

5 DECEMBER 2022

# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

Prepared By: Parul Trivedi | Research Intern



[writetous.orca@gmail.com](mailto:writetous.orca@gmail.com)

## Explore our other verticals:

- [CiCM Insights](#)
- [Opinion Pieces](#)
- [Issue Briefs](#)
- [Backgrounders](#)
- [Expert Speak](#)
- [Mapping China](#)
- [Infographics](#)
- [Podcast: The ORCA Files](#)
- [Projects](#)

## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Chinese Commentator Hu Xijin likely to get 'COVID within a month':** [Hu Xijin](#), the editor-in-chief of The Global Times recently posted on Weibo about him getting mentally ready to be infected with COVID-19 soon. Hu's comments can be seen as a trend in Chinese social media preparing people to face a virus they are still unfamiliar with as 'zero Covid' has always been the main goal. In a sarcastic tone, Hu further clarified his comments wherein he explained that he is likely to get contracted with the virus easily as he is proactive in his approach in the media environment through which he unavoidably is in touch with many different people. There had been more of trending hashtags on Weibo informing what to expect after getting Covid. For instance: (#新冠发病7天内身体会发生什么变化#) people had been also exchanging non-scientific advice on how to prevent catching Covid, such as drinking licorice ginger soup, or getting silicon covers for the drains in the bathroom to prevent the virus coming through via neighboring apartments. Later, on the same post, Hu informed netizens about his present condition and stated that if gets contracted with the infection anytime soon, he will be either recovering from home or would go to a centralized Covid location without availing any VIP treatment for himself.

## NEWS IN CHINA

- In order to encourage local governments in sustaining their foreign trade, China's Wenzhou province has introduced an '[industrial chain relief](#)' scheme to ensure employment and smooth operations of its foreign trade sector and its supply

---

chains in May this year. A total of 20 industrial chain chiefs had been appointed to serve as chiefs of various industrial chains to help companies, especially Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) to expand their sales to global market. The scheme also aims at connecting the key links of the upstream and downstream industrial chains by participating in the coordination of related businesses. Furthermore, it has also helped in developing emerging markets which has boosted the city's strength in growing their cross-border e-commerce business and foreign trade related services.

- As per the official report presented by China's human rights development, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has been an active promoter and a staunch supporter of the human rights cause. The report was jointly issued by the China Foundation for Human Rights Development and the New China Research of Xinhua News Agency. Acknowledging the holiness of the CPC, the report has highlighted numerous achievements of China in the human rights cause at all fronts. Furthermore, China has initiated its national human rights action plans and had provided every Chinese citizen with a dignified life to be lead. It was clearly stated in the report that: "While advancing its human rights cause at home, China also actively fulfills its responsibilities as a big country, thus continuously promoting global human rights governance and effectively promoting international human rights development and progress".
- On 5th December 2022, the 34th Shanghai Constitution Publicity Week and the

completion ceremony of Shanghai Qingpu District Chongde Shangfa Culture Center were held in Jinze Town. During the event, Lu Weidang, deputy secretary of the Qingpu District Party Committee highlighted the importance of tradition and rule of law in the Qingpu district. The Chongde Law Cultural Centre was established, taking into consideration the important spirit of Xi's 20th National Congress of the CPC by promoting rule of law and the rule of virtue which complement each other. Highlighting the ambience of the place, Yang Xiaojing, deputy director secretary of the Qingpu District Party Committee acknowledged Qingpu's integration into various carriers such as water system parks around the city and public cultural places, with a number of functional legal cultural positions such as the rule of law square, the rule of law park, and the rule of law post station that can be walked, read, and experienced according to local conditions. In this constitution publicity week and the future work of the rule of law, Qingpu District will closely focus on fully implementing the spirit of the 20th National Congress of CPC by conducting in-depth study, publicity and implementation of Xi Jinping's thought on the rule of law, and make full use of the Chongde Law Culture Center and the Oriental Green Boat Constitution Education centers and other positions, vigorously to carry out legal publicity activities, continue to strengthen the rule of law education of national staff, young people and all citizens, and strive to make a good atmosphere of respecting the law, studying the law, abiding by the law and to provide for the construction of modern hub portal and Qingpu in the new era.

---

- 
- China will cut the retail prices of gasoline and diesel from December 6, 2022 based on recent changes in international oil prices. Gasoline and diesel prices will reduce by 440 yuan (\$62.51) per ton and 425 yuan per ton, respectively as stated by the National Development and Reform Commission. It is China's second consecutive reduction in gasoline and diesel prices since November 21, which will cut the costs for daily and logistics transportation. Under China's current pricing mechanism, if international crude oil prices change by more than 50 yuan per ton and remains at that level for ten working days, the prices of refined oil products such as gasoline and diesel will adjust accordingly. China's three biggest oil companies, namely the China National Petroleum Corporation, the China Petrochemical Corporation, and the China National Offshore Oil Corporation, have been directed to maintain oil production and facilitate transportation to ensure stable supplies.
  - The first China-Arab Summit is going to be held on 09th December 2022, following Chinese President Xi[AN1] Jinping's visit to Saudi Arabia. This event is marked by the strategic choices made by both the sides. The summit will lead to inroads in building a cooperative future between the two states, while their mutual benefits and win-win results will promote prosperity and development. The summit will be a platform for both China and Arab countries to collaborate on various issues of: global governance, climate change, development, economic cooperation through China's Belt and Road Initiative projects and security.

## INDIA WATCH

- Assessing the impact of growing China and Arab relationship, it could be observed that Arab states have been more silent when it comes to the India-China political conflict. The primary reason for such a silence arises from China's strategy of alluring these Gulf States through its economic outreach by growing its investments in various major oil and gas firms of the region. In addition, China has also accelerated its economic partnership by increasing its trade with major Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members. Apart from economic cooperation, China has boosted up its partnership in defence domain as well by providing GCC countries with latest technology drones. Therefore, the trajectory of China-Gulf relations has been more of state-driven economic and strategic transactions which is now transforming into people-to-people linkages and cultural understanding. This is unlike India-Arab ties - an eight million-strong diaspora today leans on over a half a century of trade, labour and cultural understandings that motivated the Indian and the Arab governments to pursue a strategic agenda. The Modi government has attempted to further institutionalise and diversify these partnerships through strategic dialogues that bring together political, military and economic stakeholders together on the same plane. Sustained India-Arab engagement builds up an atmosphere of cooperation and sheds light on each other's strategic concerns and capabilities. However, India-Arab relationship is falling short, particularly in its commercial commitments. The pandemic has
-

---

worsened economic relations, as it exacerbated reverse migration and impacted Gulf sovereign wealth funds. Also, differences emerged out between India and Arab states on account of certain sensitive religious issues like: Hijab row which had been politicized deep within the Indian political system which has only worsened out the situation at the ground level. In this climate, what India can do is focus on fast-tracking existing projects such as the revival of [mega refinery project in Maharashtra](#) and to re-engage in strategic sectors like healthcare, nuclear and space cooperation. The intent here is to not compete with China but focus on India's strengths and deliver on what is already promised. India at least needs a support from Gulf countries in order to raise its voice against terrorism emerging out of its neighbour Pakistan on various multilateral platforms. However, looking into the changing geopolitical scenario, the Arab states cannot be expected to take sides on the current crisis which India is grappling with China but they are somewhere willing to engage with India's concerns and there is a ray of hope that India's soft power outreach could somewhere lead to a positive growth in their relationship.

---