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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Hu Xijin protested about the pay reduction for public employees, but internet users disapproved:** An employee of the government told Hu Xijin, the former editor-in-chief of the [Global Times](#), that pay started to decline at the end last year and is predicted to fall by roughly one-third this year. According to him, the government ought to place a high priority on it. Every day, more than 24 million people read the article. Out of the more than 40,000 comments, the majority favoured lowering federal officials' salaries and even expressed a desire to fire them.

NEWS IN CHINA

- In response to the church fire event in Egypt, [Egyptian President Sisi](#) received a message of condolence from Chinese President Xi Jinping on August 16. A church fire that resulted in numerous fatalities in Egypt upset Xi Jinping. "I would like to send my profound condolences to the families of the deceased and the injured, on behalf of the Chinese government and people, and in my name. I also wish the injured a swift recovery."
- Frequent [military drills](#) by China in the Taiwan Strait have increased Southeast Asian nations' alertness towards China as well as heightened tensions. A conflict in the Taiwan Strait will have the support of the United States, according to the Philippine ambassador to the United States. The Taiwan Strait scenario has made the Philippines realize that security cannot be replaced by economic growth, even though the Philippines depends on China for infrastructure and economic development. The Philippines won't separate from China,

according to some comments, and China has more economic sway in Asia than the US.

- Officials and experts said on Monday that while China's economy has continued to recover, more has to be done to increase domestic demand, infrastructure spending, and consumption to support development. After China's industrial output, consumption, and investment increased gradually in July, despite setbacks from new COVID-19 outbreaks and declining demand, they made their comments.
- Tuesday, August 16, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC) acknowledged that it had spoken with the visiting congressional delegation about its investments in the United States. During their two-day trip to Taiwan, Senator Ed Markey and four members of the House of Representatives from both parties met President Tsai Ing-wen and went to the Legislative Yuan on Monday, August 15.
- The vice president of the Legislative Yuan, Cai Qichang, and Taiwan's representative to the United States, Xiao Meiqin, were among the seven people who made up the latest wave of "Taiwan independence diehards," according to the Taiwan Affairs Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. The Mainland Affairs Council of Taiwan criticized the opposing side's action, saying it was solely intended to vent internal turbulence, scare Taiwan and the international community, and incite conflict and unease.
- On Monday, China's central bank unexpectedly reduced interest rates,

indicating that despite probable increases in structural inflationary pressure, the nation is still willing to lend more money overall in the coming months. The country's loan prime rates, or the market-driven benchmark lending rates, are projected to decrease this month as a result of Monday's rate cuts, boosting corporate credit demand and containing a real estate slump, they added.

- China's overall unemployment rate continued to drop last month but remained higher than the same period the previous year and the numbers of unemployed among the young were of particular concern, an official said on Monday. Fu Linghui, the spokesman for the National Bureau of Statistics, said that the surveyed urban unemployment rate stood at 5.4 per cent in July, down by 0.1 of a percentage point from the previous month.

INDIA WATCH

- A new joke among Chinese economists claims that few of them are prepared to discuss the domestic economy these days, finding it far more comfortable to instead discuss subjects like the possibility of a US recession. Given that Chinese authorities are becoming less tolerant of dissenting voices, it is natural that people are reluctant to voice concerns about China's economic predicament or Beijing's associated policies. Speaking out against a government policy could be interpreted as a deliberate insult to the central authorities. Even a well-intentioned warning about market dangers can be misconstrued as "badmouthing" the administration or a "deliberate attempt to short the Chinese economy." China's
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economic destiny is currently obscured by numerous important uncertainties. How the nation can balance economic growth and its zero-COvid strategy is the big issue. Is it conceivable to eventually accomplish both goals, as the nation achieved in 2020 and 2021? What is the exit strategy if not? Is the adage "progress is the hard truth," coined by Deng Xiaoping, really true today? Does China still favour practicality over dogma, in other words? These issues warrant in-depth study and debate because they affect all Chinese people, if not the entire world. When the most knowledgeable professionals in the nation refuse to provide solutions, it is undoubtedly a bad omen.
