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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

- **Debate over Shanghai's centralised quarantine locations trends on Weibo:** Residents of Shanghai have been under stringent lockdown protocols in accordance with China's "Zero Covid" policy since April 1. According to Chinese COVID measures, those in Shanghai who test positive also need to be quarantined in a centralised location. Despite experts stating that home isolation is not an option, residents complain about the dreadful living conditions at these isolation centres and question why at home recovery is not an option, given the circumstances.
- **Videos surface of Shanghai residents screaming from their apartments amid lockdown:** Shanghai residents have been screaming from their apartments amidst the stringent lockdown imposed since the beginning of April. Other footage shows a drone appearing and directing people to comply with COVID restrictions and not open their windows. China is currently witnessing the biggest outbreak of COVID-19 since cases were first discovered in central Wuhan in 2019.

II. News in China

- The National Health Commission in its Tuesday, 12th April report stated that a total of 1,676 COVID19 patients had been discharged from hospitals across the Chinese mainland on Monday. Furthermore, the Commission reported 1,251 new local confirmed COVID19 cases in the mainland. Of these, 994 were from Shanghai, 171 from Jilin, 21 from Hainan, 16 from Guangdong, 14 from Jiangsu and 11 from Zhejiang.
- In the Foreign Ministry Spokesperson's Regular Press Conference on April 11, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian stated that the United States was casting baseless accusations and fabricating information as a smear tactic against China. Zhao urged the United States to stop spreading disinformation, to stop pressuring Latin American and Caribbean countries from picking a side and to stop trying to create a rift between China and Latin American and Caribbean states. He also urged NATO to stop spreading disinformation targeting China following the line of the "China threat" to destabilise Asia and abandon the line of bloc confrontation along ideological lines.
- China and Germany signed a strategic cooperation agreement on Monday to boost bilateral cooperation and port cooperation. The agreement was signed between Ganzhou International Land Port in China's Jiangxi Province and Wilhelmshaven Port in Germany, according to which the two ports will cooperate on overseas warehouses, intermodal transport, modern logistical systems, green and low-carbon development and port infrastructural development. This is an attempt to promote the two ports to become regional distribution centres.

- In the Foreign Ministry Spokesperson's Regular Press Conference, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian stated that political change in Pakistan will not affect overall China-Pakistan relations and that China will maintain its policy of friendly ties with Pakistan. The new Prime Minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Shehbaz Sharif on the other hand promised to uphold and promote the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- Some residential areas in Shanghai have lifted lockdown measures which allow restricted movement to these residents. The implementation of the three-zone epidemic control system began this week. The Shanghai lockdown has left residents enraged as they complained about food shortages and a lack of basic necessities available to them.
- China's permanent representative to the United Nations, Zhang Jun urged the practice of true multilateralism and solidarity in the global fight against COVID19 and in post-pandemic recovery. He stated that the public health systems in developing countries had to be strengthened as they faced several problems in vaccine access due to inadequate public health systems. Zhang called for the Security Council to work with other bodies and take realistic and actionable measures to help nations.
- Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed the importance of independence in seed sources and emphasised the need for sustained efforts to achieve China's food security. He added that China's seed sources must be independent and controllable, with self-reliant technologies being utilised and claimed this matter as strategically significant.
- Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in a symposium on the economic situation in east China's Jiangxi Province called for the stabilisation of employment. He said that supportive policies such as tax refunds, financial support for the economy and construction of key projects must be sped up to drive the market.

India Watch

- With the election of a new Pakistani Prime minister, Nawaz Shehbaz Sharif, there could be instability within the nation. While China doesn't have to worry about the 'iron brotherhood' it has with Pakistan, certain cooperation projects could be affected to an extent. The new Pakistani government will try to mend its ties with the US and attempt to posture Pakistan as a more neutral party, acting as a bridge between the US and China. With the US pulling out of Afghanistan, Pakistan should not be given as much importance, especially given that the US is now trying to strengthen its relations with India to contain Chinese influence.