

05.04.22

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY

Ahana Roy (Research and SM Intern)
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **A tragic Indian cop death caught on video becomes viral:** On April 3rd, video began to circulate on Chinese social media involving the demise of an Indian police officer. The event occurred in Agra, India, when a police officer was recorded on CCTV footage at a railway station falling to his death in front of an approaching train. The video shows the guy standing on the platform when he abruptly turns around, loses his balance, and falls down the railway tracks, where he is killed by the train.
- **Chaos at China's Shanghai:** Videos showing total chaos at a Covid-19 quarantine centre in Shanghai were widely circulated on Chinese social media sites such as WeChat and Weibo. People stated that the hospital lacked both staff and supplies for patients who had been confined there. Footage of individuals battling over resources and supplies were also widely circulated.

II. News in China

- On Monday, 4th April, Shanghai launched its citywide nucleic acid sampling program wherein over 24 million residents were screened. This campaign followed a mass antigen testing that had taken place on Sunday, 3rd April. About 38,000 medical practitioners from 15 provincial regions across the nation were in Shanghai to aid against the Covid-19 outbreak.
- In a chat with his Ukrainian colleague Dmytro Kuleba, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi reiterated Beijing's position of promoting peace and opposing conflict. He emphasised that China welcomed Russia-Ukraine peace negotiations. Kuleba, on the other hand, expressed gratitude for China's humanitarian support to Ukraine. He went on to say that Ukraine was critical to China's global influence and that he hoped it would continue to support a cease-fire.
- In the midst of the Covid-19 outbreak's reappearance, Chinese civilians have turned to internet tributes. Qingming Festival, also known as tomb-sweeping day, is a day when people visit graves to pay their respects to the departed and their ancestors. The celebration, which takes place on April 5th this year, has prompted 'online tomb-sweeping' in an attempt to prevent additional transmissions, limit cross-infection risks, and avoid large gatherings.
- Chinese Premier Li Keqiang congratulated his Hungarian counterpart Viktor Orban on re-election to the Hungarian Parliament on Monday, April 4th. Both China and Hungary committed to maintaining their bilateral ties, which have grown significantly in recent years. Li emphasised the need of strengthening China-Hungary connections in order to reach higher levels of strategic partnership, deepen mutual trust and collaboration, and keep each other's security and development interests in mind. The two ministers also talked about China-EU ties.

- With the start of China's spring farming season, China has set itself the task of achieving food security by improving domestic grain production and supply, especially given present foreign concerns. China aims to retain grain output over 650 billion kg in 2022, and given the rising prices of raw materials such as fertiliser, the central government has set aside 20 billion yuan to provide one-time subsidies to grain producers across the nation. In order to increase grain output, new technological inputs are being used. Last year, China's grain output reached a record high of 683 billion kg.

India Watch

- The re-election of Viktor Orban as Prime Minister of Hungary will create the foundation for even deeper China-Hungary ties. Given China's difficult relationship with the EU, Hungary's assistance in establishing EU-China ties will be especially valuable to China. It is critical for China's interests in the area to have an ally in Eastern Europe. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also congratulated Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban on his fourth straight term in office. PM Modi expressed his desire to continue working with Orban to "further develop the close and friendly India-Hungary ties".