

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Parents voice concern on Weibo:** Unprecedented crackdown on China's private education has generated many online discussions. The 'Double Reduction' (双减) rules for targeting "excessive homework" and off-campus tutoring for students in the mandatory nine-year education system has led to parents --especially those in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenyang, Guangzhou, Chengdu, Zhengzhou, Changzhi, Weihai and Nantong which are selected as national pilot cities --voice concerns about how it will further increase educational inequality as the rich can find a way around while the poor cannot. In a highly competitive educational system, parents fear their kids will be left behind.
- **Work culture norms in China under criticism:** China's state broadcaster CCTV published a 10-minute long video illustrating the 10 typical cases of overtime work laid out by the ministry and the top court. The moment was marked as the first time for the state-owned broadcaster to publicly comment on overtime work practices. Even the China's Ministry of Human Resources & Social Security (人社部) and the Supreme People's Court issued a joint clarification that a 996 work culture (9 AM-9PM, 6 days a week) which is the general norm in China is illegal. In the post-pandemic order, especially as work from home culture has grown worldwide, Chinese employees have taken to Weibo to call for change.

II. News in China

- Ahamadullah Wasik, deputy director of the Afghan Taliban Cultural Council, said in an interview with a reporter from China Central Radio and Television that the Taliban had concluded a meeting on the formation of a new Afghan government. He also said that the preparations for the inaugural meeting of the new Afghan government are being carried out in an orderly manner. Domestic and foreign guests will be invited to participate in the meeting.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit the United States during the last week of September.
- The Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements which conducts the annual Tiananmen Square memorial vigil in Hong Kong has said that it will not cooperate with the police conducting a national security investigation into the group's activities, calling it an abuse of power
- Taliban Spokesperson Suhail Shaheen has said they have the right to speak out for the rights of Muslims in Kashmir Valley. Al-Qaeda has also made a statement calling for 'liberation' of Kashmir.

- Tan Xiangdong, Secretary of the Party Leadership Group of the Health Commission of the Autonomous Region, held a press conference on the development achievements of Tibet's health undertakings in Tibet with a focus on Tibet health service system, public health safety barrier, women and children's health level, the work of health aid to Tibet and the continuous inheritance and innovation and development of Tibetan medicine have introduced the achievements of the development of health and health undertakings in the Tibet Autonomous Region.

III. India Watch

- As the Taliban readies its cabinet, China has remained in close contact with the group. Its presence at the inaugural meeting of the cabinet is likely, and formal recognition of the Taliban as Afghanistan's ruling political power may very well be undertaken soon. At this juncture, as India has begun holding its own meetings with the Taliban, it is important for New Delhi to look at formulating an official policy of engagement with Kabul with the recognition that the Taliban are here to stay.
- PM Modi's US trip must focus on US-India South Asia collaboration, with a focus on Afghanistan and security in Kashmir, and also look at enhancing technological prowess of their bilateral. The true potential of their 'global' partnership is yet to be achieved, and focusing on the same before the first in-person Quad Leadership Summit is vital.
- As Taliban and Al-Qaeda have both made statements vis-a-vis Kashmir in the past month, India's security vigil in the northern state must remain at an all-time high for fear of a terror attack carried out by direct or indirect insurgents. India's --and the US, Japan, Australia's --'wait and watch' approach regarding recognition of the Taliban will not work or hold for long.