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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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NEWS IN CHINA

- On Wednesday, China criticised Germany's recent move to order a review of Huawei and ZTE components used in its 5G networks and warned it against interfering with Chinese investments. The Chinese embassy in Berlin has said that it is "puzzled" and called the German government's decision "hasty" and "without factual basis". The embassy called on Germany to "create a fair, just, open, and non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese companies" and rejected concerns that Huawei's equipment posed a national security risk. Germany is reportedly considering banning Huawei and ZTE components that have already been built into its 5G networks over national security concerns.
- Wang Xiaomo, China's top radar expert, died of an illness at the age of 84. Wang was well-known as a military radar designer who supervised the development of China's first 3D radar, which enhanced the country's air-defence capabilities. He was also a key figure in the creation of China's early-warning aircraft system, serving as the principal designer of the country's first export-ready early-warning aircraft. Wang was a fellow of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and a recipient of several National Science and Technology Development Awards. From 2003 to 2013, he was also a member of the national legislature.
- The Nanshan One-meter Wide-field Telescope, operated by the Xinjiang Astronomical Observatory (XAO) under Chinese Academy of Sciences, has discovered a new near-Earth asteroid designated 2023 DB2 by the International Astronomical Union's Minor Planet Center. The asteroid's closest approach to Earth's orbit is over 30 million km, and

the discovery was made with the help of amateur astronomy team Xingming. Ali Esamdin, a researcher with the XAO, believes that collaboration between amateur and professional astronomers can lead to more discoveries and make astronomy more accessible to the public.

- In Shanxi Province, Chinese archaeologists have discovered a [relics site](#) from the late Xia Dynasty (2070 B.C.-1600 B.C.) in Jishan County of Yuncheng City. The location, which covers an area of 100,000 to 150,000 square metres. Pottery, stone tools, bone tools, jade items and clams, as well as numerous animal and plant remnants, are among the relics. Of particular interest were 250,000 carbonized plant seeds, mostly millet seeds, found via the flotation method.
- On Wednesday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning announced that China will assist [Vanuatu's relief](#) and reconstruction efforts after back-to-back cyclones wreaked havoc in the country. The Chinese government has voiced its heartfelt condolences for Vanuatu's serious financial loss and damages, and Foreign Minister Qin Gang has sent a message of condolences to Vanuatu's Foreign Minister Jotham Napat. In addition, the Red Cross Society of China has given \$100,000 in essential relief monetary support to Vanuatu. Mao stated that China and Vanuatu are good friends, brothers, and partners who share joy and sorrow, and that China will continue to support Vanuatu's relief and reconstruction efforts.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **#From Now to the Future# trends on Weibo:** On Wednesday, the video of the Asian Games title [promotion song](#) became viral on Weibo. The Hangzhou 2022 Asian Games committee released the theme song, which has been well-received by fans across the social media platform and received over 12 million views. The event was supposed to take place in September 2022, but it was pushed back due to the COVID-19 crisis. This is the 19th edition of the Asian Games, which will be organised in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province. After Beijing in 1990 and Guangzhou in 2010, Hangzhou will be the third Chinese city to hold the Asian Games. "From Now to the Future" is the title of the song.

INDIA WATCH

- In June 2020, India announced a ban on 59 Chinese apps, including popular social media platforms like TikTok, WeChat, and Weibo, citing national security concerns. The ban on Chinese apps was followed by a ban on Chinese telecom equipment in India's 4G and 5G networks. India's Department of Telecommunications issued orders to telecom operators to use telecom equipment from "trusted sources" in their networks, citing national security concerns. The order was directed primarily at Huawei and ZTE, the two major Chinese telecom equipment vendors. The Indian government also imposed stricter rules on foreign direct investment (FDI) from neighbouring countries, including China, to prevent hostile takeovers of Indian firms by foreign entities. Under the new rules, any
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- foreign investment from countries that share a land border with India would require prior government approval. The ban has also strained diplomatic ties between India and China, which were already “not normal” because of the border dispute. The Chinese government has expressed concern over the ban and has called on India to create a fair and non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese companies. However, India has defended the ban as a necessary step to protect its national security interests. But India is not the first country to do so; previously, the US, UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and now Germany, which has just started in the direction of banning Chinese telecom equipment, have already banned Chinese telecom manufacturers, stating concern regarding national security. The reason behind these bans however, is more than just national security concerns. In the case of India, though most of these sanctions came after border skirmishes other determining factors include, firstly, local market protection, as during COVID-19 much of the local businesses in India itself were on the verge of collapse, the Indian government feared the Chinese tech giants might flood the Indian market and kick out local businesses. Secondly self-reliance: during COVID-19, when the global supply chain was disrupted, the Indian government realised the need for self-reliance, especially in electronic telecom equipment, which is crucial for a rapidly digitalizing country like India. Unlike Western partners of India, this ban on Chinese equipment was much more than a game of geopolitics and for this very reason, in the coming years, it is going to

increase further.
