed a boost in the first quarter of 2022. There was an increase in the number of foreign enterprises and the use of foreign capital. Central and western regions have attracted more foreign investors. From January to February, foreign projects exceeding \$100 million have shown a growth of 74.3%.
- Huawei announced Meng Wan Zhou (Vice Chairwoman and CFO at Huawei) as chairwoman of the Board of Directors in a rotating role and Guo Ping as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Huawei has implemented collective leadership at the management level to optimize its internal governance structure.
- Fu Zhenghua (former deputy director of the Social and Legal Affairs Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference) was fired for serious disciplinary violations i.e. infringing the party's political discipline, accepting bribes, bending the law, participating in Sun Lijun's political gang and fraud.
- On 1st April, State Councilor and Minister of Public Security Zhao Kezhi attended the second "Islamabad Security Dialogue", a high-level closed-door meeting in Pakistan and delivered a keynote speech.

- COVID-19 outbreaks and strict lockdowns have led to a mental health crisis in Shanghai. Mental health hotlines have become popular as anxious citizens grapple with uncertainty over virus control measures.
- The China Regulatory Commission plans to revise regulations on the overseas listing of Chinese companies to improve their compliance level. The adjustments designed are- Improving the legal basis, adjusting the scope of application, clarifying corporate information security responsibilities and improving cross-border regulatory cooperation arrangements.
- The Suzhou Centre for Disease Control and Prevention has announced a new subtype of Omicron detected in Changshu City, Suzhou. The variant strain BA.1.1 was not found in other local and global databases. Investigations are underway.
- The Tibet Autonomous region plans to invest 140.4 billion yuan in 181 projects, including the construction of highways, railway, airport, water conservancy, clean energy, green industry, tourism, and border trade logistics. According to the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), a 600 billion yuan investment is planned to promote Tibet's economic and social development.
- The recent coronavirus outbreaks in various provinces of China spell bad news for students and professionals. China is still implementing its strict 'Zero Covid Policy' and has no immediate plans to re-open the borders. Students, especially those enrolled in medical universities in China, are in a difficult situation.
- The first batch of Thai fruits was shipped to China by the China-Laos railway. It is the first time Thai agricultural products were sent by this railway. The China-Laos railway is touted as essential for regional economic development as deliveries to China and even Europe is possible in the future.
- China has again urged Lithuania to honor the commitments made when establishing diplomatic relations with Beijing. Lithuania had decided to allow Taiwan to open a representative office. In retaliation, Beijing had recalled its envoy. Wang Lutong, director-general of the Department of European Affairs of the Foreign Ministry, has remarked that the issue is between China and Lithuania and not China and the EU. Wang noted that the situation is a political issue, not an economic one.

India Watch

- China is the only major country where foreign travel is still prohibited. As their lives and careers hang in the balance, foreign Indian students and businesses with ties to China are becoming more dissatisfied. China has been accused of employing discriminatory practices, with local governments in China being told not to provide visa application letters to Indian people. At the same time, businesspeople and students from a limited number of nations are permitted to

visit China. Discussions with Beijing have repeatedly failed to resolve this issue. During Foreign Minister Wang Yi's recent visit to India, India's Minister of External Affairs S.Jaishankar brought up this subject. The Indian Embassy in Beijing recently issued a public notification declaring that degree courses offered online by Chinese institutions would not be authorized by the UGC or the AICTE unless prior consent is obtained.