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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Chinese netizens thankful for antivirus efforts that have saved their lives:** Numerous netizens claimed that China's stringent COVID-19 regulations, which have been regularly altered over the past three years to address the coronavirus's constant changes, have prevented millions of deaths in the nation. The hashtag "Thank the country for protecting us for three years" has gained a lot of traction on social media as a result of last week's optimisation of epidemic control measures, which included the elimination of the requirement for negative nucleic acid test results before entering public spaces. Nancy Ruonan, a user on Sina Weibo, stated on Friday that she is "glad and grateful" that the colour of her health code has consistently remained green, signifying that she has been immune to the virus. In addition, Nancy displayed several little stickers that were distributed to the populace as evidence of mass nucleic acid testing in Xi'an. She said, "I will keep the stickers that I have collected because they mark an era." Another user, Zhang Yongsen, said that despite increasing incidents and a high death toll worldwide, the Chinese people shouldn't forget how proud they were when China was one of the safest nations in 2021. The National Health Commission stressed on Friday that COVID-19 treatment resources and intensive care will advance over the next few days, and that medical services for expectant mothers, young children, and the elderly will improve. Interim hospitals will have the necessary equipment upgrades so that, in the event of a patient load increase, they can operate as sub-designated hospitals.

NEWS IN CHINA

- According to a source close to China's disease control and prevention system, China is likely to implement the second booster shot, or the fourth dose, for high-risk categories such as those aged 60 and older as well as those with major underlying diseases or hypoimmunity. An employee training video on the subject is being held by China's disease control and preventive system. Nine different vaccine combinations have been authorised in China. People who have already had three inactivated vaccinations can apply for one of eight additional vaccines approved for emergency use as a fourth dose. The eight vaccinations include a bivalent protein vaccine created by SinoCellTech, an inhaled recombinant vaccine (Adenovirus Type 5 Vector) by CanSinoBIO, and a nasal spray vaccine by Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy. A second booster dose of the company's inhaled recombinant vaccine is also available to anyone who had previously consented to two CanSinoBIO vaccinations. Studies have shown that vaccines based on the mucosal immunological mechanism are both safer and more effective, the source stated. Efforts to develop COVID-19 vaccines have given the Chinese people ever-improving vaccines, but this has also made it challenging to calculate vaccination data based on various combinations. The source's training materials said that as of Sunday, 85.7 percent of Chinese adults aged 60 and older have agreed to receive booster doses. As per media sources, local officials in Yexian county, Kunming in Southwest China's Yunnan Province, Erdos in North China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Yushu in Northwest China's Qinghai Province and Xuanhan county in Southwest China's Sichuan Province have established vaccination goals among seniors by the end of January 2023.

- On Tuesday, China held its 9th national memorial event to honour the 300,000 victims of the Nanjing Massacre. The city of Nanjing observed a minute of silence, and sirens could be heard all around the city. Thousands of people in white flowers pinned to their chests attended the event in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, in east China. The national flag of China was flying at half-mast in front of the audience. At 10:01 AM, sirens sounded, and the city came to a complete stop. In the downtown area, motorists halted their vehicles and honked their horns as pedestrians observed a moment of silence in memory of the victims. Teenagers delivered a declaration for peace, and representatives of the people rang the Bell of Peace. White doves were released to flutter over the square of the Memorial Hall of the Victims of the Nanjing Massacre, signifying hope for peace. China's highest legislative body declared December 13 to be a national day of remembrance for those lost in the Nanjing Massacre in 2014. The Nanjing Massacre occurred on December 13, 1937, when Japanese troops conquered the city. In one of the most heinous episodes of World War II, they murdered over 300,000 Chinese civilians and defenceless soldiers over the course of six weeks. This year, seven massacre survivors perished, bringing the total number of registered survivors down to 54.

- According to a recently released <u>analysis</u>, China's inbound travel market is predicted to decline in 2022 before making a "dramatic rebound" the following year due to the likelihood that the nation will further relax quarantine regulations and increase the number of international flights. As per report released on Monday by the China Tourism Academy, it is anticipated that there will be about 20 million inbound travels by the end of this year, significantly fewer than the 27.5 million visits in 2020. Last year, the number increased somewhat to 32 million visits, but it remained abysmal when compared to the 145 million trips in 2019. The report is released as China abandons its most stringent COVID control measures and eliminates regulations prohibiting aircraft carrying infected people and reduces its requirement for foreign visitors to undergo a five-day quarantine at a designated facility. Online travel service, Trip.com Group, claimed that in the most recent week, searches for international flights to China increased "significantly," rising by 351% year over year and approaching 2019 levels. In the meantime, reservations for flights coming into China increased by 427% over the same time last year. According to the American travel website, Travel Off Path, all entry restrictions, such as pre-arrival COVID testing, quarantines, and vaccinations, had been lifted in 151 countries as of Saturday. While the prospective tourism demand to China has risen since the second half of the year, individuals who visit China for business, family visits, and study would comprise a substantial share of the inbound passengers in the approaching year. Limited flights and pricey tickets made it incredibly difficult for people to enter China once the nation effectively closed its borders in 2020.

- China's top internet regulator authority announced on Monday that it is starting a special effort to address the "chaos" in the nation's mobile app market, which has already been contracting in recent years due to intense competition and onerous rules. According to <u>new policies</u> posted on the agency's WeChat account, the Cyberspace Administration of China declared that it will crack down on disorder in every link in the industry's supply chain, including app search and rankings as well as downloads and usage. The post listed several examples of inappropriate behaviour that has to be curbed, including fake apps, illegal data harvesting from users, the dissemination of damaging information, an excessive amount of pop-up adverts, and techniques used to deceive users into downloading specific apps or topping off their spending accounts.This action comes at a time when China's population of applications has been dropping due to increased regulatory scrutiny of the internet industry and less consumer spending brought on by a faltering economy. Since July, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology has stopped including information about mobile applications in its monthly reports. This is the first time since the figures were released in August 2017. This followed the 930,000 apps that stopped working in China last year, or roughly 2,500 apps every day. This aim of constructing a "clean and healthy" cyberspace, which includes steps to restrict internet discourse, has given the agency broad authority over China's

internet and technology sectors.

- China asked India on Tuesday to rigorously oversee and manage its frontline soldiers and work with China to uphold peace in the border regions. Senior Colonel Long Shaohua, a representative of the Chinese People's Liberation Army's Western Theater Command, made the comments while confirming that on December 9, Indian troops crossed the border illegally to obstruct Chinese border troops' routine patrol on the Chinese side of the actual control line in the Dong Zhang region of the Sino-Indian border. "Our response measures were professional, standard, and forceful, and stabilised the situation on the ground." He added. The spokesman further stated that both parties had stopped communicating.

INDIA WATCH

- On December 9, Indian and Chinese troops battled in the Tawang area, with India responding in a 'strong and uncompromising' manner to China's intrusions. After Defence Minister Rajnath Singh informed Parliament that "PLA troops tried to transgress the Line of Actual Control in Yangtse area of Tawang Sector and unilaterally change the status quo," the PLA asserted that the early-December 9 skirmish occurred as a result of Chinese soldiers on routine patrol on their side of the LAC in the "Dongzhang" area being obstructed by Indian soldiers who had "illegally crossed the line." The conflict in Tawang is a stern warning from China that it feels India is willfully and intentionally disregarding its political and military red lines, which Beijing has recently made very clear. It could have major consequences like war, yet India continues to believe that armed skirmishes and the PLA's current grey-zone operations in Tawang, where no shots are fired, represent the worst-case scenario. The military and Indian administration seem to be completely unaware of the worst-case scenario. The incident has caused political outrage in India as Congress has demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi explain his 'relationship' with China. The party posted an image with the hashtag "#JawabDoModi" that claimed the Chinese state-run Global Times had stated that "(if) Modi loses Gujarat then it will have a bad effect on China."