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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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NEWS IN CHINA

- On Friday, [Xi Jinping](#), was unanimously re-elected as President of China and Chairman of the Central Military Commission at the ongoing session of the 14th National People's Congress. Delegates to Congress claimed that his re-election represents the will of the people, as under his leadership, the country will achieve rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. During a panel discussion, Liu Qing, a delegate with the Jiangsu province delegation and president of the Jiangsu Industrial Technology Research Institute, expressed confidence in Xi's leadership and the future of the Chinese nation. Kong Feifei, a delegate with the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region delegation, praised Xi's re-election and said that it represented the will of the NPC deputies and the people from all ethnic groups. Kurban Niyaz, an NPC deputy with the Xinjiang delegation and headmaster of a primary school in Aksu prefecture, emphasised the responsibility of voting as a representative of the people and expressed his belief that people can become more united under the new central leadership headed by Xi. The leaders of the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions also congratulated Xi on his re-election, praising his leadership and achievements in their regions.
- China spent roughly [USD 2](#) per dose on its main Covid-19 vaccines and 150 billion yuan (\$23.4 billion) on inoculating its population, according to cost details released by the National Healthcare Security Administration. Most of the vaccines used in China were made by state-owned Sinopharm and private pharma firm Sinovac. This compares to a weighted average purchase price of US\$20.69 per dose paid by the US government for Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. In addition to

the cost of vaccines, local governments have borne the financial burden of mass testing, a key component of China's zero-Covid policy, which has resulted in significant costs and social problems. China's richest and biggest province, Guangdong, spent 71.13 billion yuan in 2022 to fight Covid-19, which was 5 percent of the province's total financial expenditure. From 2020 to 2022, it spent 146.79 billion yuan on Covid-19 in total. Similarly, Beijing, Zhejiang and Shanghai spent 30 billion yuan, 43.50 billion yuan and 16.77 billion yuan respectively.

- The China-Thailand Electric Power Silk Road College and China-Thailand New Energy Power Workshop opened at the Guangxi Electrical Polytechnic Institute in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The institute will provide new-energy equipment technology training to five Thai students over the next three years. The Guangxi Electrical Polytechnic Institute has enhanced its cooperation with ASEAN countries, including Vietnam, Laos and Thailand, to provide electric power technology training for ASEAN companies. The institute has accepted students from ASEAN countries and has carried out electric power vocational education and training courses with enterprises and universities in ASEAN countries. The Royal Thai Consulate-General in Nanning said Thailand is highly committed to new-energy industries such as electric vehicles, and it will actively promote cooperation between Thailand and China. Thai students who complete their studies at the China-Thailand Electric Power Silk Road College are expected to serve the floating photovoltaic project in Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand.

- Madagascar's Ministry of Public Health has praised China for its continuous efforts in strengthening Madagascar's health system and improving access to healthcare for its people. The 23rd Chinese medical team was welcomed in Madagascar, while the outgoing 22nd team was celebrated for the successful completion of its mission. Since 1975, China has dispatched 23 medical teams to Madagascar, comprising nearly 700 Chinese doctors, who have brought healthcare to millions of Malagasy patients. The Chinese embassy in Madagascar has pledged to continue cooperating with Madagascar under the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation to promote bilateral health cooperation. The 23rd Chinese medical team, comprising 32 members, will work to improve the health of the Malagasy people and deepen the friendship between the two countries.
 - The first meeting of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference was held via video conference. Qian Keming, a member of the National Committee and a member of the Standing Committee of the Democratic League Central Committee, gave a speech emphasising the need to increase residents' income and consumption capacity to promote consumption in China. He suggested improving the income distribution system, optimising market supply, meeting consumer demand, improving the commercial circulation system, and expanding e-commerce in rural areas. He also encouraged the development of new consumption formats and models and the construction of a unified national market to promote high-quality and diversified life service industries.
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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- A video of a three-year-old Chinese girl helping out at her parents' convenience store has gone viral on mainland social media. In the video, the girl tells a male customer buying tampons "Please drink more hot water. Take care." as he pays for his purchase. The girl's mother said that her daughter knows how to serve customers as she has spent a lot of time in the store observing her parents. She might have learned that from her father, her mother said. Cute and heart-warming stories about thoughtful and mature children often trend on social media in mainland China, such as a little girl who earned money by recycling scrap material to help her parents buy a family car and a three-year-old girl who cried after seeing her father had developed grey hair and thought he was dying.

INDIA WATCH

- Chinese President Xi Jinping unanimously won a third five-year term, making him one of the most powerful leaders in the history of China. It was expected that President Xi would remain in power after he abolished the presidential term limit in 2018, allowing him to serve beyond the customary two terms. The Chinese President is expected to continue its assertiveness on the border and his expansionist behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region. Given Xi's dubious intentions, India will need to refine its policies towards China with greater sophistication. The Chinese President appears unwilling to make concessions on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and has adopted a more rigid

stance. As a result, it is likely that the border standoff will persist. On the other hand, India has not been as successful as other countries such as Vietnam and a few other ASEAN countries in attracting companies leaving China. To boost economic growth, the Indian government must attract global companies to invest in India by implementing reforms and improving facilities.