

24.05.22

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Tencent's Pony Ma's opinion piece on Zero-COVID hurting the economy goes viral:** Tencent's billionaire co-founder [Pony Ma](#) penned a WeChat post about the economic impact of China's hardline COVID-19 measures. Tencent's revenue growth was hit by countrywide lockdowns and extensive government restrictions.

II. News in China

- On [Monday](#), Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that China will continue to support the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in its efforts. Wang urged states to come together and jointly build an Asia-Pacific community. In his address at the opening ceremony of the 78th session of the ESCAP, Wang remarked that joint efforts should be made to protect peace and stability in the region, promote economic development and make efforts to cooperate toward the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The [Quad group](#) is likely to unveil its new plan to curtail illegal fishing in the Indo-Pacific. Leaders of the Quad countries, US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese are set to meet in Tokyo on Tuesday to divulge the details of this initiative. According to an insider, the plan will make use of satellite technology to connect existing surveillance centres in India, Singapore and the Pacific to formulate a tracking system, monitoring illegal fishing in the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.
- Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Bahamian counterpart, Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Public Service Frederick A. Mitchell congratulated each other on the [25th anniversary](#) of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries on Monday. Both ministers reiterated the importance they attached to China-Bahamas relations and that they must take this occasion as an opportunity to extend their relations to a higher level, build political trust and deepen mutual respect and cooperation.
- On Monday, the Chinese mainland [reported](#) 141 locally transmitted confirmed COVID-19 cases. Shanghai reported 58 and Beijing reported 41 of those 162 confirmed cases. Apart from Shanghai and Beijing, six other provincial regions on the mainland also saw new COVID-19 cases. The National Health Commission also reported that 474 COVID-19 patients had been discharged after recovery on Monday, in its Tuesday Report.
- In a [document](#) jointly issued by the General Office of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council General Office, China's action plan on rural construction was outlined. The document lists 12 key tasks for promoting rural

construction to make rural areas more attractive for living and working. These tasks include formulating a unified plan, carrying out major projects and improving relevant mechanisms in rural areas. The plan covers a wide variety of sectors such as road transport, water supply, energy, rural housing and living environment, to name a few.

- At the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2022 in Davos, Switzerland, the Chinese delegation remarked that CNN had vilified them. In its press coverage on Monday, CNN had quoted a US politician who had made a remark that the Chinese delegation had not given a standing ovation after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky delivered a speech via video at the WEF. On the other hand, the size of the Chinese delegation at Davos received attention for being unusually small with Chinese representation in only four of more than 200 discussions. China's Zero-COVID policy has been blamed for limiting its chances to outline policy goals and address concerns.

India Watch

- With the Quad group unveiling its new initiative about checking and limiting illegal fishing in the Indo-Pacific, China watchers have commented that this plan could undermine China's maritime influence in the South China Sea and the South Pacific and further increase tensions in the region. Not only will most Southeast Asian countries support this initiative, given their opposition to China's hold in the South China Sea, but the plan also seems to boost information-sharing and maritime collaboration between all Quad countries.