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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **The hashtag “Multiple Locations Announce Nucleic Acid Testing Changes” (#多地核酸检测通知发生变化#) trended on Chinese social media:** At a meeting on epidemic prevention on November 30, Vice-Premier Sun Chunlan of China stressed the significance of "constantly optimising" China's Covid-19 response and spoke of a "new stage and purpose" without ever mentioning "zero-Covid." Chinese media outlets stated that several regions around the country are changing their present COVID-19 testing procedures immediately after rallies in Beijing and abroad, the hashtag of which received over 660 million clicks. Guangzhou and Beijing announced that people who do not actively participate in social life will no longer need to participate in continuous nucleic acid screening. This includes elderly people, students who take online classes, and those who work from home. The change will apply to residents in seven districts, including Haizhu, Panyu, Tianhe, and Baiyun. Same goes for Harbin, Shenyang and Taiyuan. District-wide testing has also been discontinued by the authorities. December 5 onwards, Beijing bus and subway operators will no longer deter travellers from entering without a 48-hour negative nucleic acid certificate. There have been numerous social media posts and rumours concerning Covid-positive people in Beijing being permitted to quarantine at home provided they match requirements, although this not being formally declared. The nucleic acid test results of passengers will no longer be checked, Chengdu Metro declared on December 2. According to reports, further public locations will begin to accept the "green code" only, which has no time restriction on nucleic acid testing. The 72-hour

nucleic acid certificate check will also be discontinued, as per Tianjin Metro announcement. People will continue to need to put on appropriate face masks and submit to temperature checks, just like in other places.

NEWS IN CHINA

- Chinese Premier Li Keqiang met with President of the European Council Charles Michel in Beijing on Thursday and encouraged international companies to continue investing in China. Li urged for both sides to widen their mutual understanding and reaffirmed that China will always commit to its state policy of opening up its financial sector to promote a market-based and law-based international business environment, and treat all companies equally while retaining domestic financial stability. China will seek to preserve the Chinese currency, the renminbi, at a decent and balanced level, he added. China is prepared to boost its cooperation with the EU while maintaining mutual respect and equality in order to advance the China-EU Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Michel said that the EU adheres to the one-China policy and is looking forward to the latest [EU-China](#) leaders' summit. Both parties pledged to safeguard free trade, maintain global supply networks stability, and work together towards global concerns such as climate change and energy security. Li later said that China supports all efforts to reach a peaceful resolution as they discussed the Ukraine conflict.
- On Wednesday, the Chinese Memorial Hall collection at the [Nanjing Massacre](#)

[Museum](#) added a new collection of 453 artefacts that serve as documentation of Japanese army's "comfort women" and germ experimentation on humans. Among the 453 items, 51 were gathered by Satoshi Daito, the abbot of Enkoji Temple in Aichi Prefecture, Japan, who has been gathering historical records about the war since 2005. These 51 items included proof of "comfort stations," biological weapons, and the Japanese army's militaristic education of Nanjing children. The Nanjing Massacre, one of the most heinous incidents of World War II, began on December 13, 1937, when Japanese troops invaded Nanjing and killed over 300,000 Chinese civilians and unarmed soldiers over the course of the next six weeks. According to Meng Guoxiang, a professor at Nanjing Medical University, "comfort women" were the females who were coerced into sexual servitude by the Japanese military during World War II. This was a massive sexual and violent crime committed by the then-Japanese army and the government. Meng added that the diary and other historical records uncovered are a potent counterattack as the Japanese right-wing forces have either vehemently disputed it or displayed unclear and indifferent views toward this incident. The items collected—including photographs and war diaries—will further substantiate the crimes of the Japanese invasion of China, expand the research field, and increase understanding of the essence of Japanese militarism and aggressiveness. The memorial hall has amassed priceless cultural relics totaling 6,318 objects in 1,216 sets since it was founded in the 1980s.

- Chinese students had held [protests](#) on 52
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campuses, public areas, and Chinese consulates in the United States and Canada by Wednesday. Inspired by rare protests in China, Chinese students in North America organised and spoke out to honour the victims of a massive fire in Xinjiang the week before – deaths that many attribute to China's "zero-Covid" lockdowns. Over 100 people had arrived by Monday at George Washington University's Kogan Plaza, which was decorated with candles, flowers, and protest posters. Since there was no event schedule and no obvious organiser, the event was organised the day before by mainland Chinese students. Chinese, Uyгур, Hong Kong, Taiwanese, and Ukrainian students from various diasporas spoke on stage in support of easing Covid restrictions and overthrowing the Chinese Communist Party. In response to the Urumqi fire, Mike, a student from China attending Berkeley's law school, remarked, "The momentary anger has overcome any long-term fear of repercussions". Mainlanders sent encouraging messages online, on restroom walls, and using the iPhone's AirDrop feature despite Beijing's strict censorship. At least 350 campuses in more than 30 nations saw the Bridge Man support signs and demonstrations in October. The death of Covid whistleblower Li Wenliang, the alleged intimidation of Chinese tennis player Peng Shuai, and the deadly crash of a bus bound for a quarantine facility in Guiyang, among other incidents have all contributed to the present outcry. Johnson, another student, claimed that recent occurrences indicate a "important positive shift" and give him a "glimpse of hope," albeit he is still skeptical because "a lot of Chinese people are still nationalistic." The

students acknowledged the dangers of demonstrating abroad, which can include possible arrest upon return or harassment of family members in China, but claimed those who demonstrated in China were taking even bigger chances.

- On Thursday afternoon, a special flight was used to transfer Comrade Jiang Zemin's remains from Shanghai to Beijing. Jiang's remains were received at the Xijiao Airport in Beijing by Chinese President Xi Jinping and other Party and state leaders, including Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Han Zheng, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi, and Wang Qishan. Xi and the others kneeled three times in front of Jiang's remains to express their heartfelt condolences to Jiang's family. At the Xijiao Airport, the national flag was flown at half-mast and white letters on black banners read, "Eternal glory to Comrade Jiang Zemin!" and "Comrade Jiang Zemin always lives in our hearts." At 3:55 p.m., the special flight landed. The casket was escorted and carried off the plane by twelve honour guards. Jiang who passed away on November 30 at the age of 96 was a great Marxist, military strategist and diplomat of the great cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics and chief architect of the Communist Party of China's third generation of central collective leadership and the main proponent of the Theory of Three Represents. According to a Thursday announcement from Comrade Jiang Zemin's Funeral Committee, a memorial meeting for Comrade Jiang Zemin will be held in Beijing's Great Hall of the People on December 6.
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- Zhao Lijian expressed concerns on the joint military drill conducted by India and the US on November 30 during a regular press briefing. He claimed that the military exercise near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border area breached the spirit of relevant agreements signed by China and India in 1993 and 1996, and that it did not contribute to the development of bilateral trust. In recent years, India and the United States have intensified their military cooperation due to a convergence of interests to confront China. The drills, intended to strengthen military cooperation between the US and India, irked China as they took place in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand, about 100 kilometres from the Line of Actual Control separating Chinese and Indian territory. In 1962, a battle along the border broke out between China and India. In June 2020, when the Galwan Valley skirmish broke out in the Ladakh region, at least 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese forces lost their lives. As a result, the two nations stationed tens of thousands of soldiers along the Line of Actual Control, supported by artillery, tanks, and fighter jets. Although some Indian and Chinese military withdrew from a major flashpoint, tensions between the two nations have continued.

INDIA WATCH

- The two-week joint training exercise 'Yudh Abhyas,' which started on November 19, is taking place in Uttarakhand close to what is referred to as the Middle Sector of the LAC, has irked China, according to the press conference held in China on November 30. India, on the other hand,

vehemently refuted it. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the joint exercises have "nothing to do with the 1993 and 1996 agreements" with China. "Since these were raised by the Chinese side, let me emphasise that the Chinese side needs to reflect and think about its own breach of these agreements of 1993 and 1996." he added. The 18th edition of 'Yudh Abhyas' is undoubtedly an excellent chance for both India and the US since it intends to improve interoperability and share knowledge between both armies in peacekeeping and disaster relief missions. The last edition of the bilateral exercise was held at the Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson in Alaska in October 2021. The annual military exercise between the US and India intends to foster best practices, tactical, technological, and procedural exchanges between the two forces. It will also allow both armies to learn from one another's unique experiences, skills, and methods. The combined exercise will also have a major emphasis on operations for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR).
