

18.05.22

*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

- **Molly the Elephant returns to Kunming:** Many hashtags recently trended after allegations that an elephant was being abused in a zoo emerged. Following outrage by animal activists and netizens, zoo authorities have returned her to the place in Kunming where she was born. Wildlife protection laws remain unclear in China, with animal activists calling for more stringent laws.

## II. News in China

- Chinese President Xi Jinping held a telephone conversation with Philippine President-elect Marcos. Xi congratulated Marcos on his successful election. Both sides agreed to cement the China- Philippines friendship and improve bilateral relations. The Philippines also promised to make relations with China a priority in its new foreign policy and intensify cooperation in various fields.
- China has censored many high-profile citizens in the wake of the stringent Zero-Covid policies being imposed nationwide. Medical professionals are still being censored, with their comments being manipulated and spread on sites. Grassroots health workers have also been targeted. Financial analysts, chief economists, fund managers, celebrities, and influencers have all come under the ire of the censors. Censorship was increased after the May 5 Politburo Standing Committee meeting. However, Chinese netizens have started using creative ways to evade censorship, and deleted content has also been kept intact outside the Chinese firewall on various websites.
- The Ministry of Education has set up guidelines for students preparing for the college entrance examination. The exam is extremely important as it charts the future of China's youth. Due to various Covid-19 restrictions, students need to monitor their health 14 days before the exam, undergo a nucleic acid test, and fill out correct contact numbers for the authorities to ensure smooth communication.
- Production lines have resumed in Shanghai. According to various insiders and experts, many challenges have to be overcome before a complete supply chain recovery is possible. Production has been resumed in SAIC and Tesla factories.
- The Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para games have been postponed. The emblem, slogan, and year of the Games will not change. A new date is being planned. The announcement comes after the 19th Asian Games, also to be held in Hangzhou, were postponed due to the COVID-19 situation.
- China Mobile, one of China's largest telecom operators, will soon roll out a new feature in Zhejiang province, in which international calls will be restricted. Users can opt-out of this feature by texting back the company's message. This move, directed at combating telecom fraud, is receiving mixed reactions. Some are afraid that it will make China more disconnected from the rest of the world, and citizens'

rights might be violated. Whether other provinces will be included in this new feature remains unclear, as China Mobile refused to comment.

- An advertisement company in Shenzhen has been fined \$75,500 for a sexist ad. The city implemented a gender equality policy last year. The move was praised as consumers became more aware of such messaging. However, many other sexist or misogynistic ads in China go unpunished. Shenzhen was the first city to enact the Gender Equality Promotion Regulations in 2013 and introduced a guidebook last year to combat sexual harassment at schools and workplaces.
- Following the China Eastern Airlines jet crash in March, investigations have been carried out to determine the cause of the mishap. The Wall Street Journal reported that the preliminary investigation did not find any technical malfunction, and the crew's actions are under suspicion.

## India Watch

- Satellite images have shown that China is building a new structure near Pangong lake. The structure is strategically important to the Chinese side. Even after repeated talks, the constructions are still ongoing. Moreover, China has also built infrastructure and improved 5G and road and rail connectivity along the Arunachal Pradesh border. The series of new infrastructure presents a challenge for India, as the Chinese side is becoming better equipped to handle future clashes.