

11.05.22

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY

Shalini Singh (Junior Researcher)
writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Update on lockdown trends:** On May 10, a Dutch reporter tweeted about the fences being erected by the workers on roadside of different localities. Shanghai has now entered into five days of silence when all the deliveries are prohibited and everyone has to stay inside their home - whether or not their neighborhood has been declared clean. Another reporter tweeted that several streets opened just a few days ago have been completely boarded up. The most 'appalling' one was Danshui Road, which looks like a war zone, walled off on both sides, declaring this as a plan of Chinese government to extend the lockdown and also a lockdown on information.
- **WHO Chief remarks on Zero-COVID trend:** A reporter tweeted that on May 11, WHO's Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus's video declaring China's zero-COVID policy unsustainable has been censored on China's internet. The video was all over WeCha but the link stopped working suddenly.

II. News in China

- Recently, Weibo declared that it will now display users' IP address locations on their profile pages and on all replies posted to the site. The company claimed that this feature will assist in "maintaining a healthy and orderly environment for discussion." Weibo also clarified that verified accounts will be allowed to hide their IP addresses- highlighting the privileges enjoyed by the verified user.
- On May 10, Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China, Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, joined a ceremony held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing celebrating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Communist Youth League of China.
- On May 10, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Zhao Lijian urged Western countries to refrain from interfering in China's internal matters. The statement came after the Group of Seven (G7) foreign ministers and a European Union official expressed grave concerns over the chief executive election in Hong Kong. He added that Western countries are conspiring to meddle with the internal affairs of China.
- On May 11, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said that China opposes and strongly condemns violent acts against journalists carrying out their duties. The statement came after the killing of American-Palestinian journalist Shereen Abu Aqleh and hopes that the incident in the West Bank will be dealt in accordance with law and justice.
- On May 10, China's first large emergency response and rescue vessel- China Emergency Jiujiang, finished its first sea trial off the coast of Jiujiang City. It is to be a

cohesive emergency rescue platform with an advanced information system and can reach a top speed of 28 km/h (15 knots). After being officially commissioned, the ship will undertake tasks such as flood rescue, embankment reinforcement, levee maintenance and breach sealing.

India Watch

- China criticising violent acts against journalists carrying out their duties shows its own hypocrisy on crackdown on dissent. One amongst many examples is China's National Security Law – introduced in Hong Kong in June 2020 - that has reportedly prosecuted and imprisoned journalists reporting against the government rule. On December 29 2021, Hong Kong Government's raided the office of Stand News and arrested seven senior staff claiming their work as sedition. The government also ceased operations. after more than 200 police stormed the outlet's newsroom, froze some HK\$61 million (\$7.8 million) of assets under the draconian law. China's attempt to silence its own journalists meanwhile condemning the violence on journalists on foreign land reflects a strategy to show concern only as a token of formality.