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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **US scholar says Chinese authorities paid US social media influencers to praise Beijing Winter Olympic:** Chinese consulate in US paid social media celebrities to praise Beijing Winter Olympics. It allowed Chinese authorities to boost the reach and resonance of their messaging to make it appear more authentic and independent.
- **Weibo is censoring social media posts related to Hong Kong COVID mismanagement and food shortage:** The Chinese social media app is reportedly trying to censor posts related to COVID mismanagement, which are coming from Shanghai and various Chinese cities. In various viral videos which are getting censored immediately, citizens are trying to protest. Videos also show that they are stealing food from the supermarket despite authorities' assurance of providing necessities.

II. News in China

- Chinese authorities have opposed a US decision that allows its nonessential staff and their family members at the consulate in Shanghai to voluntarily depart. US consulate previously objected to arbitrary COVID measures imposed in China. In another notification, the US consulate warned its citizens who are planning to travel to China.
- Guangzhou city officials announced mass city-wide COVID testing after 3 cases were recorded in the city. City officials are planning to put new restrictions.
- China Development Bank has increased its financial support for green energy development in the first quarter of this year. According to China development Bank this year they are going to add 17.12 billion US dollars of loans in the energy sector for green energy.
- Chinese premier Li Keqiang while speaking at Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation called for strengthening cooperation between Chinese and Portuguese-speaking counties noting trade between both exceeded 5 billion for five consecutive years.
- China National development and reform commission announced that it has developed its first industrial Beidou Navigation satellite system.
- Hundred top property developers in China saw a profit margin decline in 2021 amid rising costs, market downturn and regulations. Many analyst of Chinese real state market believed that the growth of the real state industry has come to an end. China zero COVID policy and its measure will also expected to impact the real estate market.
- In a telephonic conversation between the Philippines and the Chinese presidents both parties call for restraint in South China Sea. They both argued in favour of

exercising restraint and reducing tensions along the disputed area. Xi Jinping also added that recent incidents have shown the world that regional security cannot be achieved by strengthening military alliances.

- According to the Chinese official news agency Xinhua, China's 'zero COVID' policy is not going away anytime near soon. Xi Jinping argued that China wants to minimize the virus by adhering to a dynamic zero COVID policy.
- According to US Agriculture Department, China is holding up a lot of food by the middle of this year. It will be holding around 69 percent of total maize reserves, 60 percent of rice, 51 percent of rice.

India Watch

- Russia has been the biggest supplier of military arms and types of equipment to most of the African countries, but sanctions imposed by the West can give China the benefit to seize a sizeable market of the same. At present, China is a smaller player in Africa for arms. Many African countries are buying drones and lightweight weapons from China. India must take note of this opportunity for the Chinese and look to deter African countries from looking to Beijing to fill their arms requirements.