



Y SUITES
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Y SUITES CHINA INSIGHTS

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SUMMARY

- Health impacts of climate change in China worsening, report says
- Prestigious British private school abandons plan for Chinese branches
- China's tutoring ban leaves a trail of debt, anger, and broken dreams
- Shanghai Disneyland gets a covid-19 scare on Halloween
- Report finds only 13 percent of young consumers in China are not in debt
- Opinion: Data security becomes a core issue for doing business in China
- "Winter wonderland"... The accuracy of the Chinese Lunisolar Calendar

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



SOCIETY



EDUCATION



PANDEMIC



ECONOMY
& BUSINESS



CHINESE
CULTURE

SOCIETY

COLD WAVE SWEEPS 90 PERCENT OF REGIONS ACROSS CHINA



A resident walks amid snow in Changchun, northeast China's Jilin Province, Nov. 7, 2021. The traditional solar term of Lidong, the beginning of winter, fell on Nov. 7 this year. Photo: Xinhua

GLOBAL TIMES, NOV 07

A severe cold wave hit many parts of China over the weekend with heavy snowfalls and plunging temperatures.

The cold snap, said to be the most widespread early one in decade, is affecting 1.18 billion people and 90 percent of the regions across the country, including the southernmost tropical island of Hainan, where temperatures dropped at least 8 degrees.

The cold wave also brought blizzard conditions to many parts of the north, along with rain, sleet and snow, posing serious challenges in a wide range of areas, including transport, infrastructure, agriculture as well as energy supplies at a time when many parts of the country have already been grappling with tight energy supplies and even power shortages in recent months.

The State Grid Corporation of China said on Sunday that with the increasing supply of coal, the power supply within its operation is back to the "normal level," and claimed a phased victory over guaranteeing people's power usage.

HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN CHINA WORSENING, REPORT SAYS

SIXTH TONE, NOV 08



A man carries bags of onions out of the flooded Yubei Agricultural and Aquatic Products World in Xinxiang, Henan province, July 26, 2021. People Visual

Extreme weather events associated with climate change, including [deadly heat waves](#), [devastating floods](#), and [historic sandstorms](#), have killed hundreds of people across China over the past year. Now, in the most comprehensive analysis so far, experts warned these threats are likely to get worse in the coming years in the country.

Here are highlights from the China-specific study, published just weeks after a [separate report](#) in The Lancet issued a “code red for a healthy future” of the world.

Disasters as a result of climate change

While fewer people are impacted by adverse weather events due to China’s improved emergency preparedness, without timely and adequate adaptation plans, the increased frequency and intensity of such events could affect a larger population in the future, the report said.

COVID-19 as an opportunity for climate action

China’s ambitious announcements on curbing carbon emissions and the COVID-19 pandemic have made people more aware of the intersection of health and the environment.

Climate change adaptation

Even in the face of increasing threats, China is yet to publish a national-level climate change adaptation plan, which is currently in the drafting phase. At the provincial level, only a dozen – about one-third of Chinese provinces – have either formulated or are working on a health and climate adaptation plan. 2/12

SUPERMARKETS INUNDATED AFTER GOV'T TELLS PEOPLE TO STOCK UP FOOD

SIXTH TONE, NOV 03

A notice from China's Ministry of Commerce on Monday, calling citizens to stock up on daily necessities and food supplies, has emptied some of the country's supermarkets.



"I feel like since it's the first time the government called us to stock up food, this must be serious," said the 45-year-old resident surnamed Zhang, adding others were also buying in bulk at the supermarket. "Plus, the tension between the mainland and Taiwan has been tense, so it's better to prepare just in case."

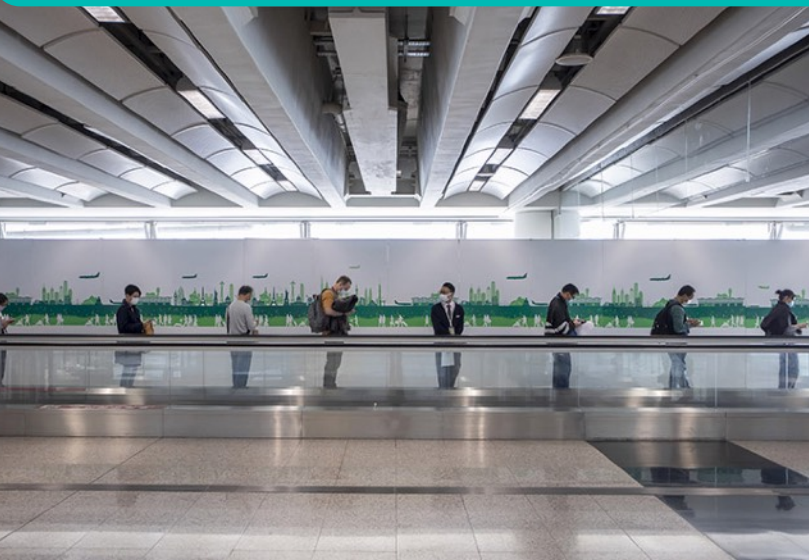
Responding to people's panic, the ministry's head of promotion consumption department, Zhu Xiaoliang, told domestic media that the notice only intended to ensure sufficient food supply during the winter months and through to spring.

HONG KONG COULD REOPEN ITS MAINLAND BORDER IN FEBRUARY, LAM SAYS

CAIXIN GLOBAL, NOV 05

Hong Kong may see a "large scale" reopening of its border with Chinese mainland as early as February, Chief Executive Carrie Lam said, as the city has brought its Covid-19 pandemic under control.

Hong Kong has made reopening its border with the mainland a top priority. The city has [eased travel curbs](#) on some mainland and Macao residents since Sept. 15.



The Hong Kong International Airport on Feb. 4. Photo: VCG

The spokesperson said the Hong Kong government will continue to strengthen epidemic control measures to ensure the resumption won't bring any additional Covid-19 risk to the Chinese mainland.

EDUCATION



One of the U.K.'s most prestigious private schools, has abandoned its plan to set up branches in China after new education rules erected further barriers for foreign participation in the education sector. **CAIXIN GLOBAL, NOV 06**

PRESTIGIOUS BRITISH PRIVATE SCHOOL ABANDONS PLAN FOR CHINESE BRANCHES

Photo: The planned Chengdu Westminster School in Chengdu, Southwest China's Sichuan province. Photo: westminstern.cn.com

The project had been brought to an end due to the global Covid-19 pandemic as well as "recent changes in Chinese education policy," Mark Batten, chair of the school's governing body, said [in a letter](#) to staff and students..

Westminster's departure from China shows the crackdown has impacted the expansion of international private schools. Industry insiders said although established schools may continue to operate in China, the prospect of new schools opening in future remains unclear.



Nowadays, a growing number of Chinese universities have started to launch kinds of unconventional courses including those concerning romantic relationships, social interaction, and tabletop boardgames in response to a rising demand among young people.

PEOPLE'S DAILY ONLINE, NOV 08

POLL: CHINESE UNIVERSITIES' "UNCONVENTIONAL COURSES" ENDORSED BY OVER 62 PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS



A student climbs a tree at Northwest University in Xi'an, capital of Northwest China's Shaanxi province. (Xi'an Daily/Lei Weidong)

The nationwide survey polled 2,015 people and found that 81.1 percent of them had previously heard of such course offerings.

About 64.2 percent held the view that such courses combine both theory and practice, and are both educational and fun, while 62.4 percent believed that they are novel and interesting and able to meet the needs of young people. However, 18.2 percent said that they are not practical and will become "outdated very soon".

CHINA'S TUTORING BAN LEAVES A TRAIL OF DEBT, ANGER, AND BROKEN DREAMS

China has launched a tough clampdown on the \$300 billion private tutoring industry. The collateral damage: millions of ordinary teachers and families.

SIXTH TONE, NOV 01

“The company failed to show me the least respect, let alone care.”

- Xu Lingling, 25-year-old laid-off teacher

On the eve of the clampdown, China's tutoring sector was worth a staggering 2 trillion yuan and employed around 10 million people. Now, the industry is undergoing a messy and painful collapse – with ordinary families and workers the collateral damage.

As company after company has shut down, teachers have been abruptly dismissed and parents have lost billions of yuan in prepaid tuition fees. Meanwhile, a network of unlicensed teaching centers has emerged to plug the gap – triggering a fresh wave of crackdowns.

“I wish the authorities would punish the company ... It deliberately cheated us.”

- Xu Danfeng, mother

The shutdowns have sparked fury among parents. Many had paid the companies the equivalent of thousands of dollars to prebook classes for their children – in some cases just days before the firms folded.

Xu is one of the victims, she had initially pulled her son out of academic tutoring classes after hearing about the “double reduction” policy.

But OneSmart's sales staff repeatedly promised her one-on-one classes wouldn't be affected, and so in September, Xu paid the company nearly 60,000 yuan to prebook a block of around 100 Chinese classes. Her son attended just three of them before the company folded.

“It would be a wise choice to leave the sector ... But my clients picked me and I wanted to prove their choice wasn't wrong.”

- Li Yijun, teacher

Though the “double reduction” policy aims to stop families signing up children for extra classes, a Sixth Tone survey of parents in Shanghai and Beijing in August found that over 90% wanted their children to continue receiving after-school tutoring.

For this reason, many teachers have decided to soldier on despite the worsening conditions in the industry.

Li says she's concerned about her students, who are mostly attending middle schools in Shanghai. In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, they've also been dealing with major reforms to China's all-important national exams. Now, the “double reduction” policy threatens to bring yet more disruption.

“Such frequent changes ... will impact their studies,” says Li. “In such a turbulent era, I want to teach them until they finish their exams.”

[...FULL STORY...](#)

PANDEMIC

SHANGHAI DISNEYLAND GETS A COVID-19 SCARE ON HALLOWEEN

SIXTH TONE, NOV 01

People dressed in personal protective equipment at the Shanghai Disney Resort were not in Halloween costume Sunday but conducting coronavirus testing on thousands of visitors and staff before they exited amid a COVID-19 scare.



A viral video shows visitors at Shanghai Disneyland undergoing nucleic acid testing amid fireworks. From Weibo

As of 8 a.m. Monday, 33,863 people who were at Disneyland and Disneytown over the weekend had tested negative for the virus, [according](#) to the city government.

Video footage of visitors standing in line to get their COVID test under the fireworks-lit sky has since gone viral on Chinese social media.

“The atmosphere was still festive,” said a visitor, adding that the virus testing was well organized.

MORE CHINESE CITIES ADOPT BROADER ‘SPACE-TIME’ CRITERIA FOR LABELING COVID CASE CLOSE CONTACTS

CAIXIN GLOBAL, NOV 06



More Chinese cities have followed in Beijing’s footsteps by adopting so-called “space-time” rules to designate the close contacts of confirmed Covid-19 cases, taking up the more expansive criteria as they scramble to contain the latest outbreak which has [spread to most provincial regions](#).

Broadly, “space-time company” refers to people — or more precisely their phones — being in the same place at the same time but the definition of “same place” and “same time” varies, and not every city has offered precise definitions.

CHINA RECORDS 65 LOCAL COVID-19 CASES AS PEOPLE FLEE TESTING IN CHENGDU

SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, NOV 08



A medical worker takes a sample as people queue to be tested in the snow in Heilongjiang. Photo: Xinhua

China reported 65 new local symptomatic [Covid-19](#) cases, up only slightly as some provinces claimed progress in controlling outbreaks – but police were investigating in Chengdu after people fled mandatory testing.

According to the National Health Commission, the present wave of cases had reached 44 cities in 20 provinces, with most concentrated in the northern regions of Heilongjiang, Inner Mongolia and Gansu. Four of those provinces had not recorded any new local transmissions in a week.

CHINA URGES TO SPEED UP VACCINATION ESPECIALLY FOR MINORS AGED 3-11 AS COVID-19 RESURGENCE CONTINUES

GLOBAL TIMES, NOV 07

There is more urgency to roll out vaccination to minors aged 3-11 as the COVID-19 flare up continues, with more cases reported across the country.

The latest open data showed that as of October 29, more than 3.53 million doses of coronavirus vaccine have been administered to children aged 3 to 11 across the country. The NHC is aiming to complete vaccinations for this group by the end of December on a voluntary basis.



Moreover, China's top epidemiologist Zhong Nanshan said that vaccination protection lasts about six months and it is necessary to receive a booster shot to strengthen immunity. By the end of this year, about 80 percent of the population in China should be vaccinated with two shots, Zhong said.



A boy receives COVID-19 vaccine in Baiyun district in Guangzhou, South China's Guangdong Province on October 27, 2021. Photo: VCG

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

REPORT FINDS ONLY 13 PERCENT OF YOUNG CONSUMERS IN CHINA ARE NOT IN DEBT

PEOPLE'S DAILY ONLINE, NOV 01

A report on the consumption behavior of young people in China has found that the younger generation of Chinese consumers, primarily people aged between 18 and 32 years old, has jumped forcefully onto the consumption wagon.

Nearly half of all young consumers who are in debt were born in the 1990s, while 31.5 percent of young consumers in debt were born in the 1980s. The statistics also suggest that only 13.4 percent of the 175 million people born in the 1990s are not currently in debt.



The report also found that in addition to having different consumption behavior, the younger generation is more willing to spend so that they get a better consumer experience and live a high-quality life with better products:

- Over the past three years, the amount of money spent by young consumers on time-saving and labor-saving products and services, increased year by year.
- Over the past year, consumers born after 1990, and after 1995, contributed 40 percent to pet-related spending. The amount of money spent by pet owners born after 1995 grew exponentially for three years in a row.
- It is estimated that in 2021, young people are likely to spend 7.5 percent more on products that help them to maintain their health. In addition, young people are also interested in, and frequently buy, beauty products and entertainment products.

China's government has named and shamed 38 apps for misdeeds such as excessively collecting users' data or publishing misleading information, in its first such rectification notice since the new Personal Information Protection Law came into force.

Household names including Tencent's QQ Music streaming service, social media platform Xiaohongshu, online learning app Zuoyebang, dating app Tantan and film-scoring site Douban were found to have collected personal information beyond what's necessary to offer their services, according to a Wednesday [announcement](#) (link in Chinese) from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT).



While it is only the latest in a long series of rectification notices released by the ministry targeting dodgy app behavior, it is the first since China's new Personal Information Protection Law was enacted on Monday. The law adds new legal teeth to the sustained regulatory scrutiny of personal information collection and use, and sets strict rules on how companies and government departments should treat this kind of data.

The law stipulates that an app developer can be fined up to 50 million yuan (\$7.8 million), or as much as 5% of its annual revenue if it violates the law.

Read more:

[SIX THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CHINA'S PERSONAL INFORMATION PROTECTION LAW](#)



**DOZENS OF APPS NAMED AND SHAMED FOR
PRIVACY VIOLATIONS**

OPINION: DATA SECURITY BECOMES A CORE ISSUE FOR DOING BUSINESS IN CHINA



...Data is being generated in China at a whirlwind pace. According to the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, the total amount of [data generated](#) in the country went up from 2.3 zettabytes in 2017 to 3.9 zettabytes in 2019, and it is continuing to grow.

...Since the wireless internet was first introduced in China, entrepreneurs have been quick to leverage it to build business models that rest on the gathering and usage of data. To this end, quite a number of successful tech platforms have emerged. Some like Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., Tencent Holding Ltd. and Bytedance Inc. have made it to the big league on a global basis.

Over time, issues related to data security began to surface in several areas. One typical question is related to the ownership of the data. ...The second is data privacy... and the third is data monopoly.

Three major pieces of legislation in China have set the cornerstones for addressing issues related to data security.

- In June 2017, China implemented the [Cybersecurity Law \(CSL\)](#), which acts as the baseline for maintaining network security.
- To further protect national data security and the public interest, the [Data Security Law \(DSL\)](#), which took effect on Sept. 1, requires all companies in China to classify the data they handle into different categories and prescribes how such data is to be stored and transferred to other parties.
- On Aug. 20, China also passed the [Personal Information Protection Law \(PIPL\)](#), which took effect on Nov. 1. This new law imposes restraints on data collection and the transfer of personal information, and has an extraterritorial effect for companies both inside and outside of China. Once effective, the PIPL will work together with the CSL and the DSL to establish a broader regulatory architecture governing cybersecurity and data privacy protection in China.

These regulations are driving MNCs to set up research and development or innovation centers at their headquarters, increasingly in China. For MNCs, the way to operate in China has evolved quite a bit, particularly since global geopolitics started to undergo a significant shift. Data security has become a key issue that they are often not well prepared for...A key enabler of this is the increasing divergence in the speed, intensity and degree of sophistication of the digital infrastructure that China is building compared with other parts of the world.

The big questions are where the data should be stored and secured, and where and with whom can they be shared with for the benefit of the company? Where do you draw the line?

CAIXIN GLOBAL, NOV 03

[...FULL ARTICLE...](#)



CHINA'S MARKET REGULATOR BANS UNFAIR PRACTICES DURING DOUBLE 11 SALES

GLOBAL TIMES, OCT 20

China's top market regulator on Saturday issued a notice banning e-commerce platforms from unfair practices such as "raising prices of items before putting them on sale" during the ongoing Double 11 shopping festival, in a bid to promote transparency in order to better protect consumers.

Unfair competition is strictly prohibited, said the notice from the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR). "[Platforms] are banned from sales promotion by exclusion, restricting competition, interfering with or destroying online products or services provided by other operators legally," it said.

The SAMR also encouraged rational consumption during the online shopping spree and encouraged consumers to file complaints if their rights and interests were damaged.

CHINESE CULTURE

"WINTER WONDERLAND" ...

THE ACCURACY OF THE CHINESE LUNISOLAR CALENDAR

SiZ China Blog, Nov 08

The Chinese lunisolar calendar is very accurate this year for Beijing. Yesterday marked **立冬 (Lìdōng)**, **the Beginning of Winter....** and we woke up in a magical winter wonderland...

The Chinese calendar is usually known in the world for the symbols such as the 12 zodiac animals rotating every year. But lesser known are the **24 solar terms (节气)**

The 24 solar terms, based on the sun's position in the zodiac, were created by farmers in ancient China to guide the agricultural affairs and farming activities. The 24 solar terms reflect the changes in climate, natural phenomena, agricultural production, and other aspects of human life, including clothing, food, housing, and transportation. The 24 solar terms play important roles and have greatly influenced people's basic needs in life.

Each term has its own associated customs, traditions, and recipes well alive today. Also Traditional Chinese Medicine has made use of the solar terms since ancient times, each posing opportunities or threats for your holistic health with related suggestions for typical food, way of life or herbal medicine. Li Dong "the Beginning of Winter" is usually celebrated with **steaming hearty dumplings** to **strengthen and warming up for upcoming winter.**

The Chinese calendar is all about cycles, the annual 24 solar term cycle but also the 12-year or 60-year cycles or the multiples of these cycles to **keep reality and history in perspective and mind.**





Welcome to the Suite life

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