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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Wuhan fever clinics flooded with long queues of COVID infected patients:** The long queues in front of the [Wuhan fever clinics](#) have become top trending news headlines on the Chinese social media attracting over 410 million views on Weibo on 11th December 2022. Amid the rapidly changing COVID-19 scenarios across many parts in China has resulted in many online discussions on Chinese social media platforms. In China, large number of COVID-19 patients had been seeking medical help at local fever clinics particularly in Wuhan even if they had developed only mild symptoms. One of the resident medical worker had requested the infected patients to keep on recovering from their respective homes if they were detected with mild symptoms. However, many people expressed their concerns over social media platforms of getting infected with the virus. In order to prevent further risks of COVID-19 infection, many Chinese netizens expressed the non-serious nature of getting contracted with either cold or fever, while others sarcastically mocked at those people who presently had been standing in a queue outside fever clinics as they were the ones who criticised about widespread lockdowns and mass testing prevalent across many parts in China.

NEWS IN CHINA

- The [Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security](#) issued a notice on the 'Implementation of Entrepreneurship Promotion Actions for Key Groups' on 12th December 2022. This notice proposed to optimise the entrepreneurial surroundings of the nation; accelerated the registration

processes of various market entities; planned execution of systems such as: on the spot, one-time and time limited settlements which would lead to the reformations within the commercial system. Furthermore, it focused upon the essentiality of fostering entrepreneurial institutions by guiding the young people to start up with their feasible entrepreneurial projects. With respect to policy support initiatives, the notice looks out for spurting up the implementation of the entrepreneurial guarantee loans and promotes the simplification of the guarantee procedures. In addition, it also chalks down its aim to support financial institutions in supporting loans for the small and micro enterprises. These promotional actions also encourage the local entrepreneurs to restructure the empty buildings in accordance with the local conditions to build up essential service facilities which could help in deploying odd job markets and would expand employment in general.

- The Central Military Commission (CMC), drafted a law on the 'Regulation on Several Issues Concerning the Military Implementation of the Criminal Law Procedure' of the People's Republic of China (PRC). This regulation will come into effect from 01st January 2023. The regulation was issued in order to bring about reformations in the Chinese military in consonance with the military judicial practice. The point of 'Interim Provisions on Several issues' concerning the criminal law procedure focused on the objectivity of criminal cases, compartmentalisation of jurisdictions, defence related agencies, prosecution and trial processes, execution

that the talks were candid, in-depth and constructive and have agreed to keep communicating". This discussion was considered to be as one of the planned follow up discussion as US Secretary of State is scheduled to arrive in China in the early next year and this will be a pivotal step in the China-US relationship. Thus, it demonstrates the willingness from both the sides to revamp their strained partnership amid current changing geopolitical scenario.

- The China Zhi Gong Party opened up its 16th National Congress in Beijing on 12th December 2022. Li Xi, secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in his congratulatory message acknowledged the advancement of China on all its fronts by honouring the joint efforts of all Chinese citizens including the party members as well. The message focused upon implementing the glorious principles of the 20th CPC National Congress which would advance the whole of the process of establishing people's democracy. It also highlighted the fact that CPC would always promote the growth of other parties in order to develop the comprehensive framework of a loyalist united front which would accelerate the national rejuvenation. The party expressed its hopes of contributing in the realisation of the second centenary goal of building China into a modern socialist state by adopting the path of modernisation.
 - Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China issued important mandate on the protection of intangible cultural heritage wherein he
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expressed his desires of including the Chinese traditional tea-making techniques in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) which would help in promoting Chinese tea culture all over the globe. It accentuated the need for promoting the innovative development of China's traditional culture in order to meet the people's spiritual as well as cultural necessity. It also focused on the development of people's cultural self-confidence and self-rejuvenation. On 29th November 2022, the Chinese traditional tea-making techniques and associated customs was passed at the 17th review session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage held in Rabat, Morocco and got included in the UNESCO list of the Organization of the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

- Delegates from China and United States (U.S) have pledged to maintain a diplomatic communication after their latest discussions on their bilateral partnership in Lang Fang, Hebei province. The bilateral dialogue was conducted by the Vice Foreign minister Xie Fang with the visiting US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Kritenbrink and National Security Council Senior Director for China Laura Rosenberger on 11th-12th December 2022. During the discussion, both the sides agreed on maintaining in-depth exchanges over issues that were discussed on the sidelines of the G20 meeting which was held in Bali, Indonesia last month. It was rightly stated by Mr. Wang Wenbin, Ministry

of Foreign Affairs of People's Republic of China spokesperson, "Both sides believed that the talks were candid, in-depth and constructive and have agreed to keep communicating". This discussion was considered to be as one of the planned follow up discussion as US Secretary of State is scheduled to arrive in China in the early next year and this will be a pivotal step in the China-US relationship. Thus, it demonstrates the willingness from both the sides to revamp their strained partnership amid current changing geopolitical scenario.

INDIA WATCH

- Assessing the US-China partnership in the current geopolitical scenario, it could be observed that a sort of China-India-United States triangle has been formed where India is attempting to balance its relations with both these two powers. Looking into the historical backdrop of the India and China relations, India in 1990s had attempted to reach a point with China in maintaining peace and tranquility alongside its borders. Since 2005, the relationship between the two started blossoming with a growth in the bilateral trade along with developing cooperation on various multilateral groupings like: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), Russia-India-China (RIC) and World Trade Organization (WTO). India and US partnership also witnessed similar trajectory of growth in their relationship especially in the field of economy with a larger presence of Indian diaspora in the U.S. However, post 2005 scenario the relationship between India and China and China and US took a U-turn. There has
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been two underlying reasons behind such changes: firstly, with the rise of China as a global superpower the balance of power of the whole of the globe especially the Asia Pacific region has also been changed with America's political and economic decline post great recession period, chaotic American politics during the Trump administration and the current Russia-Ukraine war. The second reason is the developing strategic rivalry between India and China in the South Asian region. China has always been an unreliable neighbour for India and this could be easily observed during the border skirmishes incidents of April 2020 and December 2022 respectively. Currently, India is also concerned about China's intrusion in the Indian Ocean region by developing its maritime security partnerships with India's neighbours like: Sri Lanka. Similarly, China's extension of its China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has raised concerns for India as such a corridor passes through the Pakistan occupied Line of Control which in reality undermines the territorial sovereignty of India. In case of U.S. and China they both have entered a phase of Thucydides trap where China has emerged as a rising challenger to displace the US-led global order. However, India in no manner could take up either of the two sides completely, as India has its national interests to be prioritised especially the national security of the country is the prime concern. Therefore, Delhi and Beijing now need a new association especially on the border issue. Delhi's relations with the US and its partnership in the Quad might trigger China to take actions against India. But Delhi must deal with the Chinese presence in the South

Asian neighbourhood, in the most strategic manner and should continue maintaining its strategic autonomy while dealing with China and other powers of the world like the US. India through its neutral stance should keep on engaging itself equally with both China and the US in order to prevent any further entanglement between the current China-U.S. rivalry.