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*DAILY*  
**CONVERSATIONS  
IN CHINESE  
MEDIA**



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**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON  
CHINA AND ASIA**

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## I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Phone call between German expat and Chinese health worker goes viral:** A recording of a phone call between a Shanghai-based German national and a health worker went viral on Chinese social media. The German national was worked up about the local anti-epidemic measures, the zero-COVID policy and the system in place while refusing to be taken to a COVID-19 quarantine camp.

## II. News in China

- China's Shandong Province's trade with members of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) expanded 20.9 per cent in 2022. Japan, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea are Shandong's top three RCEP trading partners and account for 61 per cent of all the trade the province has with RCEP members.
- Green bonds which were issued by Bank of China's three overseas branches in Singapore, Macao Special Administrative Region and Luxembourg were successfully priced by the bank overseas. The total transaction, equivalent to 2.05 billion US dollars, is favoured by high-quality investors both at home and abroad. These funds are going to be put to use in accordance with China's green development strategy and green finance and will support green projects such as domestic and overseas renewable energy, sustainable water resources, green transportation and buildings, and wastewater management.
- Xu Anbiao, deputy head of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee on Monday said that China has and will continue to undertake measures to uphold the authority of its Constitution. Xu said that in the past decade, measures such as advancing constitutional compliance inspection, pledging allegiance to the constitution have been implemented to ensure that all rules and regulations are in strict compliance with the Constitution.
- On Monday, the Chinese mainland reported 1,908 locally transmitted confirmed COVID-19 cases. While Shanghai reported 1,661 of those 1,908 confirmed cases, it also reported 15,319 local asymptomatic carriers. Apart from Shanghai, 17 other provinces on the mainland saw a rise in COVID-19 cases. The National Health Commission also reported that 2,323 COVID-19 patients had been discharged after recovery on Monday as well.
- Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the International Forum on the 50th Anniversary of the Discovery of Artemisinin and on Building a Global Community of Health for All in Beijing said that China provided billions of artemisinin drugs and therapies, trained thousands of professionals for developing countries and assisted in the construction of malaria prevention and treatment centers by the end of 2021 in its international anti-malarial aid. According to the

World Health Organization (WHO), in sub-Saharan Africa alone, about 240 million people have benefited from artemisinin-based combination therapies.

- President Xi Jinping urged for the extensive application of digital technologies to government services and institutions to provide support for the modernisation of the country's governance system and increase efficient public service delivery. Under Xi's leadership and following his economic agenda, China has made greater digital advances over the past decade.
- China's cross-border e-commerce gained momentum during the COVID-19 pandemic, driving domestic consumption growth and supplying broader market opportunities. The market in China of cross-border e-commerce topped 14.6 trillion yuan in 2021. In the first quarter of 2022, cross-border e-commerce trade reached 434.5 billion yuan.
- At a State Council meeting on clean governance on Monday, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang stressed on the need to further efforts to combat corruption. Li called for the implementation of policy initiatives that have already been formulated to ensure stable jobs, prices and supply chains.
- Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin at a press conference on Monday said that China rejects the actions of the US and Europe to interfere in China's internal affairs. Wang blasted the US on its conducts in Yugoslavia, Iraq, Syria and other countries despite UN Security Council refusal to authorise US actions, on the state of human rights, economic coercion and US sanctions against its own allies. Wang further went on to state that the US should keep in mind that the idea of "indivisible security" is a principle endorsed by the international community and not promoted by Russia alone when asked about US claims that China continues to "parrot" some of Russia's security concepts, including the Kremlin's concept of "indivisible security." Furthermore, Wang stressed that the security cooperation between China and Solomon Islands is within the sovereignty of the two nationals and that the cooperation is open, transparent, legitimate, lawful and irreproachable.
- Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that China was ready to work with the international community for the fruitful implementation of the Global Security Initiative and introduced the major propositions and policy objectives proposed by China to fully implement the Initiative.

## India Watch

- China's medical and health-related assistance to Africa can be viewed as part of China's health diplomacy which constitutes an important part of foreign policy for nations to expand their geopolitical influence across the world. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, it can be seen that China had made the best use of its health diplomacy as a soft power instrument to expand its geopolitical influence, while Western powers such as the USA and EU did not rise to the occasion.