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# DAILY CONVERSATIONS IN CHINESE MEDIA

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## SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER IN CHINA

- **The Costly Cob:** After e-commerce site Oriental Selection decided to sell pods of corn for 6 yuan (\$0.80) each, there have been heated arguments regarding the pricing of maize on Chinese social media recently. When the well-known Kuaishou livestreamer Simba (actual name Xin Youzhi), who describes himself as a "farmer's son," blasted Oriental Selection for their grain prices, the public became aware of the issue. Oriental Selection, a platform for the online sale of agricultural products, was established in 2021 by New Oriental Online. [Oriental Selection](#) declares in its mission statement that it wants to "assist farmers" by giving them outlets to market their premium agricultural products to online shoppers. Simba asserted that by promising to assist farmers while charging a comparatively high price for their maize, Oriental Selection was misleading. Simba claimed that they were simply taking advantage of common people by charging them 6 yuan (\$0.80) for an ear of corn that is worth 0.70 yuan (\$0.10). They also claimed that by collecting 40% of the farmers' profits, they were not actually assisting the farmers.
- **Women at the Forefront:** After the national team advanced to the World Cup semifinals for the first time in 28 years, Chinese sports fans and social media users praised the women's basketball players for their athletic skill. After defeating France Thursday by a score of 85-71, Team China moved on to the semifinals of the [FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup](#). The team lost to Brazil in the championship game in 1994, the last time they came this close to winning it. Soon after the victory, the women's basketball team became a popular topic on the microblogging site Weibo, with 14

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associated hashtags generating over 350 million views as of Friday afternoon. The team's enthusiasm and sense of camaraderie was stated to have overwhelmed several people. Fans have frequently been astounded by the Chinese women's basketball team's winning streaks throughout regional competitions. Since the FIBA Women's Asia Cup began in 1965, Team China has triumphed 11 times, placing second only to South Korea. Recently, the athletes were in the limelight because of the Olympics in Tokyo in 2021. Of the "big three ball sports," which are football, basketball, and volleyball, they were the only Chinese team to make it past the group stage. Despite its success on the floor, the basketball team has had trouble getting the public's attention, particularly from the business community. Following the most recent victory, a lot of social media users demanded more sponsorships and higher pay for female athletes in comparison to their "underperforming" male counterparts.

## NEWS IN CHINA

- Friday marked the beginning of official celebrations leading up to the Oct. 1 [National Day](#) as officials of the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP) paid a visit to a memorial to revolutionary martyrs on Beijing's Tiananmen Square. In an ongoing drive to force regime opponents and migrant workers from out of town to return home ahead of the CCP's 20th National Congress, which begins on October 16, police set up barricades on main thoroughfares nearby and shut down two neighboring metro stations in Beijing. After leading the representatives of the powerful

Politburo standing committee in a 20-minute ceremony honoring Martyrs' Memorial Day at the Monument to the People's Heroes and laying floral tributes at the shrine, CCP leader Xi Jinping, who will run for an unparalleled third term in office at the party congress, attended a banquet at the Great Hall of the People. Ye Jinghuan, a Beijing-based human rights activist, claimed that main streets on either side of Tiananmen Square had been closed to vehicular traffic in advance of the ceremony and that trains were not stopping at the Tiananmen and Qianmen subway stations. Ye claimed that families planning to spend National Day shopping at the neighboring Wangfujing retail district or sightseeing around Tiananmen and the Forbidden City would be considerably inconvenienced by the stations' shutdown.

- South Asian country, Pakistan has seen in recent times, a deadly calamity that has loomed all over the nation. The devastating floods not only took the lives of many people, and displaced much more, it also crippled the already weak economy. In times of such devastating humanitarian and economic crisis, Pakistani PM Shahbaz Sharif has extended his heartfelt gratitude to China for economically supporting the country through provision of timely flood relief and aid to the affected people. [On Thursday](#) last week, Shahbaz was seen expressing his gratitude to the Chinese government, its leadership and all the people who stood with Pakistan during such difficult times at a meeting organized by the China Three Gorges Corporation for raising and donating funds. At the same meeting, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan,
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Nong Tong and a delegation of the CTG led by the deputy head of the China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Limited Du Bangxiao handed over a cheque of cash 153,092,150 Pakistani rupees (\$650,000) as a relief fund. Ambassador Nong took the opportunity to mention China's constant support to Pakistan and is the leading donor when it comes to flood relief efforts in Pakistan, and would continue to play this role in helping the country.

- The C919 large passenger aircraft project team met with representatives at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on the morning of July 30. Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, President of the People, and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, visited the exhibition of the project results and fully affirmed the staged accomplishments of the C919 large passenger aircraft research and development mission. China's large aircraft soar through the sky, carrying the nation's will, dream, and peoples' expectations. They fully exploit the benefits of the new national system, adhere to the principles of safety first and quality first, make greater strides in key core technologies, and quicken scale and serialization. Develop, vigorously support the establishment of a manufacturing base, and fight ceaselessly to realize the Chinese ideal of creating a modern socialist state on a comprehensive basis and bringing about the great renaissance of the Chinese people. The ceremony was attended by Vice Premier of the State Council and member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, Han Zheng.

- China's chief revenue planner said on Thursday that the country's private economy has experienced significant growth over the past ten years as a result of an improving market environment. The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) stated during a news conference that the number of private enterprises more than quadrupled from 10.85 million to 44.57 million over the past ten years as a supportive environment for the private economy is continuously enhanced. China's position in the current standing for its business climate increased from 96th in 2013 to 31st as a result of a number of pro-market policies. China had drawn more than 2.6 trillion dollars in foreign direct investment by the end of 2021.
- The People's Bank of China made a decision on September 30 to reduce the interest rate on the first batch of personal housing provident fund loans by 0.15 percentage points starting on October 1, 2022, and to raise the rates for loans with terms longer than 5 years and less than 5 years to 2.6% and 3.1%, respectively. The second batch of private housing provident fund loans' interest rate policy, according to the People's Bank of China, is unchanged; specifically, the interest rates for loans with terms of less less than five years (including five years) and over five years shall not be less than 3.025% and 3.575%, respectively.

## INDIA WATCH

- China's growing relation with Pakistan can be a growing concern for India,
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considering the strained relations the two countries share with each other post the border disputes in 2020. While relations between India and Pakistan have been strained for a very long time, China can use this situation to gain more regional dominance in South Asia. Recently, efforts were seen being made by the Chinese Government in helping build a stronger Pakistan Navy through economic support. With China currently playing an important role in helping Pakistan during difficult times after the devastating floods, the relation between the two is likely to grow stronger. In times like this, India should exercise caution if it wants to maintain its regional position while also maintaining its diplomatic ties with both Pakistan and China, as both countries are important economic players for India's exporting market.

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