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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **“No Love Hospital”, Why netizens are debunking China’s COVID policy:** As mainland China continues to be gripped in the wave of an ongoing pandemic; the governments’ strict Zero-COVID policy, an effort to eradicate the health crisis, on the other hand, is becoming a threat to individual lives. Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang province, is seeing the first signs of highly stringent COVID policies due to the high number of positive cases in the region. Authorities are further tightening their strict rules on the accessibility of public places, of which, the availability of resources at local hospitals and emergency treatments is being delayed by mandatory nucleic acid tests for covid. The You’ai Hospital in Urumqi recently was met with widespread hate and criticism on social media platforms like Weibo after a [video](#) was posted of four pregnant women in labor, three of whose water broke were refused to be let in and left to stand outside. You’ai, directly translating to “Fraternal Love” Hospital is now being cited as [“No Love” Hospital](#) for their inhuman actions. Netizens have shared their criticism of the current COVID handling and openly debunked the strict Zero-COVID policies, which in turn, are risking more lives than COVID. However, amidst mass plight and anger, many netizens have taken to sharing their tips and resources to help support those struggling in Urumqi and Xinjiang, bringing a ray of hope for humanity.

NEWS IN CHINA

- 20th October saw a huge upsurge in the semiconductor sector, one of China’s largest economic sectors. The day closed with the sector rising by 4.37% and stocks of major



companies by 10% which is believed to have been caused by great performance of tech giants of the industry, the expected rise in demand for semiconductors and the bounce-back of previously fallen stock prices. Liang Xing, director of the quantitative investment department at Cathay Pacific Fund believes that news and performance helped boost the sector, additionally. Both helped increase purchasing powers of stocks among investors through disclosing sales and revenue numbers as well as performance forecasts. For instance, Chinese giant Huahai Qingke achieved an operating income of 416 million yuan in the first three quarters of 2022, a rise of 108.4% profit from last year. However, a sudden spike also raises questions on the sustainability of the sector. With growing uncertainty in geopolitics and the shift towards eco-friendly products, heightened demand and innovation is looming over failing to meet will cause significant plummeting of the industry.

- The onset of the ongoing 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) kicked off with discussions on three important issues: Carbon Emission, Food Security, and Anti-Corruption and policies to tackle them, reported the press on Thursday. In efforts to reach sustainable consumption, Ren Jingdong, deputy director of the National Energy Administration said that sustainable choice is an impetus for prolonged growth for China, which is the largest emitter of greenhouse gasses and hence, plans to become carbon neutral by 2060. President Xi pledged to actively work towards the country's green transformation, amidst the

growing necessity of coal to secure electricity supply at home amidst a global energy crisis. Amidst unstable global supply chains, China pledges to ensure national food security by increasing domestic supply capabilities by enhancing modernization efforts and maintaining suitable food reserves by improving existing monitoring systems. Lastly, on growing concerns of a didactic leadership and corruption, Xiao Pei, a senior official, broke down the government's efforts in handling cases of corruption through anti-graft campaigns and lauded the party's efforts of self-reform. Since the last Congress in 2017, more than 74,000 officials have been investigated for corruption-related suspicion, out of which 11.1% have been found guilty.

- President Xi Jinping unveiled a blueprint for achieving the "rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization" at the 20th National Congress on Sunday, reported the Chinese media house, People's Daily on Friday. The report containing the blueprint, mentions harmony and the well-being of the Chinese people as the two main principles for achieving modernization of the economy and society, characterized by features that are unique to the Chinese context. But this isn't the first time China has worked towards equality and development. Ever since the Economic reform of 1970, over 770 million have been lifted out of poverty and nearly 100 million in the last decade. The ruling Communist Party has always laid great emphasis on holistic development without leaving any citizen behind, "We must protect the people's
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fundamental interests, improve their well-being, and work tirelessly to ensure that development is for the people and by the people and that its fruits are shared by the people”, said the report. Xi also laid emphasis on collaboration and unity amongst the party leaders to ensure the highest form of socialist modernization to ensure peaceful development of all.

- China's ecological and environmental protection has seen historic transformative changes and made the nation the fastest in achieving air quality improvement in the past decade, Zhai Qing, vice minister of ecology and environment, said during a press conference held on Friday concurrently to the 20th National Congress. Major cities across China have seen their average air concentration dropping to 30 micrograms per cubic meter in 2021, from 46 micrograms in 2015. China's carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP in 2021 decreased by 34.4% from the 2012 level, and the share of coal use in its primary energy consumption accounted for 56% in 2021, compared with 68.5% in 2012, according to Zhai. He lauded the country's tireless efforts in achieving sustainable measures and outpacing other countries in terms of renewable energy development. Additionally, China has taken measures to scale up cleanliness and conservation of the environment. 84.9% of the country's surface water reached Grade III quality or above in 2021, those found in developed countries. Zhao also emphasizes China's efforts on a complete ban of "foreign garbage" imports. Besides pollution control, China has also made growing efforts in biodiversity and wildlife conservation.

INDIA WATCH

- Severe trade restrictions by the US on China's semiconductor sector have helped nudge what was an eventual face-off between the two powerful states. It is no news that the China-US rivalry will eventually shape up the new global order, both economically and geopolitically, ignoring the unfavorable outcomes that might follow from such restriction including a heightened uncertainty in global supply chains, leading to an eventual domino effect of plummeting markets all across the globe. As countries continue to struggle in jumpstarting their economies, imposing sanctions and trade restrictions can indefinitely convolute the nature of current supply-demand. While the Biden administration is trying to rely on its partners through multiple alliances such as the AUKUS, I2U2 and the Quad, experts believe that Biden is overestimating his partners and their potential in filling up the voids left from a restricted China. Even when countries like India with its large market look favorably upon such decisions to boost its own economy, it is important to acknowledge China in the current geopolitical scenario. Recent news has shared that US support to India in building a robust semiconductor industry, one that can meet demand and stabilize global supply chain, has been seen as a means to “sideline China from the global chip industrial chain”. Such evidence implies that the US sees the growing power as a close rival. However, its hopes of showing its global dominance, might be a costly affair for India if it isn't careful when choosing sides.
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