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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **China's Updated Twenty COVID-19 Rules Trend on Weibo:**

On Chinese social media today, there have been a lot of mixed reactions as everyone is watching how Shijiazhuang is one of the first cities to actively implement China's new COVID rules. Despite a local outbreak, many public places no longer require nucleic acid test results, and schools are reopening. On November 13th, Shijiazhuang, the capital of Hebei province, issued a notice to residents regarding the implementation of China's updated 20 COVID-19 rules. One of the rules in the updated COVID-19 measure list, which was issued by national authorities last week, is that mass testing campaigns should no longer be conducted and that COVID-19 containment efforts should be carried out in a more local and precise manner rather than using a "one-size-fits-all" strategy. Shijiazhuang has become one of the first cities to cancel mass testing, stop checking people's COVID-19 test codes in certain (low-risk) public places, and reopen schools. On Monday, the Weibo hashtag "Shijiazhuang Epidemic Prevention and Control" received over 800 million views. People using public transportation must still have a negative nucleic acid test certificate obtained within the previous 72 hours, and people's nucleic acid test status will be checked in hotels and other key areas. Although many saw the change in COVID-19 policies as evidence that Shijiazhuang is 'opening up,' many commentators likened Shijiazhuang's situation with the COVID-19 measures to the city being the "first to eat the crab." This refers to the idea that those who eat the crab first are the brave ones who test the waters to see if it's edible, after which others can follow their example and enjoy the benefits .

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without taking the risks.' Many Xinjiang-based commenters expressed their desire to swap places with Shijiazhuang

## NEWS IN CHINA

- According to the [China Manned Space Agency](#) (CMSA), the Shenzhou-14 crew boarded the Tianzhou-5 cargo craft on Sunday. China will launch the Tianzhou series every six months in the future. The cargo transfers and other related tasks will be carried out as planned by the Shenzhou-14 crew. China launched the Tianzhou-5 cargo spacecraft on Saturday to deliver supplies to the country's space station, which is expected to be completed this year. The cargo spaceship system is an important component of China's space station. After the space station forms a T-shaped structure, the cargo ships will continue their missions, providing support for astronauts, space science experiments, and space station operations.
  - Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden struck a [conciliatory tone](#) during three hours of talks on Monday in Bali Indonesia, where they aired out sharp disagreements but emphasized the importance of preventing the US-China strategic rivalry from devolving into conflict. It was their first face-to-face meeting since Biden took office nearly two years ago. Both sides appeared determined to keep in check the rapid deterioration in relations over trade, technology, defense, and political influence. "The world has come to a crossroads," Xi said shortly after the talks began at a beachside hotel on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit, which Indonesia is hosting. "The world expects China and the United States to manage their relationship properly," he told his counterpart. "I absolutely believe there does not need to be a new Cold War," Biden said at a press conference following the meeting. During the talks, Biden stated that the US would "continue to compete vigorously" with China, but that "this competition should not devolve into conflict."
  - China is ready to collaborate with Australia and capitalize on the [50th anniversary](#) of diplomatic relations to promote sustained, sound, and steady growth in China-Australia relations, said Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Saturday during a meeting with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on the sidelines of the leaders' East Asia cooperation meetings. Albanese stated that next month marks the 50th anniversary of the two countries diplomatic relations, which were established under a Labor administration led by then-Prime Minister Gough Whitlam.
  - A Taiwanese-run [Mandarin school](#) in Paris, France, has been allegedly targeted by a Chinese overseas police station, most likely due to its close ties to the Taiwanese government. L'Encrier Chinoise, a school supported by the Taiwan Center for Mandarin Learning, has been an active institute in Paris' 13th district for over 17 years. It allows Hong Kong ex-pats and those who have given up their People's Republic of China citizenship to continue their Mandarin studies. Lin (principal of L'Encrier Chinoise) stated that the school had to seek assistance from the Taipei Representative Office in France to resolve the issue. Regardless, the principal stated
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that she will continue to teach traditional characters and promote Taiwan's cultural heritage in France.

- The Communist Party of China (CPC) believes that its commitment to continuously improve conduct and enforce discipline is one of the main reasons it has won the people's full support. The Party stated in a report to the CPC's 20th National Congress that it will take steps to improve conduct and enforce discipline, reflecting its firm determination to ensure full, rigorous party governance. This is the Party's strategic plan, according to Xiao Pei, deputy head of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and vice-chairman of the National Commission of Supervision."From the strict prohibition on using public funds to send gifts, eat, drink, or travel, we have resolved one problem after another over the last decade, and the disciplinary watchdogs have provided full disclosure of their investigation and handling of violations every month," Xiao said. Authorities have also worked to eliminate pointless formalities and bureaucracy, such as sloganeering without action and endless paperwork and meetings, according to Xion.

## INDIA WATCH

- China has recently attempted to normalize relations with Australia through talks, first by Wang Yi in New York and then by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang. China-Australia relations have been deteriorating in recent years, with both governments attempting to intimidate each other. The Chinese government has held an

Australian citizen hostage, imposed high import tariffs on Australian wine, discouraged Chinese students from studying in Australian universities, and harmed the Australian economy. The reason for this was that Australia demanded a free and open Indo-Pacific by joining the Quad, took a tough stance on China, and even attempted to counter Chinese dominance, which irritated Beijing. Even though Australia's current bearing is beneficial to India, India must keep in mind that Australia is currently the weakest member of the Quad and heavily reliant on exports to Beijing, which accounts for nearly 40% of total exports. Currently, India is Australia's 9th largest trading partner, and Australia is India's 17th, with total trade of \$27.5 billion. Nonetheless, Canberra and New Delhi signed the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), which aims to increase Canberra-New Delhi trade to \$45 billion by 2027. However, India should also try to include like-minded members to diversify Australian exports and ask like-minded countries to reduce Canberra's reliance on Beijing, as Beijing's track record indicates that they will not hesitate to choke Canberra.