

23.8.21

*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

- **America's Nike and China's Erke trend on Weibo:** While Erke is being praised and hailed as a patriotic brand, Nike on the other hand is facing intense backlash due to certain individual exacerbated incidents. Concurrently, brands like Adidas are also facing low approval ratings in China in comparison to Chinese counterparts like Anta Sportswear. This diversion started post Better Cotton Initiative's 'Xinjiang Cotton Ban' which led to an online 'Xinjiang Cotton Support' campaign in China.
- **Chinese athletes start trending again in light of Paraolympics in Japan:** Continuing with the trend of patriotism and nationalist sentiment amongst Chinese netizens that we covered in our reports during the Olympics, the start of the Paraolympics in Japan has resurged the same trending hastags on Weibo.

## II. News in China

- Chinese state media has reported that Gao Deyi, executive deputy director of Heilongjiang Provincial Public Security Department has died from drowning. According to the police, the deceased was wearing swimming shorts with no injuries and was confirmed to have drowned. He was missing from 18 August.
- People's Daily has carried a feature report on how the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) keeps its cadres in line. It highlights how "Focusing on the central task, strengthen the cadres' awareness of their actions"; this central task in the "great party-building spirit".
- Global Times has carried an opinion piece stating that the US and the West created the chaos in Afghanistan and are directly responsible for it linking it to a déjà vu "Saigon moment".
- Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin's regular press conference saw clear remarks on Afghanistan and the situation vis-a-vis China-Lithuania-Taiwan. On the situation in Kabul, he reiterated that the Chinese Embassy in Afghanistan is working normally and that China hopes "Afghanistan will form an open, inclusive and broadly representative government and pursue a moderate and prudent domestic and foreign policy". With respect to Lithuania, he stated that "China has the right to respond resolutely and necessary to provocative acts that seriously damage China's sovereignty". Concurrently, with regards to US-Lithuania ties and US' support for Lithuania, he stated that "hat of "coercive diplomacy" should be kept by the United States itself".

- China is set to establish a National Pension Company with registered capital of USD 1.72 billion to cope with its rapidly aging population.

### **III. India Watch**

- The piece by People's Daily provides important insights to the mechanisms that are used by the CCP to keep its cadres in check. These range from positive enforcements such as incentives, promotions and networking to negative enforcements like punishments and even arrest should the Party ethos be threatened by their actions.
- The piece on Afghanistan by Global Times highlights the core Kabul outlook of Beijing. Ultimately, China's investments in Afghanistan are driven along the lines of national interests and it is not keen on engaging in the humanitarian aspects of the same. While an Afghan government would have ideally been preferred, Beijing is keen on reorienting its Taliban strategy to achieve security by limiting the group's terror activities but will not be looking to engage in non-economical nation-building.