

16.8.21

*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

- **Video of a Taliban member interviewing people in Kabul as a reporter goes viral on Weibo:** The video has comments from Chinese netizens stating that the person answering questions is doing so under threat and fear, with some even saying that China should not support a 'violent' Taliban just because they are enemies of the US, rather they must push for Taliban to let go of violent extremism and become a political faction.
- **Kris Wu's arrest ordered, trends on Weibo:** Beijing Chaoyang People's Procuratorate has officially authorized the arrest of actor Kris Wu on suspicion of rape. This has been celebrated on Weibo, showing the increased sense of responsibility Chinese public is now expecting from its 'stars'.

## II. News in China

- State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi had a phone conversation with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken at request. While the US has expressed hope that China will encourage Taliban to "announce a clean break with extremism, opt for an orderly transfer of power and establish an inclusive government", China enunciated that the "hasty U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan has caused a severely adverse impact on the situation in Afghanistan and it would not be responsible if it continues to create new problems".
- The pro-democracy protests in Myanmar are being watched with much focus by China. Beijing had disbursed more than \$6 million to Myanmar's military government to fund a range of development projects last week, in a sign that it was adjusting to the military coup which it initially been caught off-guard by. With pro-democracy protests sweeping the country now, Beijing is looking to once again recalibrate its interests in the region especially as Chinese state media gives conflicting reports on Beijing's take on the same.
- News outlets in China have generally followed the same line on US's withdrawal from Kabul and why the Afghan forces gave up: they all state that the withdrawal was hap-hazard and severely demotivated the spirit of the Afghan forces to fight against the Taliban.

- "Afghanistan today, Taiwan tomorrow" is reportedly trending on Taiwan's social media as per Chinese news outlets. The narrative being built is that just as the US 'deserted' Afghanistan, it will do the same to Taiwan hence Taipei should not be 'hopelessly' depending on US aid as unification with mainland is inevitable.
- Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying has stated that China "will and choice of the Afghan people" and is hoping for a peaceful transfer of power in Kabul.

### **III. India Watch**

- India's presence in Kabul is being built by its presidency at the United Nations Security Council(UNSC) at present; as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has arrived in New York to preside over two high-profile sessions of the UNSC, the scope for building on this synergy grows. Jaishankar has also met with US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken to discuss the situation in Kabul. The UNSC sessions --one on technology and peacekeeping while the other is on threats to international peace by terror groups --are priorities for India in its tenure as UNSC President. They are being held at a tactically vital time, wherein the link to both Myanmar and Afghanistan can be made with India leading the dialogue.