

15.9.21

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Putian in Fujian announced 33 new COVID cases, trends:** Website of the Putian Health Commission notified on the situation of the new type of coronavirus pneumonia in Putian City. It has maintained that these are imported cases; the same has trended on Weibo with calls for local lockdown. Importantly, dozens of students have tested positive with the youngest being 3 years old; netizens have voiced concern over the child having to quarantine alone with #strongteensofPutian trending.
- **Earthquake in Sichuan, Weibo again turns into online helpline:** 6.0 magnitude earthquake in Luxian County, Sichuan has killed 3 people and injured 88 others as per initial reports. Weibo is being used to coordinate search and rescue, aid and donations as seen during the Henan floods. Many of the Henan flood microblog accounts have reactivated themselves directing focus on Sichuan.
- **Fervour over start of National Games:** With the opening ceremony for the Games to be held today in Xi'an and the promise of President Xi attending, sporting fervour on Weibo has seen resurgence with netizens rooting for their favourite athletes while some voice concerns (in quickly censored posts) over feasibility of holding event amidst COVID-19.

II. News in China

- A charity linked to the now-defunct pro-democracy Apple Daily newspaper has disappeared from Hong Kong's list of registered charities, as the government announced moves to exclude organisations engaging in activities "contrary to the interests of national security."
- Guideline issued by the Central Committee and the State Council on developing a more civilised and well-regulated cyberspace environment titled Opinions on Strengthening the Development of Cyberspace/Network Civilisation. This comes amidst the continued clampdown on the entertainment industry by Beijing.
- Global Times said in a two-day editorial that if the DPP government continued to provoke, "PLA warplanes should fly over Taiwan."
- Zhang Lifeng has been appointed deputy mayor of Changzhi municipal people's government in Shanxi province while Yu Mingsheng has been appointed as the deputy secretary-general of the Inner Mongolia autonomous region government.
- President Xi Jinping began an inspection trip to Shaanxi province stressing importance of environmental health and maintaining the Communist Party's revolutionary spirit.

III. India Watch

- The CCP's state-run media have repeatedly said that "the PLA fighters are ready to fly over Taiwan," and has become more vocal about Taiwan. Although this is not the 2 official position, it represents, to some extent, a voice within the CCP on dealing with the Taiwan issue. Hu Xijin, editor of Global Times had once suggested that Beijing should not be "kidnapped" by the radical public opinion of the mainland people on Taiwan. His stand has also now changed. In this context, India must focus in the upcoming Quad Leadership Summit to discuss the security concerns vis-a-vis Taiwan with like-minded partners to begin its own formulation of a stronger Taiwan policy based on reciprocity.
- British media has reported that the Taliban have recruited Chinese cyber spies to monitor Afghan civilians and stop revolts. Beijing has sent its best communications experts to Kabul to show the Taliban how to intercept phone calls, monitor internet use and social media accounts.