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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Chinese social media censored 'Hu Jintao':** After netizens attempted to search for former President [Hu Jintao](#), they discovered that it is censored in China on Monday, after he was unceremoniously removed from the ruling Chinese Communist Party Congress over the weekend. On Saturday, a security guard physically lifted a confused-looking Hu from his seat at the leaders' rostrum and escorted him past leader Xi Jinping, with whom he attempted to speak, and out of the hall. After being elected for a third five-year term, Xi became China's most powerful leader since Mao Zedong. Following the incident, no discussion of the incident was permitted on Chinese social media platforms, and keyword searches were prohibited.

## NEWS IN CHINA

- China and the Vatican have agreed to extend the provisional agreement on the appointment of [bishops](#) for another two years after friendly negotiations, a spokesperson for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed on Monday. In response to a question from the press during Monday's daily press briefing, Wang Wenbin stated that the agreement was reached on Saturday. According to Wang, the two will maintain close contact and consultation to ensure proper implementation of the provisional agreement and to continuously advance the process of improving bilateral ties.
- China's global standing has dropped dramatically since 2019, while support for defending Taiwan against a Chinese attack has increased, according to the [results](#) of a poll conducted by

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the YouGov-Cambridge Globalism Project from August 24 to September 22 on October 23. The Guardian published the results of a survey conducted by the YouGov-Cambridge Globalism Project from August 24 to September 22 on October 23. Overall, the survey revealed a significant decline in China's international standing since the first poll was conducted in 2019, indicating that respondents in 20 of the 25 countries polled prefer the United States to China as the most powerful force in global politics. Many countries have seen a significant drop in pro-China sentiment, with Poland reporting the greatest drop from 46% to 24%. Other countries have also seen significant drops in pro-China sentiment.

- China's GDP increased by 3.9 percent year on year in the third quarter, up from 0.4 percent in the second quarter, indicating a steady rebound despite factors beyond expectations, according to the National Bureau of Statistics on October 24th. According to the Bureau, China's GDP increased by 3% year on year in the first three quarters to 87.03 trillion yuan (\$12 trillion), up from a 2.5 percent increase in the first half. According to NBS data, China's value-added industrial output, a measure of activity in the manufacturing, mining, and utility sectors, increased by 6.3 percent year on year in September, following a 4.2 percent increase in August. Value-added industrial output increased by 3.9 percent in the first three quarters of the year compared to the same period last year, while it increased by 3.4 percent in the first half. Retail sales, a key indicator of consumer spending, increased by 2.5 percent year on year in September,

following a 5.4 percent increase in August. Retail sales increased by 0.7 percent in the first three quarters compared to the same period last year but fell by 0.7 percent in the first half. Fixed-asset investment, which includes expenditures on infrastructure, real estate, machinery, and equipment, increased by 5.9 percent year on year in the first three quarters, up from 5.8 percent in the first eight months of the year. Fixed-asset investment increased by 5.7 percent year on year in the third quarter, while it increased by 4.2 percent year on year in the second quarter. According to the NBS, the surveyed urban jobless rate was 5.5 percent in September, up from 5.3 percent in August.

- Four years into the trade war, China has lost significant US market share in IT hardware and consumer electronics to Mexico and Taiwan, according to a new study, though its exports of low-end semiconductors have not yet been fully replaced. Former US President Donald Trump launched the trade war in 2018 by imposing a 25% tariff on Chinese-made network servers, modems, routers, wireless headphones, and smartwatches. Since then, US imports of IT hardware and consumer electronics from China have dropped 62%, while imports from the rest of the world have increased by 60%. Prior to July 2018, China accounted for 47% of US chip imports by volume, but its share fell to 39% immediately after tariffs were imposed. According to a study released on Thursday by the Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE).
  - The Foreign Ministry of China commented on Rishi Sunak's election as Prime Minister
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of the United Kingdom. "We have come across relevant reports. China's position on the development of Sino-British relations is consistent and unambiguous. Maintaining and developing bilateral relations is a shared responsibility of China and the United Kingdom, and it serves the mutual interests of the two peoples." Wang Wenbin explained. Wang Wenbin stated that China hopes to collaborate with the UK to move China-UK relations forward on the basis of mutual respect, mutual benefit, and win-win outcomes.

## INDIA WATCH

- After being elected Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Rishi Sunak is expected to take tough measures against China. During his campaign, he promised to close all Chinese Confucius centres because he believes China uses them for spying and mischief. Sunak also identified China as the greatest threat to the United Kingdom, citing recent reports of China bribing former RAF pilots to train PLA pilots as raising additional security concerns that could stymie Sino-UK relations. The United Kingdom was expected to take action against China as a US and NATO ally, but Rishi intends to go even further. This emphasises India's significance to the United Kingdom as an IndoPacific partner. Sunak is also seen as endorsing a free trade agreement with India that was stalled by Truss's government, and he is under pressure as EU free trade agreement talks have resumed, and France is offering itself as the EU's gateway to India, posing a challenge to 10 Downing Street.
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