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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **'Online tavern' trends on Chinese social media:** Over the past two months, off-the-rack '[online bars](#)' with alcohol door-to-door delivery services have been sweeping China's social media from smaller isolated towns to larger, more populated cities like Beijing and Shanghai. Online bars, as the name implies, offer alcohol for sale where entrepreneurs produce their own beverages at home served in sizable plastic bottles, market them online, and deliver the products to customers' doors via platforms like Wechat, Douyin, Xiaohongshu, and Meituan. Sellers avoid the expensive startup costs of starting a store, and budget-conscious consumers can enjoy reasonably priced, freshly prepared drinks and snacks without having to leave their homes. These services are well liked by young people (those 25 and under) and college students because they can save money by making purchases online rather than physically going to a bar. Many young Chinese people have started their own side businesses using the idea, with some claiming monthly incomes of up to 80,000 RMB (11,477 USD). The 2022 FIFA World Cup caused the trend to take off on Chinese social media. Nowadays, one can quickly find approximately 10,000 relevant posts by performing a quick search on Xiaohongshu. The hashtags "Can internet taverns truly earn 80,000 a month?" and "Why are online taverns so popular?" garnered 21 million and 2 million views, respectively, on Weibo.

## NEWS IN CHINA

- Many [cities](#) across China have instituted open package dispensing and begun offering free medications, such as cold ,



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and fever cures, to the populace in an effort to meet the increased demand brought on by the surge in COVID-19 cases. A total of 18 pharmacies were arranged by the market regulator in Sanya, Hainan Province, South China, and more pharmacies were encouraged to join the free distribution of fever-reducing medications. The authorities started giving out the first batch of 73,030 anti-fever medicines to locals on Wednesday. Dongguan, in South China's Guangdong Province, announced that 100,000 ibuprofen tablets had arrived and will be given to 41 state medicine stores before being made available free of charge to anyone in need on Thursday. Moreover, cities like Zhengzhou, Shangqiu, and Zhoukou distributed anti-epidemic medications to the market. The Zhoukou department of epidemic prevention and control has purchased a batch of ibuprofen tablets and announced that starting on Wednesday, they will be giving away 130,000 of the medications for free to locals with valid identification cards. Each citizen is entitled to 10 tablets each day. A free distribution of 48,000 ibuprofen tablets across 43 stores is also planned by Shangqiu's market regulator to begin on Thursday. Four tablets will be given to each person who has a valid ID card. Packages of fever-relieving medications including ibuprofen and antigen detection reagents would be divided into smaller batches for sale to people in Shenzhen, Hubei and Guangdong Province. The statement stated that each consumer might buy no more than three days' worth of antipyretic medication and no more than five people's worth of antigen testing supplies.

- On Tuesday, the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) issued the [Youth Development Blueprint](#), detailing the general vision and guiding principles for the HKSAR government's long-term youth development activities in the future. More than 160 specific actions and interventions supporting youth development are proposed at this early level. The Blueprint is organised into four sections; Exploration, Hope, Empowerment, and Contribution, which outline the HKSAR government's orientation under the chosen topic and suggest related actions and initiatives. The goal of the HKSAR government is to raise a new generation of young people who will have a sense of national pride for Hong Kong and the country as well as have a global perspective, an aspirational mindset, and optimistic outlooks.
  - Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has urged for the effective implementation of economic policy measures. Days after the annual Central Economic Work Conference, which emphasised the significance of ensuring economic stability a primary priority next year, Li made the decision while serving as the meeting's chairman of the State Council leadership. China has [long pledged](#) to "unswervingly consolidate and develop the public sector" while also "unswervingly encourage, support and guide the development of the non-public sector." The [meeting](#) on Tuesday reaffirmed the commitment to helping private businesses grow, gain confidence, and promote the platform economy's long-term development. The 16-step guideline released last month was another topic of emphasis at the meeting, along with the
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necessity of improving the cooperation of epidemic prevention efforts with social and economic development. According to the meeting, the supply of goods should be guaranteed and their pricing should be stabilised as the new year and the Spring Festival get near. The meeting concluded that the public's demand for medicines and supplies for preventing epidemics should be satisfied and that China should improve its partnerships with other countries to rationally purchase commodities that are urgently required.

- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Australian counterpart Penny Wong met in Beijing on Wednesday for talks, which coincided with the 50th anniversary of the beginning of formal diplomatic ties. After years of tension between both the nations, China stated its willingness to re-establish relations with Australia, with both parties agreeing to intensify discussions on matters such as trade, security, and human rights. In 2020, after Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's predecessor Scott Morrison demanded a global investigation into the causes of COVID-19, relations between China and Australia deteriorated severely as Beijing put trade sanctions on a variety of Australian products. Wong commented that Australia and China should work together because they have nothing in common in terms of basic conflicts of interest or grievances in the past. She agreed with Wang that "a sound Australia-China relationship is not in contradiction with safeguarding national interests", according to the Australian foreign ministry. Wong demanded the release of Yang Hengjun, a writer, and Australian journalist Cheng Lei, who were

both jailed in Beijing on suspicion of spying. She also urged the US and China to control their conflicts for the good of the entire region. Albanese said in a video message shared on Twitter that establishing diplomatic ties with Australia 50 years ago was the "right decision." In his words, Australia "will cooperate where we can, disagree where we must and engage in the national interest" in its pursuit of a stable relationship with China.

## INDIA WATCH

- In light of an increase in COVID-19 cases in China and other nations like Japan, South Korea, Brazil, and the United States, the Union Health Ministry examined the COVID-19 situation in India on Wednesday. Since China is the only large country where the number of cases is at an all-time high, it is crucial to think about whether India is safeguarded from the causes of China's wave. India's Health Minister, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, has urged a return to COVID-appropriate behaviour, including wearing masks in public, as the nation ramps up surveillance of cases in light of the 3,402 active COVID cases. India is most likely more protected than China, according to a research, but it also shows that this fact will change unless there is quick progress on the vaccine front. The study discovered that India lags substantially behind China in terms of coverage for booster shots, despite the fact that COVID-19 vaccines supplied in India, such as Covishield or Covaxin, have higher efficacy than the majority of those given in China, which include CoronaVac and Sinopharm. India's booster coverage is ranked 10th out of 14 nations with a population of more than 100
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million. When the Health Ministry published the dose and age-based breakdown of vaccinations on October 31, 719 million of the 940 million adults had not yet had a booster shot (591 million of them despite being eligible by the required six-month gap on the day). Despite the halt in boosting, India should not lose hope because of China's surge because fewer individuals in China are projected to be naturally immune to recent diseases due to the country's rigorous lockdowns, which is not a problem for India. The so-called bivalent vaccines, according to Indian scientists, should either be updated to provide protection against new strains or repeated. According to Ashish K Jha, the White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator, the way India is tackling the current surge of Coronavirus is good but the country should be striving for much better and robust vaccines. "For now, prepare for an annual shot," he added.

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