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DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **Chinese netizens slam sportswear brand over insensitive sportswear:** Li-Ning, a Chinese sportswear manufacturer, has come under fire for releasing "Pursue a Dream," a clothing collection replicating Japanese wartime uniforms. The clothes made their debut at an airport fashion show in late September, and the olive green colour - popularly used in Japanese uniforms during WWII - quickly caught the ire of Chinese social media users. More notably, the collection included caps with ear flaps. Some internet users compared them to the military cap worn by Japanese soldiers. On Weibo, one netizen wrote, "Boycott Li-Ning! It designed uniforms for the Japanese invaders. It hurts our feelings." Another user said, "A large-scale fashion brand like Li-Ning has many processes and review systems on its design. Such a mistake is almost impossible." Soon after netizens posted the criticisms, the company released a media statement on Weibo. It said, "The design of the Pursue a Dream product is based on the theme of 'flight' and draws inspiration from the pilot's equipment. Among them, the most discussed pilot cap design comes from ancient Chinese helmets, outdoor caps and cotton caps." However, netizens were not happy with the response.

NEWS IN CHINA

- Official data reveal that [outstanding loans](#) provided by China's micro-credit enterprises totalled 907.6 billion yuan (approximately 126.7 billion US dollars) at the end of September. According to a statement from the People's Bank of China, the figure fell by 34.7 billion yuan in the first three



quarters of this year. According to the central bank, there were 6,054 micro-credit enterprises in operation nationwide as of last month. Micro-lenders primarily target small businesses and low-income individuals in need of money. China has tightened the sector's restrictions in recent years to reduce financial risks.

- China has increased its efforts to remove Taiwan's remaining diplomatic allies. Foreign Minister Joseph Wu stated on Wednesday. The foreign ministry has obtained evidence indicating that allies may shift recognition to Beijing. Wu stated at a legislative briefing that the warning follows the 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). According to Wu, China's efforts to woo Taiwan's friends will intensify following the twice-decade CCP congress. The CCP amended its constitution to include the phrase "resolutely opposing and deterring" Taiwan's independence.
 - According to official figures released on Tuesday, China's fiscal revenue fell 6.6 per cent yearly for the first nine months of 2022. According to the Ministry of Finance, the country's fiscal revenue was about 15.3 trillion yuan (\$2.13 trillion). Fiscal revenue increased by 4.1 per cent yearly, excluding the impact of value-added tax credit refunds. The national government collected around 6.99 trillion yuan in fiscal revenue, a decrease of 8.6 per cent, and local governments earned 8.32 trillion yuan, a decrease of 4.9 per cent. In the January-September quarter, tax income totalled approximately 12.44 trillion yuan, an 11.6 per cent decrease yearly. According to the government, fiscal spending increased 6.2 per cent yearly to roughly 19.04 trillion yuan throughout the same period.
 - 4. On Tuesday, Shanghai began accepting bookings for inhaled COVID-19 vaccination boosters, which will be administered on Wednesday. People who have been fully immunized for at least six months and are 18 years or older are eligible for one free inhaled booster. Shanghai residents currently only require one injectable or inhaled booster. Residents can register for the booster using the Jiangkangyun (Health Cloud) App and be vaccinated with their certificates or ID cards. Family members or volunteers must accompany people above the age of 70. People from other countries living in Shanghai and citizens from Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan should follow previous vaccination protocols.
 - Customs officials in Hong Kong have seized smuggled goods worth 20 million yuan. According to Lai Enning, Assistant Superintendent of Hong Kong Customs' Organized Crime Investigation Division, on October 24, Customs officers conducted a joint anti-smuggling operation in the waterways southwest of Hong Kong. During the operation, they discovered a case of illegal smuggling to Macao via riverboats. Officers discovered several unmanifested merchandises on board and arrested two local suspects. Mr Lai revealed that there were 6,000 illicit products on board, totalling HK\$20 million, such as more than 5,000 mobile phones, more than 400 expensive watches, a batch of valuable jewellery, and some camera lenses.
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INDIA WATCH

- Looking at Taiwan's diplomatic situation, India has the opportunity to improve its relations further. Currently, India has not officially recognized Taiwan as an independent nation but operates an embassy in the country like many other countries. Stepping up its relations with Taiwan will significantly boost India's image with Taiwan's western allies while also drawing ire from China. Moreover, a Taiwanese national security official stated that semiconductors from Taiwan are irreplaceable. Stepping up ties with Taiwan will help India secure the critical components required to manufacture semiconductors in the country so that India's reliance on Taiwan will be reduced. While India has already begun the process, there is still a long way to go before it becomes independent in manufacturing semiconductor chips.
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