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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **'Could not stop crying'; 10 years after leaving her holding deposit, Chinese woman receives a teddy bear:** A woman in China who could not afford a teddy bear at age 13 discovered it had been set aside for her when she went back on Christmas Eve ten years later. After the woman posted the bear reunion tale on Weibo, it quickly gained popularity with netizens who referred to it as a "[Christmas miracle](#)." The girl, Naifennaifenfen on Weibo, was 13 years old when she fell in love with a small brown teddy bear that was being sold in a store close to her school but did not have enough money to purchase it. She begged the owner to accept a deposit of 5 yuan, which was all she had, and vowed to return it in two weeks with the full 20 yuan. She failed to save enough money by the two-week deadline and, embarrassed, never returned to the store. When she returned into the shop ten years later to ask about the toy, she was surprised to find that the proprietor remembered her and had placed the bear on hold in his home at the rear of the shop for the previous decade. "I couldn't stop crying the moment I saw the teddy bear. No words can describe my feelings," Naifennaifenfen said. Netizens were moved by her story, leaving 17,000 comments and sharing it 100,000 times on Weibo. "So heartwarming, the owner preserved the 13-year-old you," commented one Weibo user. "The teddy bear must have been waiting for you, too," said another person.

NEWS IN CHINA

- The Chinese Ministry of Education recently released a [work plan](#) under which offline classes in schools would resume if

there are no instances of new coronavirus illness. The work plan is directed at preschools, elementary and secondary schools, institutions of higher education, and preschool education institutions. By citing them, other educational organisations can put the strategy into action. The strategy calls for stringent closed management in primary, secondary, and kindergarten settings throughout the pandemic, while colleges and universities can be divided into sectors for independent administration. It states that higher education institutions will no longer mandate nucleic acid testing for all students; instead, only members of certain critical categories will be subject to legislation mandating nucleic acid or antigen testing. Teachers and students at colleges and universities will not be required to present nucleic acid test results while entering or exiting, with the exception of those who travel to school from other areas. According to the paper, primary, secondary, and kindergarten students would be subjected to suitable nucleic acid testing, such as testing in rotation or random tests. The document states that in order to register in schools, visitors must present the results of a nucleic acid test and recommends that schools keep traditional Chinese medicine, medications for symptomatic treatment, and antigen test kits on hand for 15% to 20% of the overall population, as well as a stockpile of epidemic prevention items for more than one week.

- As China refines its COVID-19 response, [pharmaceutical companies](#) nationwide are operating at full capacity to guarantee the supply of essential medications for

COVID-19 control. Three shifts of workers are putting in 24 hours a day at Xinjiang Yinduolan Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. to increase manufacturing of drugs for respiratory infections and colds. According to Mou Xiumei, the company's deputy manager, the daily production of anti-epidemic medicine has expanded from 40,000 boxes to 80,000 boxes, and these boxes are being distributed to several locations throughout the country. According to company executive Vice President Jiang Dajun, eight production lines at Xinjiang Uygur Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. are currently operating at full capacity to meet market demands. Xinjiang's logistics businesses have also increased their efforts to encourage the circulation of anti-epidemic drugs. One of the country's main distribution hubs for Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) supplies is located in Anguo City where the output is currently accelerating at more than 100 TCM businesses. TCM plants can also be found in Northwestern Gansu Province's Minxian County. Currently, 150,000 boxes of important medications for COVID-19 control are produced every day, as well as 200,000 bags of TCM treatments. In order to help businesses operate at full capacity, local authorities have implemented a number of measures across the nation to increase the output of medical supplies, including securing the source of energy and raw materials, forming new manufacturing lines, and encouraging technological advancement.

- In response to increased threats by Beijing to use force against Taiwan, Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen in her [New Year's address](#) on Sunday stated that "waging war
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is never an option for solving a problem" and has encouraged mainland China to continue discussions in order to maintain calm in the region. She emphasised the necessity for Beijing and Taiwan to cooperate and communicate in order to achieve steady growth across the Taiwan Strait. Tsai added that Taiwan was prepared to assist mainland China in dealing with the rising COVID-19 instances, and she expressed the hope that this year would see the return of peaceful cross-strait interactions. Tsai is seen by mainland China as an independentist who rejects its claim to Taiwan. Since US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei in August, Beijing has aggressively increased pressure on Taiwan on the military front during the past several months, raising concerns among regional players, including Washington. Just days after the Chinese military put on its most impressive display of strength since holding unprecedented exercises around Taiwan with approximately 71 Chinese warplanes flying close to the island, Beijing's defence ministry spokesman Tan Kefei threatened invasion of Taiwan once more last Friday. In order to send a message to Beijing and Washington that it was serious about self-defence, Tsai had declared last Tuesday that her administration would increase the length of the mandatory military duty for men from the current four months to one year, beginning in 2024.

- President Xi Jinping gave a [New Year's greeting](#) for 2023 on the eve of the New Year, on December 31, via China Central Radio and Television and the Internet. On Saturday, President Xi emphasised perseverance and teamwork and urged the

younger generation to assume responsibility for carrying out China's bold future plan. Xi praised the nation's economic performance, COVID-19 strategy, and science-technology advances over the previous year in his New Year's Address to usher in 2023. Xi began his review of the year by praising the successful 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), which drew up an ambitious plan for constructing a modern socialist nation in every way and advanced the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernisation. Regarding the Chinese economy, Xi noted that the country has maintained its position as the second largest in the world and has had steady growth, adding that GDP is anticipated to exceed 120 trillion yuan for the entire year (about 17 trillion U.S. dollars). He also applauded the nation's efforts to end poverty, increase food security, reinvigorate rural areas, reduce taxes and fees, implement other business-friendly policies, and actively work to find solutions to the most pressing issues that the public finds particularly troubling. Since COVID-19, according to Xi, China has prioritised the wellbeing of its citizens and protected human life. Additionally, he took a moment to honour the deceased Chinese leader, Jiang Zemin.

- With the introduction of the [National VIB](#) standard motor fuel across China on January 1, the nation's gasoline production will officially join the National VIB era. Based on National VIA gasoline, National VIB gasoline sets stricter standards for gasoline quality. The retail price of National VI B standard oil products currently applies
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the original quality standard oil pricing and won't alter as a result of an improvement in the quality of the oil product. The National Development and Reform Commission, which oversees price regulation in my nation, adopted the "one adjustment per ten working days" policy to match oil product prices to those on the global market. When the National VI B standard gasoline is fully implemented, consumers will be able to choose the right brand of gas in accordance with the needs of automakers and visit conventional gas stations to refuel routinely.

- The world's first plant with a "natural direct cooling" (NDC) system connected to the grid was built in Shaanxi Province on Friday, marking a breakthrough in power plant cooling technology in China. The method uses the plant's natural air flow to direct heat to the air condenser and has been dubbed "a revolution in industrial air conditioning" by the local newspaper Shaanxi Daily. China Media Group reported, the system will enable the Yanghuopan Power Station in Yulin City, Shaanxi, to save 24,500 tonnes of coal and cut 54,100 tonnes of carbon emissions annually. The plant emits almost no soot, sulphur dioxide, or nitrogen oxide. The 660 gigawatt-hour capacity power facility will aid in alleviating central China's electricity shortfall. According to Shaanxi Daily, the NDC technology has been recognised as a significant technological apparatus at the national level.

INDIA WATCH

- Several nations have increased their surveillance and testing infrastructure in response to the recent coronavirus

outbreak in China and other countries in an effort to stop the growth. India has also begun testing and has demanded travellers from China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and Hong Kong have negative results from an RT-PCR test. However, analysts predict that India's health situation will not end up being similar to China's. According to data published on Sunday by the Union Health Ministry, India observed a daily increase of 265 new coronavirus infections, a decrease in active cases to 2,706, and 3 deaths in a 24-hour period. President Xi Jinping abruptly abandoned Zero-Covid in the face of protests and a widening outbreak, leaving China scrambling to prevent the collapse of its public health system and an economic hardship. India should seize this chance to improve its economy while maintaining public safety rather than risk it being negatively impacted by the recent surge in coronavirus cases. With countries throughout the world intending to shift its supply chains away from China because to COVID-19 concerns, India stands to prosper. In order to capitalise from this trend, India could replace Chinese imports with domestic production. Trade flow patterns will change, therefore, India cannot immediately rely on new exports and supply chains to support its economy. India may at the very least create manufacturing that caters to the domestic market and is independent of imported items, such as toys, furniture, small goods, and so forth. India can also learn from China's inability to immunise the elderly, a programme that started three weeks ago but hasn't yet produced results. According to government statistics, China's overall vaccination rate is around 90%, but the rate for adults who have received booster injections falls to 57.9% and to 42.3% for those who are 80 years of age or older.
