

19.8.21

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Hashtag #塔利班 Door-to-door knocking on the door to call each other's work# trends on Weibo:** As public opinion over Taliban remains divided in China (read our previous newsletters from this week for further assessments), this hashtag has trended with a video that shows the incident. The tag's use also shows conflicting opinions by Chinese netizens on the situation in Kabul: some have used it with a video showing an Afghani resident giving flowers to the Taliban while others have highlighted the same in a video that refers to Chinese businessmen trying to decide whether to "slow down" in Kabul or continue with trade.
- **计划生育法修订，可以生四孩了 trends on Weibo:** The phrase translates to "Amendments to the Family Planning Law , it is possible to have four children" and has gone viral on Weibo. The amended draft basically states that while the three-child policy is recommended, people will no longer be punished for having more than three children. While some Weibo users have reacted to the same with much joy, many have highlighted that they do not wish to partake in the same as economic stresses are increasing.

II. News in China

- Post return from what ORCA has for the past month followed to have been the time of Beidaihe meeting (read our previous newsletters to find out more about the same), Xi Jinping's interaction on both the domestic and international front has seen its normal traction. Xi has now spoken to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Iraqi President Barham Salih respectively about China's strong relations with the two countries.
- The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, met to discuss multiple reports with a focus on implementation of the plan for national economic and social development while also highlighting that China's economy has steadily improved in 2021.
- People's Daily has covered a feature report on Xi's personal involvement in the development in Tibet and explicitly covers two Tibet Work symposiums in 2015 and 2020.
- Wang Yang in his speech in Lhasa on 19.8.21 stated that since the peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1951, Tibet has embarked on a road from darkness to light, from backwardness to progress, from poverty to wealth, from autocracy to democracy, and from closed to open. A thriving socialist new Tibet stands tall on the top of the world.

- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has spoken to Turkish media about the situation in Afghanistan stating that the "Taliban leaders have sent positive signals to the outside world" and emphasized that Taliban plan to "make a clear break with all terrorist forces".
- Liu Zongyi, the Secretary-General of the China and South Asia Cooperation Research Center at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, has recently given an interview to Guancha in which he has said "Although the Taliban is now showing a very big change in internal affairs and diplomacy, I don't think its basic ideology has changed much. The current posture display may only be a strategic approach, and the Islamic fundamentalism they pursued may not have changed much. According to Islamic teachings, terrorists like "East Turkestan" are their brothers of the same religion, and they have the obligation to protect them and provide them with shelter. So, in this respect, we can ask the Afghan Taliban not to support "East Turkestan", but it may still accommodate "East Turkistan" elements."

III. India Watch

- While Wang has portrayed the Taliban in a positively-changing light, Liu has insisted that the grouping remains ideologically the same. Liu and Wang's statements vis-a-vis Taliban show splintering within the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) itself in terms of their take on Taliban.
- Wang Yang's Tibet trip saw him state that "No external forces have the right to point fingers at Tibet affairs, and any attempts and tricks to split Tibet will end in failure." He also mentioned that "It is necessary to consolidate and develop Tibet's good situation of harmony and stability, and ensure national security and the stability of its borders." These comments must be viewed by New Delhi as indirectly referencing to India's connect with the future of Tibet, especially as succession debate for the 14th Dalai Lama begins to occupy more space in strategic circles.