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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **On Monday, Hollywood's first Chinese-American celebrity, Anna May Wong, became the first Asian-American to appear on US currency:** In the 1920s, Anna May Wong rose to prominence as the first Chinese-American movie actress in Hollywood after starring in hits like "[The Red Lantern](#)" and "[The Thief of Baghdad](#)" while also overcoming pervasive prejudice in Hollywood. A century later, she broke another record by being the first Asian-American to appear on U.S. currency; the U.S. Mint will soon start releasing a new quarter featuring her portrait. She continued to further Chinese-American representation by auctioning off her costumes and featuring in a number of anti-Japanese propaganda films after the Sino-Japanese War broke out in 1937. She passed away in 1961 from a heart attack, yet her legacy lives on today.

NEWS IN CHINA

- On October 26, the People's Bank of China (PBOC), China's central bank, will release a pair of commemorative coins portraying giant pandas. All 14 of the 2023 edition's coins will be accepted as legal money in China. Each coin's front side will display the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests, the main building of the Temple of Heaven in Beijing, the official name of the nation and the year of issuance. Giant pandas climbing a tree will be engraved on the back of each coin, which will also bear the coin's weight, denomination, and information on the purity of the precious metal it was made of.
- From October 26 to 30, Beijing will host the 37th session of

the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), during which China's top legislature will continue to amend the law to address troubling issues in the protection of women's rights and interests. Zang Tiewei, the spokesperson for the Legislative Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of the NPC stated that the revision is based on China's national conditions and does not replicate West's systems and methods. The third revision will emphasise the need to promote gender equality and defend women's rights to privacy, reputation, labour, and social security in a manner appropriate for the current situation under the country's cultural and social background, customs, and legal system.

- Taiwan is likely to increase the monthly salary for conscripts to at least NT\$15,000 (US\$465) to make compulsory military service more appealing in the face of Beijing's threat to accelerate plans to attack the island. Given that the training is rigorous, the current monthly compensation for conscripts doing their four months of mandatory military duty in Taiwan is NT\$6,510, which is far less than the minimum NT\$26,400 pay for workers on the island. Cross-strait tensions have risen, prompting Taiwan to explore extending compulsory military service to a year to better equip soldiers to deal with mainland forces in the event of war. Following local elections, the government is anticipated to approve the extension plan. Taiwanese men who were born in 2006 and later are likely to meet the extended military service requirement.
- Chinese President Xi Jinping urged the

Chinese military on Monday to remain focused on the objectives the CPC Central Committee has set for the armed forces to reach by 2027, the year that would mark the centennial of the People's Liberation Army. Making the military a top-tier force is a strategic requirement for transforming China into a modern, socialist country. All members of the armed forces, according to Xi, need to completely comprehend Party's philosophy towards military power, carefully examine the philosophy's core ideas, and use those ideas as internal driving force to create a military of the highest calibre.

- China initiated an effort called the Baisha Splendid Art Institute in Baisha Ancient Town in Lijiang City to reduce severe poverty in addition to developing roads and housing and relocating millions of Chinese from desolate villages to new towns. Baisha Town has been considering how to best utilise the local tourism assets and has focused on the Naxi people's centuries-old needlework traditions. According to the locals, the province sent the best needlework masters to teach the local rural women how to embroider six years ago. They returned to their villages to impart their knowledge to other ladies after learning. Following their training, they went back to their villages and instructed other women. Now, dozens of women are employed by Baisha Jinxiu Art Institute, and several hundred others work at home doing embroidery either full- or part-time.
 - China's central bank and foreign exchange regulator boosted a key macroprudential management parameter on Tuesday, allowing enterprises and financial
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institutions to raise cash from abroad markets. The People's Bank of China and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange jointly announced that the macro-prudential adjustment parameter, a multiplier that determines the maximum amount of outstanding cross-border funding an institution can have, has been revised to 1.25 from 1 previously. The announcement further stated that the upward revision intends to help businesses and financial institutions optimise their foreign debt structure and further strengthen the macro-prudential management of cross-border finance.

INDIA WATCH

- The goal of bolstering the military by 2027 was added to the CPC's constitution at its 20th Congress, making Xi Jinping the only party leader to have a military term named after him. India and Taiwan were immediately impacted by Xi Jinping's call for modifying security posture, preventing and managing crises, and winning local wars. Despite Xi Jinping's rhetoric, Beijing has been under the most pressure over the past three decades from both the inside and the outside. Beijing will face further pressure if it maintains its arrogance. India should push for boundary settlement or LAC demarcation right now since it may be less expensive politically to do so than to maintain an active front with China. The standoffs will persist unless the LAC is demarcated, thus India shouldn't calm things down with a token retreat.
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