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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **#MeToo movement affects after the court rejects workplace sexual harassment case:** In 2018, [Zhou Xiaoxuan](#) came forward boldly to hold the TV host Zhu Jun accountable for sexually harassing her in 2014. Seeing this, many women came forward to share their stories on social media. However, last year, the court rejected her case on the grounds of lack of evidence supporting workplace sexual harassment. This Wednesday, her last appeal was rejected again. This has created a blowback to the #MeToo movement in China.
- **DYX banned after criticizing traditional cure to COVID 19:** DXY, a popular online health platform, which criticizes the government's COVID policies, was censored by the authorities on grounds of violating laws and regulations. It has questioned the impact of a [traditional medicine](#) which can treat Covid-19. The government had accepted the medicine which consisted of honeysuckle and apricot seeds but an article by DXY questioned its use. The article has been banned from the website. The social media accounts of DXY has been frozen as a result of this.

NEWS IN CHINA

- After US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan last week, tensions between the mainland and Taiwan have heightened. Beijing is attempting at targeting the pro-independence leaders and blocking the trade. It has halted the imports of citrus fruits and processed food, and banned the export of natural sand. The [economic blockade](#) is likely to disrupt trade and affect the semiconductor industry.

Experts believe that China is unlikely to hurt the economy of Taiwan as it would lead to unfavorable consequences for the mainland.

- Travelers in Hong Kong struggled as airfares skyrocketed with the government making travel more attractive. The duration for hotel quarantine was reduced from seven days to three days, with limited freedom of movement. People are finding it extremely difficult to travel to popular locations like Osaka and Bangkok. The opportunity to use air miles is unlikely as all the flights are fully booked and the other option - to buy a ticket - is expensive. The cheapest Cathay Pacific round trip flight from Hong Kong to London cost around HKD 17,000 in August which is 41% higher than the prices of July.
 - The Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi announced this Wednesday in a meeting held with the Nepali counterpart, Narayan Khadka, that China will provide 800 million yuan to Nepal as aid. Apart from financial aid, the two states made agreements on several fronts that strengthen their relations. China will also provide chemical fertilizers, Covid 19 vaccines and other medical assistance to Nepal. Khadka emphasized on the support of Nepal on the 'One China Policy' and assured that no Nepali activity will be directed at harming Beijing.
 - The Ministry of Public Security is set to detect the cases of dissemination of pornographic materials for profit. Under the aegis of the Public Security Administration, 64 people have been arrested, a criminal gang which operated obscene cartoons for an online application has been destroyed, and a profit making case has been cracked. After spending months collecting evidence, the public security has successfully tracked the functions and organizational structure of such criminal gangs. The launch of 'Hundred Days of Action' by the public security to track the criminal activities affecting the mental and physical health of minors by promoting obscene content has been successful.
 - Recently, China conducted military drills in Taiwan as a part of Chinese strategy to take the Taiwan region under its control. The PLA conducted several drills and is planning to conduct more in the future. The drills commenced last Thursday during the visit of Nancy Pelosi in Taiwan. These drills are a part of the war that might take place in the near future which can make Taiwan unstable to retaliate. Landing drills were performed on Tuesday by the 73rd Group Army of PLA. a joint blockade that includes aerial combat, and sea support operations was also conducted.
 - China has put a hold on a proposal by India and US to blacklist Abdul Rauf Azhar, brother of Jaish-e-Mohammed leader Masood Azhar and a senior leader of the terrorist organization. The proposal will designate Azhar as a terrorist, put travel bans, and freeze his assets. China has refrained itself from accepting the proposal and this is the second time China has done so with regards to blacklisting a terrorist. Despite evidence proving Azhar's involvement in militant activities, organizing suicide attacks in India in 2008, India's Permanent Representative to the
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UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj expressed her discontent over Chinese response towards such terrorists.

- After Chinese drills in Taiwan were claimed to be over, the Chinese and Taiwanese ships had a standoff in the waters near Taiwan. Taiwan rejected a white paper released by Beijing which reiterated the 'reunification' of Taiwan with China. Two Taiwanese ships were seen 'shadowing' the Chinese ships in the waters according to Sentinel Hub, the satellite data provider. The White Paper was released on Wednesday which focused on reuniting Taiwan with China. However, the former believes that it can take decisions on its own and the 'one country, two systems' policy is unlikely to benefit the citizens of Taiwan.
- According to a report published by Japan's science and technology ministry, China now stands as the world leader in scientific research by publishing the highest number of scientific research papers yearly, followed by the US and Germany. Most of the papers were centered around materials science, chemistry, engineering and mathematics.

United States explicitly acknowledged that the Chinese along both side of the Taiwan Strait maintain that there is only one China and that Taiwan is a part of China in the Shanghai Communiqué of 1972. The American government does not disagree with such assertion."The United States of America recognises the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legitimate Government of China and recognises the Chinese position that there is but one China and Taiwan is part of China," the U.S. vowed in the Chinese Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations in 1978. The three joint statements served as the political cornerstone for the long-term stability of China-US ties.

INDIA WATCH

- The Chinese refusal of blacklisting Abdul Rauf Azhar speaks about the double standards of Chinese policies and claims at supporting human rights and condemning horrendous acts of terrorism. It puts China in a tough position in the UN Security Council as putting hold on such proposals clearly shows its support for criminal activities carried out by the terrorists.