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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Viral video of in-laws rushing to take care of COVID-positive daughter-in-law sparks debate on Weibo:** A video of an elderly couple rushing to take care of their daughter-in-law from Fuyang, Anhui went viral in China on Friday. The hashtag [#儿媳阳性公婆紧急从外地赶回照顾#](#) has received over 10 million views on Weibo. According to the video, the elders were not afraid to be infected at all, and left all their tasks to help their daughter-in-law when their son was away on a business trip. Most netizens were surprised with the act, especially at the “pampering” of the daughter-in-law and the in-laws “washing her feet with wine”. One netizen asked, “If you have such parents-in-law, who would be afraid of marriage?” Another said, “In such a loving family, I believe she will soon overcome the virus.” Most commentators were positive, however, some disagreed with the actions of the couple. Netizens were afraid that the couple were at a higher risk of being infected, and they should not have exposed themselves to a COVID-positive patient. Some blamed the daughter-in-law saying, “You are now an adult, why can’t you think of a way out for yourself?”. A female netizen was suspicious of the motives of the in-laws, “It’s not necessary, I have a husband who will take care of me; this is all a debt that I would have to pay back.” This debate reflects the state of [in-law relationships](#) in China, especially after the 1980s, that is, in the years after the implementation of the one-child policy. These relationships have become trickier in China as “the spoiled kings and queens” married. The inability of young women to take care of themselves and their swelling individualism challenge the patience of mothers-in-law, while

the latter's concentrated care for their sons annoys and isolates daughters-in-law. Today, there is a downfall in both the rate of marriage and the system of living with in-laws in China, showing the disappearance of traditional norms and growth of individualism. Thus, videos like these are rendered exceptional.

NEWS IN CHINA

- The General Office of the State Council recently released its first national five-year plan on modern logistics to accelerate building a smart and green logistics system. The plan stresses work to improve the resilience and safety of the industrial chain and supply chain; promote the construction of a modern logistics system; improve the quality, increase efficiency; and cut the costs of modern logistics. By 2025, a modern logistics system featuring supply-demand adaptation and domestic and external connectivity will be in place, and it will be safe, efficient, intelligent and green, according to the plan. To achieve this goal, the plan maps out the government's work in six aspects, including accelerating the integration of logistics hub resources; building major international and domestic logistics channels; improving the modern logistics service network; extending the value chain of logistics services; strengthening the service guarantee of modern logistics to people's livelihood; and improving the emergency response capacity of modern logistics. The plan also lists the government's tasks to reinforce the support system for modern logistics development, including improving the business environment; innovating institutions and mechanisms;
 - strengthening policy support; deepening international cooperation; and strengthening organisational assistance.
 - China firmly opposes the United States placing 36 Chinese entities on its export controls "entity list," a Ministry of Commerce spokesperson said on Friday. According to him, In response to the US action, China will take necessary measures to firmly safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies and institutions. The US side has overstretched the concept of national security, abused export controls and other measures, and used state power to expand a crackdown on Chinese companies and institutions—typical market distorting and economic bullying practices, the spokesperson said. The frequent inclusion of Chinese companies on the so-called entity list by the US disrupts normal economic and trade cooperation between Chinese and US companies, goes against the law of the market, undermines market rules and international economic and trade order, affects the stability of global industrial and supply chains, and undermines the interests of global peace and development. China hopes that the United States will immediately cease its erroneous practices and return to the correct path of upholding the rules of the multilateral trading system centred on the World Trade Organisation, the spokesperson said.
 - Up to 3,000 yuan (\$425) will be reimbursed to insured couples who opt for test-tube babies in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, to reduce burdens faced by those wanting but unable to have children. The new policy is set to take effect on January 1 and
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is covered by West Lake Benefit United Insurance, the only commercial supplementary medical insurance supported by the Hangzhou Medical Insurance Bureau. "The newly added reimbursement for assisted reproduction by West Lake Benefit United Insurance is in response to the national population policy, and aims to optimise Hangzhou's fertility policy and help promote balanced development of the population in the long run," said Zhu Aimin, manager of the health insurance department of China Life Hangzhou branch. The policy stipulates that part of the expenses for embryo culture and transfer will be paid by West Lake Benefit United Insurance for insured citizens who receive assisted reproductive treatment in designated provincial and municipal hospitals with specific assisted reproduction qualifications in Hangzhou. The infertility rate in China for people of childbearing age has risen to about 12 to 15 per cent (around 50 million people) from just 2.5 to 3 per cent 20 years ago, according to a recent report by the China Population Association and the National Health Commission.

- On Thursday, the National Bureau of Statistics announced that China's home prices in 70 large and medium-sized cities eased in November, with fewer cities seeing a decline in home prices. In November, 51 out of the 70 cities saw a month-on-month drop in new home sales prices, compared with 58 in October. A total of 62 cities witnessed a decrease in resale home prices, flat with the previous month. New home prices in four first-tier cities – Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Guangzhou – edged down 0.2 per cent

month on month in November. The pace of decline accelerated 0.1 percentage points from the previous month, according to the data. New home prices in 31 second-tier cities decreased 0.2 per cent month on month, with the decline narrowing 0.1 percentage points from October, while 35 third-tier cities saw a month-on-month decline of 0.3 per cent. Prices of resale homes in the four first-tier cities decreased 0.4 per cent month on month. The prices in second-tier and third-tier cities edged down 0.4 per cent and 0.5 per cent month on month, respectively, during the period. In a year-on-year comparison, new home prices in the four first-tier cities rose 2.5 per cent in November, retreating 0.1 percentage points from the previous month, while resale home prices in these cities climbed 1.2 per cent. Upholding the stance of "housing is for living in, not for speculation," China has repeatedly underlined the importance of supporting people's essential housing needs, as well as their needs for better housing. Efforts are also underscored to make full and good use of the policy toolkit by adopting city-specific policies to shore up the property market.

- On Thursday, a total of 36 candidates were elected as deputies of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature. The deputies were elected by a secret ballot at the second plenary session of the Conference for Electing Deputies of the HKSAR to the 14th NPC, which was attended by 1,273 members. The electoral conference also determined, according to the election method, the order of replacement for five
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other candidates, who will fill the vacancies should any of the elected deputies leave a vacant post. Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, John Lee, also standing chairman of the praesidium of the electoral conference, presided over the plenary session. Yang Zhenwu, secretary-general of the NPC Standing Committee, who attended the meeting, congratulated the elected deputies and hailed the election as an open, fair and just process. He voiced confidence that the newly elected deputies will carry forward the tradition of being patriotic, setting a good example for adhering to the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and the Basic Law of the HKSAR, and fully implementing the "one country, two systems" principle, and swear allegiance to the People's Republic of China and the HKSAR, so as to safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests, and make new and greater contribution to the national rejuvenation as well as Hong Kong's long-term.

INDIA WATCH

- Green logistics includes any business practice that minimises the environmental impact of the logistics network and delivery without sacrificing customer satisfaction, or the well-being of the planet. The results from a study analysing the impact of green logistics performance on China's export trade to Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Countries (RCEP) show that the green logistics performance can significantly promote China's export trade to RCEP countries. The study also found that

governments should formulate environmental regulations that are effective and efficient at the same time and nurture the development of green logistics. A sophisticated green logistics policy can ensure a reduction in carbon emissions. Such policies can ensure a sustainable economy, society, and environment. In India too, green logistics is a sector with a bright future. As per the reports by NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), by 2050 India can save around Rs 3.11 lakh crore worth of fuel and reduce 10 gigatonnes of CO2 by implementing clean and sustainable transportation practices. India's logistics sector is currently valued at \$160 billion, and has the potential to grow immensely. However, innovations revolutionising the sector have a long way to go in ensuring complete sustainability. Even though India is emerging as a leader in renewable energy, the Indian government must make greater efforts to bring down logistics and supply chain costs, which account for 13-14% of India's gross domestic product (GDP), higher than most other countries. India's greenhouse emissions are already projected to increase by 6% in 2022, thus timely finance to build the infrastructure to store and transmit India's abundant renewable energy to fuel sustainable growth is the need of the hour.
