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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

- **Anti-government resentment in Shanghai grows:** "Don't come to Shanghai if you don't want to starve to death. The government is rotten from top to bottom" trended on social media as netizens on Weibo discussed the unfortunate circumstances faced by the Shanghai residents amid the strict lockdown enforced by the authorities to prevent COVID-19 outbreak. Many are wondering how a metropolis city can become so miserable that people are struggling to get food and other basic amenities.
- **Biden-Modi call and Russian casualties discussed:** Chinese netizens discussed about the telephone conversation between Indian Prime Minister Modi and the US President Biden. Netizens also pointed out the American hypocrisy regarding teaching other countries about human rights violations. Netizens also discussed the Russian spokesperson's comments admitting that Russia has suffered heavy casualties in the ongoing war with Ukraine so far

II. News in China

- As Sri Lanka faces the worst economic crisis since its independence in 1948, India has decided to provide additional \$2 billion in financial assistance. The island nation's economy was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and the country fears defaulting on its foreign loans. China is the biggest creditor of loans to Sri Lanka and has denied providing any relief in debt repayment. India has come forward to help its southern neighbour to prevent the island country from falling further into Chinese debt trap.
- China had requested armed personnel with diplomatic passports and status of the "Attache of the Chinese Mission" to be dispatched to the Solomon Islands as per a leaked document. A team of 10 persons equipped with pistols, rifles, machine guns and a sniper were requested to be sent to Honiara to protect the Chinese Embassy during the 2021 November riots. Solomon Islands experienced severe riots in which many Chinese businesses were targeted when the country's Prime Minister decided to shift their allegiance towards China and cut ties with Taiwan.
- Several anonymous Twitter users are exposing the extreme nationalism and pro-Russian sentiments circulating on the heavily censored Chinese social media. Several fake news articles and lies are being circulated on the social media platforms to invoke support for Russian aggression. A Twitter account named "the great translation movement" has been sharing the translated posts of Chinese netizens that are widely seen on social media platforms. The page claims to expose the Chinese hypocrisy of having a neutral standing in the ongoing war.
- As China battles the fresh outbreak of COVID-19 cases, and people struggle to acquire food and other basic amenities for daily use, President Xi has made it clear

that China will continue with its zero-COVID policy and no relaxation will be given until the outbreak is under control. He also emphasized that China must continue with the strict lockdown measures while ensuring minimum impact on economy and society.

- US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in her landmark speech asked China to use its special relationship with Russia to persuade Moscow to end the ongoing invasion in Ukraine. She also warned of economic consequences to those trying to undermine the Western sanctions. Yellen said that China must help in ending Russia's war on Ukraine or it will lose its standing in the world.
- Senior US military general has warned about China's security deal with the Solomon Islands. On his visit to Australia, General David Berger raised concerns about China's growing influence in the Pacific region and appealed to the island nation to reconsider the deal or it may regret it in the future. The Australian Pacific Minister also urged the Solomon Islands to not sign the deal.

India Watch

- As Sri Lanka faces its worst economic crisis, India has come forward to help it cope with the dire situation. India has so far helped Sri Lanka with USD 1.9 billion in credit line and currency swaps. It is reported that India is planning to provide additional USD2 billion in financial aid. Apart from this, India has been providing food grains and fuel. Sri Lanka has huge foreign debts is on the brink of defaulting, making it clear that it will not be able to pay its external debts on time. China is the biggest lender to Sri Lanka and has been denying requests from Sri Lanka to give relief to the loan repayments. This crisis has provided opportunity to India to regain its lost ground with its southern neighbour. It should also be a lesson to other small developing countries to be cautious of Chinese debt trap and choose their economic partners wisely. Although New Delhi has not put any condition of cutting reliance on China for helping Sri Lanka, the hope is to make the Sri Lankans realise that India is a better partner to have than Beijing.