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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Protests lead to riots in Zhengzhou's Foxconn factory as new workers enter and old problems remain:** On the morning of November 23, [photos and videos](#) showing explosive and violent scenes involving police riot teams and people in full hazmat suits started circulating on Chinese social media sites like WeChat and Douyin. A Foxconn worker said that many other videos showing police beating up workers were posted to workers' group chats. Workers also tried to go live on Douyin and Kuaishou, but live streams were cut immediately. Many people did not understand the exact circumstances surrounding some of the videos that circulated online due to censorship. The unrest continued during the day on Wednesday. Some news sources confirm that Foxconn workers stated to reporters that the company introduced new factory subsidy policies that were not in line with what they were promised at the time of recruitment. "We are not asking for anything, just regular nucleic acid testing and food delivery would do," one female said in a video that circulated on Kuaishou, another popular Chinese social video app. In late October, Foxconn (富士康), the world's largest technology manufacturer and Apple supplier, already made headlines after its factory in Zhengzhou, Henan, was hit by a Covid outbreak that was grossly mismanaged. The Foxconn complex in Zhengzhou, where half of the world's iPhones are made, employs approximately 300,000 people. Factory workers live in the campus dormitories, but as living conditions worsened amid the wave of Covid cases, employees started fleeing the Foxconn 'factory city,' starting their long journey home on foot, walking on highways and fields across the Central Plains

while carrying personal belongings. Because this is the second big wave of unrest at Foxconn Zhengzhou led by the new workers, the protest is also referred to as the "Foxconn Workers Movement 2.0" (富士康2.0工人运动). A clear majority of the people speak out in support of the workers, posting old propaganda posters about the Workers' Revolution, and recommend other Weibo users to read Karl Marx. "Is the working class still leading?" they ask. "Foxconn is trash, they're garbage, they've used military force to suppress the workers, many staff members got injured, and the Zhengzhou government is colluding with them in bullying ordinary workers," one Weibo commenter wrote. Another commented, "I feel so distressed about this. It's time to wake up!"

NEWS IN CHINA

- Taikonaut Chen Dong has set a new record for the most cumulative days living and working in space by a Chinese taikonaut. On Tuesday, the China Manned Space Agency (中国载人航天工程办公室) said that Chen, who is on board the orbiting China's Tiangong space station, has become the first Chinese to stay in orbit for more than 200 days. Together with two other taikonauts, Liu Yang and Cai Xuzhe, he was sent into the space station core module Tianhe aboard the Shenzhou-14 spaceship on June 5 for a six-month stay. The crew spent more than 170 days in orbit. This is the second time Chen has ventured into space, following his first 33-day Shenzhou-11 mission in Tiangong-2, the space station's predecessor, in 2016 with taikonaut Jing Haipeng. Appointed as the mission commander, Chen led the

Shenzhou-14 crew to complete multiple tasks, including three spacewalks, a series of scientific experiments, a live science lecture, and several in-orbit operations of rendezvous, docking, and transposition. They have been called "the busiest space crew" by Chinese netizens. China is also set to send its third generation of taikonauts on space missions in 2023. The new class of 18 taikonauts will include one female. There will be seven pilots, seven flight engineers and four payload specialists. According to China's planned space program, at least two 3-taikonaut crews will carry out space missions annually.

- Beijing and Tokyo have agreed to deepen their maritime dialogue, manage differences over Taiwan and their territorial disputes and open a military hotline, all in a diplomatic consultation just days after leaders of the Asian rivals met for the first time in three years. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida met on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Bangkok last week and agreed to ease their increasingly adversarial tensions in the midst of the US-China rivalry and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Led by two foreign ministries, Chinese and Japanese officials had an "extensive and in-depth" exchange of views on their maritime rifts and pledged to "earnestly implement" the agreement reached by Xi and Kishida last week to build "stable and constructive" ties, according to a statement from Beijing. The Chinese side, led by Hong Liang, head of the foreign ministry's department of boundary and ocean affairs, urged Japan to "stop all actions that violate China's sovereignty" surrounding the
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disputed Diaoyu Islands, known as the Senkaku Islands in Japan. Chinese officials also voiced "strong dissatisfaction with Japan's recent negative remarks and erroneous practices" over Taiwan, which Beijing sees as a runaway province that needs to be reunited, by force if necessary.

- Beijing will tighten its COVID-19 control measures starting on Thursday by requiring negative COVID test results no older than 48 hours to enter public places, as it confronts the recent large rise in infections, a senior official said on Tuesday. All people are required to show negative results on nucleic acid tests taken within 48 hours before entering government departments, office buildings, supermarkets and other public places, as well as before taking buses and riding on the subway, Xu Hejian, spokesman for the municipal government, said at a news conference on Tuesday. "The current virus variant is extremely infectious and easily concealed, and the city's control and prevention work is currently at the most critical stage," he said. Beijing has seen infections rise, with 274 local confirmed cases and 1,164 asymptomatic carriers identified on Monday, according to the city's health commission. It was the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic that the number of infections in the capital surpassed 1,000 in a single day. Of the 274 confirmed cases, 207 were detected in community testing. In consequence, a number of parks and museums in the capital, including Beijing Olympic Park, Beijing Wildlife Park and the Summer Palace, have announced the temporary closure of either their whole areas or indoor areas starting from Tuesday. China has seen mass infections in

some cities. The Chinese mainland reported 2,145 locally transmitted confirmed COVID-19 cases on Monday, the National Health Commission said on Tuesday. Meanwhile, 25,754 local asymptomatic carriers were newly identified in that period.

- China has rolled out a core component in the world's largest nuclear fusion reactor project, also known as the world's largest "artificial sun", its developer said on Tuesday. The production of the enhanced-heat-flux first wall panel of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), has been completed, with its performances substantially higher than design requirements, and thus suitable for mass production, according to its developer, Southwestern Institute of Physics under the China National Nuclear Corporation. The ITER's first wall panel, designed to have immediate contact with plasma as hot as 100 million degrees Celsius, is regarded as one of the most pivotal components in the reactor core, China's Science Daily reported on Tuesday. Luo Delong, director of the China International Nuclear Fusion Energy Program Execution Center under the Ministry of Science and Technology, addressed the achievement and said that great achievements have been made by the Chinese team after years of efforts and lots of fruitful research and development work. The ITER, one of the largest and most important international scientific research projects in the world, is reputed as an "Artificial Sun" since it generates clean, carbon-free energy in a way similar to the sun by emitting light and heat via fusion reactions. The project is jointly funded by
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the European Union, China, the United States, Japan, Republic of Korea, India and Russia.

- On Wednesday, Liang Hua, the Chairman of Chinese tech giant Huawei announced that it has joined the Partner2Connect (P2C) [digital coalition](#) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). "Huawei is committed to helping 120 million people in remote areas connect to the digital world by 2025", Liang said at the 2022 Sustainability Forum. The event explored how innovation in information and communications technology could unleash business and social value in the era of the digital economy. "It is clear, connectivity alone is not enough. It must be affordable, the content must be relevant and in the local language, and users must have the skills to make best use of it," said ITU Deputy Secretary-General Malcolm Johnson, who expressed appreciation for Huawei's support of the P2C digital coalition. Cao Ming, president of Huawei Wireless Solution, said the company has continuously upgraded the RuralStar and RuralLink solutions to extend quality coverage to remote areas. The RuralStar series solutions have provided connections for more than 60 million people in remote areas in more than 70 countries. Huawei said it will also work with government departments and universities in Cambodia, the first P2C partner country of the ITU, to provide 10,000 training opportunities for professionals in the next five years.

INDIA WATCH

- ITER ("The Way" in Latin) is one of the most ambitious energy projects in the world

today. The project aims to create a magnetic fusion device that has been designed to prove the feasibility of fusion as a large-scale and carbon-free source of energy based on the same principle that powers our Sun and stars. Both India and China are signatories to the ITER Agreement. As ITER members, China, the European Union, India, Japan, Korea, Russia and the United States will share in the cost of project construction, operation and decommissioning, and also share in the experimental results and any intellectual property generated by the project. China and India are the world's two largest coal consuming countries, collectively mining 14 million tons of coal a day. Coal remains crucial to their current energy needs, even as they install huge volumes of renewables and chase targets to zero out greenhouse gas emissions. Thus, their involvement in the ITER project proves their efforts to find alternative solutions. Furthermore, even though countries failed to decisively move away from fossil fuels at the recently concluded COP27 Meet held in Sharm El Sheikh last week, and repeated the "phase-down-of-coal" phrase featured in last year's agreement at COP26 in Glasgow, projects like these also show the mutual resolve of some of the most economically powerful nations to build sustainable alternatives to fossil fuels. This collaborative project is a leading example for countries to leave their differences aside and come together to find sustainable energy solutions in the global effort to reduce carbon emissions.