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*DAILY*  
**CONVERSATIONS  
IN CHINESE  
MEDIA**



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**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON  
CHINA AND ASIA**

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## I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **'Permanent Fangcang Hospitals':** a new addition to China's COVID-19 lexicon: Permanent Fangcang Hospitals (永久性方舱医院) is a new popular term in Chinese social media to describe China's Zero-COVID policies. It refers to the fact that temporary makeshift shelter hospitals for Covid patients have steadily become a mainstay permanent feature in China's Zero-COVID approach.

## II. News in China

- Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian at a press briefing stated that China rejects the US bill which will help Taiwan regain observer status in the World Health Organization (WHO). Zhao said that the Taiwan question is a matter of China's internal affairs and that any participation by Taiwan in the WHO must be in accordance with the one-China principle. Zhao also urged the Group of Seven (G7) to stop interfering in China's internal affairs and denounced US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's comments on Hong Kong.
- On Monday, the Chinese mainland reported 162 locally transmitted confirmed COVID-19 cases. While Shanghai reported 77 of those 162 confirmed cases, it also reported 746 local asymptomatic carriers. Apart from Shanghai, eight other provinces on the mainland saw new COVID-19 cases. The National Health Commission also reported that 476 COVID-19 patients had been discharged after recovery on Monday, in its Tuesday Report.
- As part of China's water conservancy projects, China has launched the Wusong river improvement program in the Yangtze River Delta region. According to the Ministry of Water Resources, this is a key program which will improve flood control in regions around Taihu Lake, China's third-largest freshwater lake. China has begun fast-tracking its water conservancy project, the Minister of Water Resources, Li Guoying said as it will help to expand domestic demand, stabilise the economy, and promote high-quality development.
- Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi Monday met with the new foreign minister of the Republic of Korea, Park Jin over a video call. Both parties expressed their respect for each other's development, central interests and cultural traditions. Wang suggested that both countries take forward their mutual cooperation and development plans, maintain smooth political and diplomatic communication, enhance understanding, and promote common interests to ensure peace and stability in the region. Park also stated that the Republic of Korea (ROK) wishes to establish a stronger bilateral relationship with China and that the ROK always adheres to the one-China principle.
- A Shanghai municipal official stated that all community transmission of COVID-19 has been cut off in 15 of Shanghai's 16 districts. Also, starting from May 16th,

Also, starting from May 16th, Shanghai has gradually started to resume domestic flights and reopened commercial outlets as the city opens up gradually and moves towards normalcy.

- Retired cadres in China have been banned by the Chinese Communist Party from making 'negative' political comments in view of the upcoming leadership reshuffle later this year. According to this, violations of the set of regulations – titled Strengthening Party Building among Retired Cadres in the New Era — will be 'dealt with seriously'.
- On Monday Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif held a phone call on bilateral ties. Both parties reinforced their iron-clad friendship and are willing to strengthen strategic communication, promote cooperation on major projects such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and strengthen bilateral personnel exchanges. They also discussed the recent terrorist attack in Karachi on Chinese nationals.

## India Watch

- The recent rejection by China of the US bill which will help Taiwan regain its observer status in the World Health Organization (WHO) draws attention back to the fact that Taiwan is excluded from most global organisations due to Chinese objections. China considers the island of Taiwan as one of its provinces and does not recognise it as a separate country. While Taiwan has expressed its gratitude for US support, China has not taken to this move by the US warmly and has stated that it will not support Taiwan's participation at this year's assembly.