

12 AUGUST 2022

DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Shanghai witnesses chaotic scenes as people flee a building following an abnormal test result:** Chinese social media saw videos of the hysterical events in Shanghai as numerous people were seen running from a building. On August 12, about 3 p.m., the incident took place at the Oriental Fisherman's Wharf's A1 building in Shanghai's Yangpu District. Some commentators asked if they were filming a movie, while others made jokes about the possibility of a [zombie apocalypse](#). It is asserted that everybody present was told of the unusual positive Covid test result and the ensuing 48-hour local lockdown. A seven-day stretch of no occurrences of Covid was broken on Thursday when Shanghai recorded 7 cases, the most since July 28.
- **The 1950 battle on Hainan Island provided "valuable experience" for future landings:** The Eastern Theatre Command's social media accounts highlight [Hainan battle](#) exhibition. It follows large-scale drills conducted throughout Taiwan in response to US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit last week. The battle was one of the PLA's few sea landings in its history, and it came a year after an assault on two KMT-held islands had failed. Beijing regards the island as a breakaway province and has vowed to take it back by force if necessary.

NEWS IN CHINA

- The rapid pace of regulation implementation in China was frequently unexpected. Investors in other countries could

monitor the legislative process or legal proceedings to see if new rules will be implemented. This industry can also help the economy, which is still recovering from lockdowns. China's internet and social media giants are among those whose revenue has been impacted by new regulations, but the impact should fade over time. They've been looking for ways to cut costs in order to protect profits, implying that earnings should return to a more positive growth path in 2023. In addition to these internet companies, other areas of technology are benefiting from policy shifts as Beijing seeks to reduce China's reliance on imported semiconductors and software.

- Yunnan Province in Southwest China is determined to become a trading hub for South and Southeast Asia. Yan Song, 55, claims to have been among the first to sell apples from Zhaotong, Yunnan, to Thailand in 1997. They transported goods along the Mekong River in sampans, which are skiffs common in Asia.
 - President Xi Jinping has urged the international community to reach an agreement on promoting development, creating an enabling environment, and fostering new driving forces for global development. In a letter to the International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on the Global Development Initiative, he made the remarks. He noted that the global economy is currently being influenced by a number of factors, and that the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been hampered.
 - China is willing to explore a "one country, two systems" solution for Taiwan as the two sides work to achieve peaceful reunification. A spokesman for the mainland's Taiwan affairs office said he believes compatriots in Taiwan will eventually accept such an arrangement. Taiwan dismissed a white paper published by the mainland on Wednesday as "full of wishful thinking". Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu said the white paper righteously reiterates to the world the fact that Taiwan is part of China. Tam Yiu-chung, a Hong Kong member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, said the paper further clarifies the historical logic behind the nation's efforts in realizing full reunification of the country.
 - Beijing was outsmarted and humiliated by the way India treated Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka refused to allow the Chinese research vessel Yuan Wang 5 to refuel at the Hambantota port of all places! The decision was made in response to Indian pressure. The refusal, if there is a silver lining for China, is that it punctures the Western narrative about China's debt-trap diplomacy. India has emerged as a top lender and rescuer, pledging to provide approximately \$5 billion in aid, \$3.8 billion of which is for this year. What India has truly demonstrated is that it is capable of both bending Sri Lanka and humiliating China in a single act. It could play hardball and make life difficult for Colombo at the IMF, driving the country even closer to India.
 - Taiwan faces a difficult task in avoiding mainland China as a source of rare earth
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minerals, which are used in the manufacture of consumer electronics. According to experts, the world's second largest economy has a disproportionate share of global reserves and advanced mining. For the past six years, Taiwan's government has urged businesses to reshore production from the mainland or consider alternative bases in Southeast Asia. Taiwan has vital minerals but does not want mines because of the pollution they would cause. While Taiwan seeks new sources of rare earths, the minerals are becoming more accessible in China. According to a senior analyst, China's industry had a scale economy, high volume production, and "an ecosystem of players up and down the value chain." Other countries have begun mining as well, despite earlier environmental concerns about their environmental impact. According to analysts, China's advantage in rare earths may not last forever, as demand from its tech industries has increased.

- Nancy Pelosi's visit to China's Taiwan region is pure political theatre with nothing to do with democracy, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin at a press conference in Beijing on Friday. Wang also stated that China will work with its peace-loving and justice-seeking allies to firmly oppose any risky moves that undermine regional peace. According to Wang, China has offered significant assistance to the United States in dealing with the fentanyl crisis and has demonstrated sufficient sincerity to carry out cooperation. According to data, nearly 93,000 people died from drug overdoses in 2020, with fentanyl abuse accounting for 60% of the deaths. China is

the first country in the world to classify fentanyl-related substances.

- China is expected to meet its inflation target this year. The country has several favourable conditions to maintain overall price stability. According to official data, China's CPI increased 2.7 percent year on year in July. The central bank's monetary policy will remain prudent, according to the report.
- Over 30,000 people have been infected with the monkeypox virus since May. While it can be transmitted to anyone through any type of close contact, the majority of cases reported outside of Africa were spread within the LGBTQ community. According to experts, the virus is primarily spreading during the current outbreak through intimate physical contact during sex. As the first monkeypox cases arrive in Asia, public health campaigns are critical in persuading people to seek testing. People in homophobic countries may avoid seeking help out of fear of discrimination or criminal penalties. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director general of the World Health Organization, warned that this could make "the outbreak much more difficult to track and stop."

INDIA WATCH

- While China's debt trap has already pushed Sri Lanka over the edge, Beijing isn't done yet; a Chinese navy vessel, Yuan Wong, was planned. Officially, the Chinese government refers to it as a research ship, but in reality, it is a spy vessel. The Yuan Wong is used to track satellites and missiles, and its total range is nearly 750
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kilometers. It is scheduled to dock in the port of Hambantota, which is less than 160 kilometers from India, so it makes sense that India would pose the threat and officials in Colombo registered a protection with Sri Lanka's foreign ministry. However, the pressure worked, and Sri Lanka's foreign ministry sent a note to China's embassy in Colombo saying, "The ministry wishes to request that the arrival date of the vessel Yuan Wang 5 in Hambantota to be deferred until further consultations are made on this matter." In retaliation, China implied that India was 'disturbing' Sri Lankan relations. While it's challenging for Sri Lanka to strike a balance between India, which has stepped up to help whether it's through humanitarian relief or IMF bailout discussions, and on the one hand, China, the country's largest creditor and investor.
