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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **“WE WANT TO BE TRENDING” trends in China:** Since July 30, Yili has had 1290 Covid cases. A total of 23 cases were added on Saturday, September 10. Yili, or Ili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture, is part of northern Xinjiang near the border of Kazakhstan. Its primary city, Yining (also known as Ghulja), is home to some 500,000 people and has been locked down since at least August 11. People complain about a lack of food, “outrageous” commodity prices, and a lack of much-needed medical care. On September 9, Yili authorities held a press conference during which deputy governor Liu Qinghua (刘庆华) confirmed that there had been problems in access to medical care and supplies and that local authorities were working on ensuring public’s medical needs during this period. But on social media, the complaints and cries of despair are still ongoing. Some people share screen recordings of local community Wechat groups where mothers are crying out of worry for their children, there are people saying they are hungry and that they have not been provided with any food. So, netizens from locked-down areas in Yili, Xinjiang, are [begging for help](#) and are reaching out via social media.

NEWS IN CHINA

- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi commented that [China and Japan](#) are partners and pose no threat to each other. The political consensus should be implemented in policies, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Monday while making the remarks in a video speech to a forum held on Monday to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the normalization of China-Japan diplomatic relations. This remark is made when Japan seems to increase its defense and move toward the USA. Wang called for deepened cooperation



between the two sides and called on Japan to safeguard smooth global production chains as well as safeguard fair and open global trade environment.

- Chinese Police working with International Law enforcement cooperation against telecom and online fraud as the last decade has witnessed the rapid spread of telecom and online fraud globally, which seriously infringes on people's legitimate rights and interests, becoming a prominent crime and a public hazard. From March to June this year, China, together with 76 INTERPOL member states, jointly participated in the anti-fraud Operation First Light initiated by INTERPOL, which destroyed 1,770 fraud dens in as many countries, arrested over 2,000 suspects, and intercepted more than US\$50 million in illicit funds.
- Taiwanese Ministry of National Defense announced that the Air Force Missile Defense and Command to begin a new construction project at the military base in Yilan County's Paotai Shan (砲台山) or "Fort Mountain". This work will likely begin at the missile base in Yilan county. The Ministry expects that construction of the facility will be completed by 2025. The cost of the project is expected to total more than NT\$800 million (\$258 million USD). These projects are done to keep China deterring from attacking the island.
- Taiwan on September 12th restored visa-free treatment for visitors from the U.S., Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and diplomatic allies, partially ending a travel ban that had been in place since the early stages of the pandemic on March 19, 2020. The Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) announced the changes on Sept. 5. However, quarantine regulations and on-arrival testing will stay in place and

the quota on arrivals will be limited to 50,000 inbound passengers per week. Although many neighboring countries in the region have been excluded, prompting complaints from netizens from the Philippines, Singapore, and Malaysia, among others.

- A Lithuanian delegation headed by Economy and Innovation Vice Minister Karolis Zemaitis arrived in Taiwan on September 10 and began a five-day itinerary of meeting officials and visiting businesses on September 12. According to the Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Minister Joseph Wu (吳釗燮) has planned a banquet to welcome Zemaitis and company. The delegation will meet officials from the National Development Council and Ministry of Economic Affairs and tour laser- and biotechnology-related entities to explore opportunities for partnerships.
- After seven long days, Southwest China's Sichuan Province ended its highest level of emergency response on Monday after a 6.8-magnitude earthquake shook the province's Luding County and took 93 lives and 25 persons missing as of Sunday and will focus on reconstruction. After several rounds of searches and rescue, the people affected by the earthquake were swiftly transferred to safe areas; infrastructure is under repair, and secondary disasters were also screened, according to a notice published by the Sichuan emergency response department on Monday. Now the focus is on reconstruction, as well as transition resettlement of people as per the Sichuan government.

INDIA WATCH

- As China watches Japan increasing its defences and engaging with India, the US, and Australia, it is attempting to
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"reconnect" with the country. At present, China is under pressure from all sides including India, Vietnam, the Philippines, Japan, the United States, Taiwan, and some Western Countries. A Military Logistics Cooperation Pact between Japan and India allows India to counter China in any skirmish with Japan's help, which can irk China. Similarly, Japanese companies have invested a lot in China, which China isn't willing to lose to India given that Japan might divert investments to India, growing QUAD's alliance and its strength in the region. This might harm China's interests in the region, such as reuniting with Taiwan and, put a strain on its quest to South China Sea dominance.
