

1	<p><b>The HKSAR Government is giving out \$5,000 consumption vouchers in the hope that it will help boost the economy</b></p> <p>As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, many industries have come to a standstill, making life and business difficult for the public and small and medium enterprises. This July, the HKSAR Government started to allow eligible people to register for electronic consumption vouchers to boost local consumption. Over 6 million people have registered for the scheme. The vouchers began to be distributed in phases from September onwards through four electronic payment platforms. A number of merchants give special offers to stimulate spending.</p>
2	<p><b>Anti-coup protests break out across Myanmar as military seizes power</b></p> <p>In February, the Myanmar military overthrew the National League for Democracy in a coup, declaring a state of emergency and arresting State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint, after claiming there was possible fraud in last year's election. Anti-coup protests erupted across the country. The military's bloody crackdown was controversial. The UN stated that more than 1,000 civilians had lost their lives and thousands had been arrested.</p>
3	<p><b>MIRROR's popularity is on the sharp rise and the frenzy is sweeping Hong Kong</b></p> <p>The popularity of MIRROR, a three-year-old boy band, is on the sharp rise and the tickets to their music concert in May will be in high demand. The group has also become a new favourite among advertisers, with over 100 commercials in the first half of this year. On a member's birthday, fans will raise money to support the group and set up 'check-in points' in various places. The rise of the boy band may help revive the former glory of Hong Kong singers, whose influence in Asia is diminishing due to the rise of the entertainment industries in Japan, Korea and the Chinese Mainland.</p>
4	<p><b>Teenagers need only one dose of BioNTech vaccine to reduce the risk of myocarditis</b></p> <p>Local and overseas data show that 80% of cases of myocarditis occurred after the second dose of the BioNTech vaccine. The Centre for Health Protection recommended that adolescents aged 12 to 17 receive one dose of BioNTech vaccine instead of two. It indicates that one dose is sufficient to combat the pandemic. The Department of Health issued a message in September that young people who had booked a second dose could cancel their appointments.</p>
5	<p><b>US withdrawal from Afghanistan causes the Taliban regime's comeback</b></p> <p>The United States pulled out of Afghanistan in August that ended the most protracted military campaign in US history. The Taliban took advantage of the withdrawal of US troops to quickly take over the capital, Kabul, and other parts of the country. The collapse of the former government caused lots of civilians to flee to the airport. In addition to criticism of the US for abandoning Afghanistan, the Taliban have also been accused of violating human rights since coming to power. The uncertainty in the region has added to the fear of becoming a hotbed of terrorism.</p>

6	<p><b>Hong Kong's best-ever Olympic result: Edgar Cheung Ka-long wins Hong Kong's second gold</b></p> <p>The Hong Kong team finished the Tokyo Olympics with their best-ever results of one gold, two silver and three bronze medals. Edgar Cheung Ka-long won the gold medal in the Foil Fencing Individual Competition. It was the second gold medal in Hong Kong's Olympic history. Siobhan Bernadette Haughey won two silver medals in the 100m and 200m Freestyle Swimming Competitions. The bronze medals were won by Grace Lau Mo-sheung in the Individual Karate, Doo Hoi-kem, Minnie Soo Wai-yam and Lee Ho-ching in the Table Tennis Team, and Sarah Lee Wai-size in the Track Cycling Individual Competition.</p>
7	<p><b>Fukushima nuclear wastewater to be discharged into the sea: neighbouring countries air their dissatisfaction</b></p> <p>The 311 earthquake in Japan in 2011 triggered an incident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. Tokyo Electric Power Company has warned that the nuclear wastewater tanks will be full by 2022. The Japanese Government has passed a bill that allows discharge of radioactively contaminated wastewater into the sea. It has sparked concern in countries such as China and South Korea, as well as protests and condemnations from environmental groups from Japan and other countries. The local fishing industry is also worried that it will be hit hard.</p>
8	<p><b>Mainland strengthens measures to prevent minors from becoming addicted to online games</b></p> <p>In August, China's National Press and Publication Administration issued a circular to further tighten the regulation of online games. It stipulates that online game enterprises can only provide services to minors on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays from 8pm to 9pm in order to prevent addiction to online games. Mainland gaming giants such as Tencent and NetEase have indicated that they will comply with and implement the new regulations.</p>
9	<p><b>2 dead, 8 injured in fatal car accident in Tai Po</b></p> <p>A fatal car accident occurred on Kwong Fuk Road, Tai Po this August. A taxi went out of control and crashed into a safety island, destroying a traffic lamp post and hitting a crowd of people passing by, trapping a number of people underneath the vehicle. A large number of people worked together to lift the taxi and try to rescue the trapped victims. The accident left two dead and eight injured, aged between 4 and 70 years old. The 63-year-old driver was charged with causing death by dangerous driving.</p>
10	<p><b>Business sector launches lucky draw to encourage vaccination</b></p> <p>The Government launched the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme early this year. As of the end of October, 69% and 66% of the population had received the first and second doses of the vaccine respectively, falling short of the target vaccination rate of 70%. In response to the Government's vaccination programme, the business sector has launched various lucky draws to encourage people to get vaccinated, with prizes including flats, shopping vouchers and air tickets.</p>

11	<p><b>Tropical cyclones hit Hong Kong in quick succession and the Observatory is criticised for its arrangements for announcements</b></p> <p>Tropical cyclones Lionrock and Kompasu hit Hong Kong back-to-back in October. Lionrock lasted for 23 hours and became the longest typhoon signal No. 8 in force. The typhoon signal was lowered only two and a half days later when Typhoon Kompasu was hoisted, setting a record for the shortest time for two typhoon signals to be hoisted in a row. The Observatory was criticised for its arrangements for announcements during the typhoons. During the storms, a scaffolding on the external wall of a building in Happy Valley collapsed that killed one person and injured another.</p>
12	<p><b>Education Bureau ends partnership with half-century-old PTU</b></p> <p>The 48-year-old Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union (HKPTU) passed a motion to dissolve by a large majority in September. The Union's president Fung Wai-wah regarded the decision as difficult. In late July, HKPTU was criticised by the mainland government media as a malignant tumour that must be removed. The Education Bureau announced the termination of its partnership with HKPTU and criticised the Union's conduct in recent years as unprofessional and comparable to a political group the following day.</p>
13	<p><b>Teachers and students with a 70% vaccination rate can apply for full resumption of classes</b></p> <p>The Education Bureau announced in August that all teachers and students who had completed two doses of the vaccine would be eligible to apply for resumption of full-day face-to-face classes, lunch and extra-curricular activities, while certain year which can fulfil this condition can apply for class resumption as well. Students aged 12 to 17 who had received one dose of the vaccine would also be eligible. As of early October, 191 secondary schools applied to resume full-day classes, of which 32 had applied for full-school face-to-face teaching.</p>
14	<p><b>Taiwan train derails with 200 casualties</b></p> <p>In April, while passing through the Clearwater Tunnel in Hualien County, a <i>Taroko Express</i> train under Taiwan Railways carrying nearly 500 passengers derailed after crashing at high speed into a construction vehicle that had fallen down a hill onto the tracks, causing 49 deaths and 245 injuries. It is the deadliest train derailment in Taiwan's history. Seven construction workers were detained on suspicion of negligence, hit-and-run and corruption with the railway authority.</p>
15	<p><b>Hong Kong team wins 2 silver and 3 bronze medals at Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games</b></p> <p>The Hong Kong team won 2 silver and 3 bronze medals at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. Leung Yuk-wing won a bronze medal in the individual BC4 event in boccia, and then teamed up with Vivian Lau Wai-yan and Wong Kwan-hang to win a silver medal in the doubles event. Chu Man-kai and Chan Ho-yuen also won a silver medal and a bronze medal in badminton SH6 and WH2 events respectively. The other bronze medal was won by 17-year-old table tennis player Wang Ting-ting in the women's singles TT11.</p>
16	<p><b>Huawei's Meng Wanzhou Released from Canada after Reaching Agreement with US</b></p> <p>In late 2018, the United States charged Chinese telecommunications equipment company Huawei and its Deputy Chair Meng Wanzhou with violating sanctions against Iran and bank fraud. Meng was arrested while transiting Canada and a nearly three-year extradition hearing was held. In this September, the US reached a deferred prosecution agreement with Meng, and Canada immediately terminated the hearings and Meng was released. Two Canadian citizens detained by China were also released.</p>

17	<p><b>Ocean Park receives another government injection and finally opens its water park after 4 years of delay</b></p> <p>Ocean Park has been losing money in recent years. The Government injected about \$12 billion into the park from last year to early this year to reform its operation mode. Under the new proposal, the three rides, namely "Mine Train", "Raging River" and "Abyss", would be retired and the park transformed into a resort and leisure area. The \$4 billion Water Park, which had been delayed for four years, opened in mid-autumn with dynamic pricing.</p>
18	<p><b>Five-year-old girl abused to death: biological father and stepmother found guilty of murder</b></p> <p>Two siblings lived with their biological father, stepmother and step-grandmother. They were suspected to have been abused for a long time causing the death by coma of the five-year-old younger female sibling. The girl's biological father and stepmother were charged with murder. The case was brought to the High Court this April, and the two suspects were convicted of murder in addition to the child cruelty charges they had previously pleaded guilty to, while the girl's step-grandmother was also charged with child abuse.</p>
19	<p><b>Apple Daily ceases publication after 26 years, bidding farewell with millions of copies</b></p> <p>The <i>Apple Daily</i>, founded 26 years ago, was prosecuted by the Government under Hong Kong's National Security Law and had its funds frozen. It caused the newspaper's very difficult operation. The last issue of the newspaper was published on 24 June and the online edition was no longer updated. The 1 million copies of the valedictory issue were the highest single-day circulation since the newspaper's inception. Some people stayed up overnight to buy the newspaper. <i>Next Magazine</i> and <i>Eat and Travel Weekly</i> also announced their closure.</p>
20	<p><b>Biden takes office as US president, Trump still influences US politics</b></p> <p>Four people were killed when Trump supporters, armed with weapons, demonstrated earlier in the year and stormed the US Congress in an attempt to prevent confirmation of the presidential election results late last year. A number of Congress members from both parties condemned the protesters. Biden was sworn in on 20 January and has been urgently asked to address the epidemic, the economy and racial discrimination. Trump is still a powerful influence on the right in the US. He still has a strong influence on US politics.</p>
21	<p><b>A new milestone for China's spaceflight: astronauts' spacewalk, and probes on Mars</b></p> <p>China launched spacecrafts Shenzhou 12 and Shenzhou 13 in June and October respectively. The astronauts were sent to the Tiangong Space Station for a mission and long-term stay, while the Tianwen 1 orbiter successfully landed on Mars in May. It was China's first successful mission to Mars and marked that China had reached a new milestone in its space career.</p>
22	<p><b>Over 300 people killed, half a hundred missing in Henan rainstorm</b></p> <p>In mid-July, Henan Province was hit by what was described as a "once-in-a-millennium" rainstorm, which triggered massive flooding. 14 people were killed in the Zhengzhou Metro Line 5, and 6 people were killed in Jingguang North Road tunnels during the extremely heavy rainfall on 20 July. According to statistics, about 14 million people were affected, 302 people were killed and 50 people were missing, with losses of about RMB100 billion in the province.</p>

23	<p><b>Famous Mainland artist Wu Yifan arrested on suspicion of rape</b></p> <p>Mainland artist Wu Yifan was criminally detained by the Beijing Chaoyang Police Station in July on suspicion of rape. Wu was alleged to have contacted a number of young women on the internet since May last year on the pretext of casting a female lead in a music video. He took the opportunity to induce them, among them were underage girls, into sex intercourses. The incident was uncovered by the victim. Upon investigation Wu was arrested in mid-August.</p>
24	<p><b>New coronaviruses found in many countries: vaccine protection a concern</b></p> <p>The number of infections has risen again due to the discovery of new strains of coronaviruses in many countries such as Alpha and Delta, which are more transmissible and more likely to cause death in unvaccinated people. While some people are concerned about the lack of protection from the vaccine, scientists believe that the vaccine is still effective and can save patients from serious illness. There was also the first case of a mutated virus of unknown origin in Hong Kong in June. Fortunately, there has been no outbreak of community transmission.</p>
25	<p><b>National Security Law implemented: 47 people charged with subversion of state power</b></p> <p>The National Security Law came into force last year. It stipulates the HKSAR's constitutional responsibility to safeguard national security and prevent political activities or organisations from subverting state power. This January the police arrested over 50 pro-democracy activists who were participating in the 35+ Legislative Council primary election in 2020. 47 of them were charged with subversion of state power. The arrested were in the trial in March and 15 were granted bail.</p>
26	<p><b>The Tuen Ma Line, the longest MTR line, runs through Kowloon and the New Territories</b></p> <p>The entire MTR Tuen Ma Line, which runs through New Territories West, Kowloon and New Territories East, has 27 stations, making it the longest railway line in Hong Kong. On the opening day, many people took the first train. The lyrics of the song "I'm so excited about the opening of the Tuen Ma Line" written by railway fans became the talk of the town. There were also concerns that the line would not have enough capacity for transporting residents of many districts.</p>
27	<p><b>H&amp;M refuses to use cotton from Xinjiang: Chinese people boycott strike</b></p> <p>In March, Swedish clothing brand H&amp;M issued a statement that it would no longer work with clothing manufacturers in Xinjiang and would no longer use Xinjiang cotton. The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI), of which H&amp;M is a member, suspended its Better Cotton licence from the Xinjiang clothing manufacturers last year after accusing Xinjiang of forced labour. Following the incident, H&amp;M and other members of BCI were called upon to be boycotted by the Chinese public.</p>



28	<b>Senior Secondary Curriculum Reform Liberal Studies to be renamed Citizenship and Social Development</b>
	The Curriculum Development Council (CDC) approved in June the renaming of Liberal Studies to Citizenship and Social Development at Secondary 4 level with effect from the 2021/22 school year. The contact hours will be reduced by half and the content will be changed to three areas: Hong Kong under "One Country, Two Systems", Our Country since Reform and Opening up, and Interconnectedness and Interdependence of the Contemporary World, together with a study tour to the mainland. There will be only one paper in the public examination, and results will be reported as "Attained" or "Unattained".
29	<b>Tokyo Olympics postponed for a year, but held smoothly despite the epidemic</b>
	With the new epidemic, Tokyo 2020 was postponed until 23 July this year without a change of its name and became the first Olympic Games to be postponed in history. The Olympic Committee took a series of measures, including closed-door competitions, banning athletes from contact with the public, and requiring daily COVID-19 testing of participants, accompanying delegates and journalists. The process went smoothly and the Games ended on 8 August.
30	<b>Hong Kong's brain drain intensifies, raising concerns about the resurgence of emigration</b>
	According to the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority, nearly \$6.6 billion has been withdrawn from retirement funds due to permanent departure from Hong Kong, and the amount hits a seven-year high. The Census and Statistics Department announced that the mid-year population dropped by about 87,000 compared to last year, a second consecutive year of decline. About 89,000 people moved out of Hong Kong during the same period, a three-fold increase over last year. The Government stated that population movement was not conceptually the same as migration, which raises concerns about the resurgence of migration trends.

The above shortlisted news is sorted randomly, and the news is as of 31 October 2021. The election results will be announced in early January 2022.