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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Russian news about the US using Ukrainians for experiments trends on Weibo:** Russian news that the "USA uses Ukrainian mental patients in biological experiments" trended on Weibo and other Chinese social media. People were quick to respond to these claims without verifying their validity.
- **State media report goes viral for looking too fake:** A state media report was mocked by netizens for looking fake and quickly became a hot topic on social media channel WeChat. The report showcased a supposed Shanghai supermarket that was deemed "too fake" and staged.

II. News in China

- A group of Chinese researchers have created human stem cells by indenting chemical molecules. The scientists led by Deng Hongkui from Peking University, rendered human somatic cells into pluripotent stem cells by reprogramming chemicals. According to Deng, the chemical reprogramming is "safer, simpler and easier to be standardized and used clinically". This breakthrough technique has the potential to be developed to efficiently cultivate stem cells and treat critical illnesses.
- When asked to comment on the recent killing of a black man by a white police officer in Michigan, USA, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin remarked that the United States is afflicted by a situation of deteriorating human rights. Wenbin stated that the US is in no position to comment on human rights conditions in other countries, when human rights are systemically violated in the US itself. Wenbin further quoted Fernand de Varennes, the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, observing that the legal system in the US is structurally set up to advantage the wealthy, and penalizes the poor, especially ethnic minorities.
- On Monday, the Chinese mainland reported 3,297 locally transmitted confirmed COVID-19 cases. While Shanghai reported 3,084 of those 3,297 confirmed cases, it also reported 17,332 local asymptomatic carriers. Apart from Shanghai, 18 other provinces on the mainland saw a rise in COVID-19 cases. The National Health Commission also reported that 1,912 COVID-19 patients had been discharged after recovery on Monday as well.
- According to Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin, the China space station will be the first project of its kind to be open to all UN member states. Wenbin said that China was implementing its first batch of international cooperation programs and that foreign astronauts were welcome to the Tiangong space station. The China Manned Space Agency on Sunday announced that six more flights would be put out to finish the station's construction.
- Despite global challenges and a resurgence of COVID-19 cases, China's economy

got off to a steady start in the first quarter of 2022. According to data from the National Bureau, China's gross domestic product (GDP) expanded 4.8 percent. The country witnessed stable performance and persisting recovery given its balancing between epidemic controls and economic development. The spokesperson of the National Bureau of Statistics, Fu Linghui stated that given increasing complexities at home and abroad, the economy's future growth is uncertain and challenging.

- Chinese central authorities issued a set of guidelines to launch a crackdown on frauds involving the internet and telecommunications. To achieve this, China will enhance international cooperation to extradite fugitives, make use of technology against these criminal chains, devise public awareness campaigns and tighten supervision over financial institutions to detect money laundering avenues.

India Watch

- With the safe return of the Shenzhou-13 crew to Earth, it set the record of being China's longest single-flight space mission. The mission was considered a total success, having completed its key technology verification stage. The China Manned Space Agency said that once the Tiangong space station will become operational, it will become a space 'home' for all of mankind, and welcomed foreign astronauts in the pursuit of space knowledge and developing space technology. Director of the UNOOSA, Simonetta Di Pippo, stated that China's inclusive space station would enhance international cooperation in space missions. Given that the International Space Station will possibly retire after 2024, China's Tiangong is likely to become the only operational space station in the world.