

08.04.22

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY

Shalini Singh (Junior Research Associate)
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **COVID-19 infected infants separated from parents spurring online debate:** Infants and young children, who tested positive for COVID-19, are forced to live in infant quarantine site in Shanghai's Jinshan District. Citizens have regarded this anti-epidemic measure as inhumane and ruthless. Some photos and videos disclosed multiple children together in a single hospital bed, crying and running. It is also rumoured that there were only ten nurses to take care of 200 babies.
- **Animals beaten to death by healthcare workers in Shanghai:** On April 06, a photo and a video went viral on the Chinese social media after the WeChat account 'corgi sh' posted about the incident that showed a corgi dog beaten to death by a Shanghai healthcare worker. The dog's owner was allegedly taken away to quarantine centre after testing positive for COVID-19, after which the pet dog was killed by an anti-epidemic worker with a stick in the middle of the street at Caoluzhen. Similar incident happened in March 2022 when a Samoyed dog was beaten to death under alike circumstances.

II. News in China

- Shanghai is witnessing a surge in COVID-19 cases leading to shutdown of the city due to Zero Clearing Policy– including factories, shops and even workplaces. This has augmented the already grave supply chain crisis. This will not only affect the global supply chains but also China's economy. The lockdown measures which were actually scheduled to be lifted by April 05 have been extended to keep the situation under control. The city is also facing shortage of trucks responsible for transferring incoming containers from ports – piling up the port warehouses with several dangerous commodities and delaying the delivery of goods.
- On April 7, China started first international rail-sea freight train from China's Yangtze River to Myanmar's Yangon. The train left from Guoyuan Port in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality. This will also connect Chongqing with the Indian Ocean. This project comes under New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor-jointly built by western Chinese provinces and Singapore.
- On April 06, Philippines' President Rodrigo Duterte inaugurated China's Binondo-Intramuros bridge that connects two districts in Manila City. The project is built under "Build, Build, Build" program. This is the 16th government-to-government project completed between China and the Philippines since Duterte has assumed powers in 2016. The first part of this project, the Estrella-Pantaleon Bridge, was completed in 2021, connecting Makati and Mandaluyong cities.
- China and New Zealand implemented the Upgrade Protocol of the Free trade Agreement on April 07 to facilitate and bring momentum in bilateral trade and

investment between two countries. Both the countries will open their markets for goods, services and new investment thus facilitating trade. Both the countries will negotiate customs clearance procedures and regulations and bilateral cooperation will be improved in the field of e-commerce, competition policy, government procurement, the environment and trade, according to the protocol.

- China has opposed the recent US arms sales to Taiwan and had shared grievance with the US on April 07. This opposition surfaced after US announced the approval of approximately \$95 million package including equipment and services to maintain the Patriot missile defence system. This arms sales to Taiwan violates One China Principle, says Senior Colonel Tan Kefei, spokesperson of China's Ministry of National Défense.
- China has completed the formation of first ocean surveillance radar satellite network with the launch of a Gaofen-3 03 satellite on April 07. This will enhance the capability of high resolution, wide coverage and multi-mode sea and land data acquisition. China has previously launched 12 ocean-related satellites that work 24 hours and orbit the Earth 14 times a day.

India Watch

- The New International Land- Sea Trade Corridor has become a new network for logistics and trade bridging western and southern Chinese provinces to ASEAN and other part of the project connecting with Central Europe and Central Asian region. This makes Chongqing as the operation center and transportation hub with freight trains connecting different regions. This project connects with Maritime Silk Road in the South as it joins Indian Ocean. This is such an intricate economic cooperation emerging in the South East Asia under Maritime Silk Road and thereby strengthening China's presence in the Indian Ocean.