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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **According to the judgement of experts, the virulence of the Omicron mutant strain has been drastically reduced:**

On December 5th 2022 Zhang Zhongde, vice president of Guangzhou University of Traditional Chinese Medicine and director of Guangdong Provincial Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine Li Yimin, Chief Physician of the Critical Care Medicine Department of the First Affiliated Hospital of Guangzhou Medical University and Guangzhou Institute of Respiratory Health and Tang Xiaoping, Secretary of the Party Committee of Guangzhou Medical University, made various statements regarding the omicron strain, discussing the question of this round of the epidemic. These statements were made by three heads of medical association to talk about omicron strain of the Covid19 and the four cases of people with lung symptoms and to calm the public down so that there's no panic. Li Yimin stated that in the current wave of the epidemic the proportion of the patients is not many.

Tang also pointed out that although the virus's transmission ability is stronger, so far more than 160,000 infected patients have been treated in Guangzhou and no deaths has been reported. The Government has asked the general public to not to panic as they have said that "it is a disease that is preventable, controllable and curable." All the three experts answered all the questions of the public and assured the public that they do not need to panic.

## NEWS IN CHINA

- Xi Jinping, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, President of the State and



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Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), emphasised in his eulogy at the memorial meeting, how loved and miss Comrade Jiang Zemin was because he devoted his whole life to the Chinese people, fighting for the national independence. The memorial service got underway at 10 o'clock, the crowd stood in quiet and observed 3 minutes of silence. In his eulogy, Xi Jinping spoke favourably of Comrade Jiang Zemin's beautiful life and accomplishments. After Xi's Jinping eulogy, the audience bowed deeply three times to comrade Jiang Zemin.

- Due to the public outrage over China's zero-COVID policy, Chinese officials reportedly changed their tactics in the last week and begun to lift lockdowns, large-scale testing, quarantine, and digital contact tracking. According to Wigram Capital Advisors' research, this might result in an unprecedented rise of illnesses during a "winter wave." According to the firm's research, if China swiftly relaxes the COVID limitations, the daily death toll might exceed 20,000 by the middle of March next year. It estimated that by late March, demand for critical care units will be at ten times capacity, with 70,000 inpatients every day. In May of this year, researchers from Fudan University in Shanghai produced a model suggesting that if the Omicron variant is allowed to spread uncontrolled, China's 1.4 billion population may face a "tsunami" of COVID-19 infections, resulting in approximately 1.6 million fatalities in just three months.
- Key party meeting decided major economic measures, in which it was decided that China will work harder next

year to coordinate the pandemic response and socioeconomic development, emphasis will be placed on stabilizing growth, prices and employment to boost the economy. The CPC also held a symposium meeting with non-CPC personals to solicit opinions and suggestions for the economic work of next year. Various steps were also discussed to improve the party conduct and on how to tackle corruption, in the meeting it was also decided on improving the party and government conduct and underlining the way to take strict action against hedonism and extravagance.

- According to the Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM), on Wednesday the Office of the Work Safety Commission under China's State Council issued a countrywide workplace safety inspection that would last through March 2023. The MEM urged provincial governments to explain local priorities when analysing risks in light of the broad national requirements and to establish plans to address significant safety concerns discovered during inspections. According to the MEM, the office would increase its oversight and direction of local governments and related ministries, as well as send out working groups to do spot inspections of the works. The office also cautioned the appropriate authorities to not interrupt production at will while conducting the inspections.
  - On 6th December 2022, more new updates came out regarding the New Area of Xiongan, which has entered the stage of large-scale construction and is expanding the concept of low carbon in all aspects. All of the buildings that can be seen when
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looking north from the square at the Xiongan business service centre have achieved the "three-star" standard of green building, and some of them have achieved ultra-low energy consumption, which has resulted in an annual savings of a total of 11 million kWh of electricity. The amount of land that has been planted with trees in Xiongan over the last five years has reached 469,000 mu, which is equivalent to around 31,267 hectares. As a result, the percentage of land covered by forests has increased from 11 percent to 34 per cent. Because it has a forest that covers more than 1,000 hectares, Xiongan Country Park has the potential to contribute 10,000 tonnes of carbon sinks per year. The province of Xiongan has chosen 25 villages to be the test sites for its "waste-free communities" initiative. The Xiongan New Area has been responsible for the collection and transportation of 3.45 million cubic metres of waste from the surrounding rivers and towns.

## INDIA WATCH

- When China lost their former leader Jiang Zemin, statements were made by officials from the United States, the United Kingdom, and India, all of which were timely and informative. The representatives of all three nations stood for a whole minute without speaking in front of the UN Security Council. Before yesterday's meeting of the United Nations National Security Council, Ghana's ambassador, Harold Agyeman (Harold Agyeman), expressed his condolences and had everyone stand for a moment of quiet. Russia, Mexico, the United Arab Emirates, Norway, China, Ireland, and Albania all

opened their statements after the meeting with expressions of grief. The United States, the United Kingdom, and India, on the other hand, all made statements that dealt with the issue head-on. There has been radio silence from the White House, the State Department, the United Kingdom's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi since Jiang Zemin's death. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken recently said that his country is committed to increasing NATO's ability to withstand a variety of challenges, including those posed by China. "China has developed towards a more authoritarian regime, posing a systemic challenge to British ideals and rights," said British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, signalling the end of the "golden age" of UK-China relations. Joint exercises between India and the United States in the region have exacerbated the tensions between India and China, which have been mounting for years due to the two countries' contested border.