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DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Conflict between Tibetan monks and unidentified people caught on video:** Chinese twitter has been sharing pictures of a video that shows Tibetan monks involved in a scuffle with unidentified people in Lanzhou, Gansu at the Hong Cheng temple.
- **People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) is repainting its Y-20A fleet:** As per a regular military observer account on Weibo, the PLAAF is reportedly repainting its Y-20A fleet to latest low-visibility colour scheme. (see images 1 and 2)
- **Celebration of founding of People's Liberation Army (PLA) trending:** Promotional style videos and patriotic messages (especially for PLA soldiers martyred in Galwan) have been uploaded by many Weibo accounts to mark PLA's 94th anniversary. Furthermore, as the PLA assists heavily in Henan flood reconstruction efforts, Weibo accounts have shown increased appreciation of the forces.
- **Amidst continued flood relief operations in Zhengzhou, 11 new cases of COVID-19 have been found:** Compared with the epidemics in Nanjing and Jiangsu, Zhengzhou epidemic has the characteristics of rapid spread. The Delta variant is moving rapidly across the country with over 30 local cases having been reported.

II. News in China

- Xinhua News has posted a video on Twitter by a reporter who is debunking the lab-leak theory of COVID-19; the video theme is in line with increasing political sketches, parodies and caricatures that China is using to speak out against countries, leaders and organisations that are against it.
- Post People's Daily and Xinhua calling it a 'tumor', the Education Bureau of Hong Kong has ended cooperation with the pro-democracy Professional Teachers Union of Hong Kong. This move furthers the recent surge in Beijing's continuing crackdown on Hong Kong; within China, Tong Ying-kit's verdict was celebrated by many on Weibo, with some even asking for harsher punishment.
- Xi Jinping has called for strengthening of China's military in solidarity with the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) ideologies as he warned of potential armed conflict and security concerns at China's border with Afghanistan.

III. India Watch

- PLA anniversary celebrations were held at General Headquarters, Rawalpindi, Pakistan. General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff was the Chief Guest, and Nong Rong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan and Major General Chen Wenrong, Defence Attache participated. Recalling Xi's view that Pakistan Armed Forces are the mainstay of Pak-China strategic relations, the Defence Attaché reiterated on the 'iron' brotherhood both countries share.
- Xi's statement that China should be prepared for "military struggle" as the United States is set to withdraw from Afghanistan by September 11 2021 amidst remarks about strengthening the country's military prowess ahead of the 94th anniversary of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) formation must be viewed with caution by India. It shows that Xi is expecting potential armed conflict with the Taliban or even the Afghan government and most importantly, is prepared to engage in the same.



Image 1: Original Y-20A with red Chinese flag

Chinese Military Aviation



Image 2: Re-painted Y-20A in line with latest low visibility color scheme