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*DAILY*  
**CONVERSATIONS  
IN CHINESE  
MEDIA**



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**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON  
CHINA AND ASIA**

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## I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Weibo bans travel accounts:** In an attempt to crackdown on accounts deliberating misinterpreting travel video of artists, spread fake rumours and link it to social issues, Weibo is banning and suspending accounts that are involved.

## II. News in China

- Xi Jinping gave a speech at the BRICS leaders meeting where he emphasized on the need for multilateralism, cooperation and solidarity on combatting COVID-19, promoting innovation and common, sustainable development. Additionally, a declaration was made on the necessity of non-interference in internal affairs of states; focusing on peaceful and diplomatic means to resolve conflicts that are in line with the UN charter and international law.
- Afghanistan was also the focus of the BRICS meeting. The statement emphasized on peaceful resolution of conflict and stability in the country. Moreover, fighting terrorism and terrorist organizations that attempt to use Afghanistan as a base of operations and safe haven would be a top priority.
- Xi Jinping wrote to his North Korean counterpart Kim Jong Un on 73rd North Korea's National Day. He called Kim a "comrade and friend" and was "delighted to see a united, socialist DPRK that has obtained great achievements".
- Li Keqiang at the Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation Program meeting listed out key six points: respecting rights and interests of all countries, pandemic cooperation, enacting Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and implementation of free trade agreements between China and ASEAN, quickening progress for China-Thailand Railway and highway, cooperation on climate change, and promoting and upholding multilateralism and Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.
- Xi wrote a letter to teachers across the country, encouraging them to "carry forward the noble spirit of Comrade Huang Danian". Comrade Huang was a geophysicist who died in 2017, whose death led to the Ministry of Education selecting 200 teachers from across China to lead efforts in teaching and research. Xi emphasized on "training socialist builders and successors" and cultivating innovation, morality and learning.
- Wang Yi, along with foreign ministers of countries neighbouring Afghanistan, released a document highlighting support for sovereignty, integrity, independence, and non-interference with Afghanistan; forming an inclusive government based on sound internal and external policies; stressed on

- narcotic drug production and removing terrorist presence in the country; open and smooth flow of goods across the borders; adherence to the UN and allowing them safe access in the country; and calling for international institutional support for Afghanistan.
- Wang Chen visited Tibet where he investigated local areas and communities, highlighting the need for stability, development, ecology and strengthening border areas. “Forging a sense of Chinese nation as a community” was a key part of the trip, as well as the “promotion of ethnic unity and progress”.
- Wang Yeng chaired the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference which hosted a meeting on the promotion of efficient urban sewage treatment system.
- Wu Qian, the spokesperson for the Ministry of National Defence, answered questions posed by reporters with regards to comments made by the Australian Ministry of National Defence officials.
- Xi Jinping spoke to the German Chancellor Merkel over a phone call, highlighting the trust between the two countries and cooperation between the two countries despite COVID-19 pandemic.
- Guangzhou is working to stabilize the employment of poor labourers as part of alleviating poverty and improving basic data collection and storage of poor labour force.
- Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden spoke to each other through a telephone to discuss the current state of Sino-US relations as well as concerns of the two countries that they would want addressed.
- Reports of Ford withdrawing from India have gained major traction in China.
- China reported that the Indian army has initiated theater-based reforms.

### III. India Watch

- With the closure of Ford, an American car giant in India, many in Chinese media are calling Indian market a “nightmare”. Ford motors is following the footsteps of General Motors and Harley-Davidson, both of which also terminated manufacturing operations in India. As India attempts to stabilize and grow its economy in a post pandemic world, announcements of closure of such manufacturing operations is a huge blow to the Indian economy. Indian motor vehicle tax rate has been increasing over the past few years, with tax rate reaching 28%. New Delhi must improve its ease of doing business index, especially as it seeks to build new manufacturing supply chains via ventures like the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative.

- Indian military is undergoing a huge restructuring process to unify multiple headquarters in the next two to three years. The unified headquarters merge Indian Army, Navy and Air Force. Such efforts to increase cooperation and communication and improve confidence/capacity building are poised to alarm China.
- A Russian media reported that the United States is only “using” India as means to counter China. The media stated that the US only cares about its interests and is often changing it to ensure it is unchallenged as a global hegemon. It stated that with the rise of China and Sino-India tensions, US has used this as an opportunity to pit India against China and contain Chinese influence. Such narratives are an attempt to discredit years of diplomatic history of India-US relations.