

26 DECEMBER 2022

# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

Prepared By: Ananya Jogalekar | 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

- **New Year's Eve Celebrations Pick Up Momentum:** Holiday mood was at its peak as the top trending hashtag on Weibo "Hunan Satellite TV's New Year Party Guests Announcement" ([#湖南卫视跨年姿态官宣#](#)) received 520 million views. Various celebrities set to perform on the TV show on new year's eve made posts inviting people to watch the program. An affiliated hashtag "With What Attitude Will You Enter 2023?" ([#你会以什么姿态进入2023#](#)) was also used by public figures to promote the event, which received over 230 million clicks. Fans of celebrities such as actor Gong Jun reacted to their posts, expressing enthusiasm and love for the performers.
- **COVID-Positive Elderly Couple's Meal Goes Viral:** Video showing an elderly couple enjoying a meal went viral on Weibo, drawing sympathy and admiration from people. The post accompanying the video said that the couple had tested positive for COVID-19, hence couldn't cook their meals and ordered takeaway food. The video also featured a comment by a netizen which read: "I can feel what Grandpa is feeling, he is only short of a glass of beer." Comments and posts with the video [hashtag](#) alluded to the negative effects of COVID-19 on health, stating that it took a long time to recover from the disease. One user said that the disease was especially unkind to elderly people. The hashtag "Testing Positive, How To Judge Whether Your Lungs Are Infected" ([#阳了怎么判断肺部是否感染#](#)) also went viral with 120 million views, featuring information from medical authorities as well as common people.

---

# NEWS IN CHINA

- The National Health Commission announced on Monday that COVID-19 disease will be downgraded from Class A to Class B management from 8th January 2023. This means that China will no longer require immigrants and travellers from abroad to quarantine at the border. COVID-positive patients, too, would no longer be mandated to quarantine. Authorities will not be able to impose large-scale lockdowns or declare high-risk areas. The Commission also changed the nomenclature of COVID-19 from 'novel coronavirus pneumonia' to 'novel coronavirus infection'. The move is the last step in the country's transition away from the Zero COVID policy.
  - COVID-19 infections continue to surge in the country. The Chinese government announced that Paxlovid medicine doses will be distributed in community health centres across the country. The China Meheco Corporation has signed an agreement with US-based Pfizer Inc. for the supply of Paxlovid, according to the announcement.
  - China-made C919 aircraft began 100 hours of safety verification flights on Monday. These flights will be conducted in circuits along various Chinese airports to test the performance and safety compliance of the first aircraft model made entirely in China. After successful completion of the verification tests, the C919 are expected to enter commercial service in the spring of 2023. The first C919 plane was delivered to the China Eastern Airlines on the 9th of December.
  - The Chinese central bank's currency app introduced 'red packets' ('红包') for making digital payments through an update. People will be able to use the red packets to send cash to friends and family in digital red envelopes, as per Chinese tradition. The digital currency and wallet app e-CNY made this update anticipating the Lunar New Year celebrations next month. This feature has already been popularised by other digital wallet apps in the country such as WeChat Pay and Alipay.
  - Snow and heavy rainfall is expected in southeastern and some western parts of China according to a statement by the National Meteorological Center on Monday. Heavy rainfall is expected in Tibet Autonomous Region, Guizhou, Hunan, Chongqing and Hubei from Monday to Wednesday. Other provinces in the region bounded by Sichuan, Fujian, Hunan and Guangdong would experience heavy rains, with Guizhou having freezing rains.
  - China's top academic database China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI, 中国知网) was fined 87.6 million Yuan (\$12.6 million) on Monday for abusing its market position. The State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) imposed the fine, ending an antitrust investigation which had started in May 2022. CNKI had come under scrutiny after many universities forfeited its use due to exorbitant hikes in fees for the platform. The investigation revealed that the academic publisher had not only charged high fees, but also signed agreements with universities which prevented them from using or publishing on other platforms. The SAMR said that this has impeded
-

---

competition, infringed user rights and adversely affected academic innovation.

The fine is equivalent to 5% of CNKI's domestic revenue in 2021. The organisation is awaiting results of a cybersecurity review being conducted by other government agencies.

- American electric car maker Tesla launched a vehicle charging station in Shanghai on Monday, taking the tally of its superchargers on the Chinese mainland to 10,000. The charging station is located at the Oriental Pearl Tower in Shanghai's financial hub Lujiazui. Tesla had launched its 9,000th supercharger in September in Hunan. Tesla's factories in China have also seen record output as electric vehicle sales have skyrocketed in China in recent months.
- Tennis player Wang Qiang will not be competing in the upcoming Australian Open series in January due to shoulder injuries, according to an announcement by the series organisers. In the past, Wang has won various titles including two singles in the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Tour and one at the WTA 125 tournament. Other Chinese players, including female players Zhang Shuai and Zheng Qinwen, will be participating in the tournament which will be held in Australia from 16th January 2023.
- Former mayor of Guangzhou, Li Ziliu, died of a heart attack on 27th December. His last rites were performed on the same day in the presence of dignitaries of the Communist Party of China. Li oversaw the city of Guangzhou under the tenure of former Chinese president Deng Xiaoping,

stirring infrastructural development and economic growth.

- In succession of the military exercises in the Taiwan Strait over the weekend, the People's Liberation Army flew 71 warplanes in the airspace between China and Taiwan till Monday morning. According to the Taiwanese defence ministry, 47 of these planes crossed the median line in the Strait, which is the unofficial border between China and Taiwan. Some planes also entered Taiwan's air defence identification zone. The Chinese operations are said to be in retaliation to the US's agreement to grant Taiwan \$10 billion for defence spending.

## INDIA WATCH

- China has been targeting the electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure ambitiously, aiming to establish enough infrastructure to support 20 million EVs by 2025. As of August 2022, China already had 65% of the world's EV charging stations. By incentivising purchase of EVs and supporting companies in the sector, the government is actively pursuing a strategy for EV growth. On the other hand, India, too, is among the leading markets for electric vehicles. Like China, sales of EVs have also increased rapidly in India. However, the growth of supporting services has been unstructured. Estimates of the number of EV charging stations range from just 934 to over 5,996. Considering the volume of vehicle use in India, these numbers are insufficient to support electrification of transport. The Chinese story has been crafted by a clear policy of encouraging EVs and installing charging
-

---

stations in even the remotest parts of the country. Public infrastructure, therefore, needs public financial support. Taking China's example, India should design a clear, long-term roadmap for electric infrastructure, ensure supportive legislation for EV firms, and offer incentives for innovation in the EV industry.

---