

25.7.21

*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

- **Jingguang tunnel continues to receive focus:** A female Chinese Weibo user accounted how she escaped the tunnel moments before it was flooded, stating that the entrance of the tunnel was not closed at the correct time, which could have otherwise saved lives. This post has gathered much support from Weibo netizens with over 1 lakh likes; it has not been censored as of now and likes this high on a post critiquing the authorities are rare occurrences. For instance, a woman named Han Mou living in a town near Zhengzhou was detained for 5 days on 12 July on account of 'spreading rumours' via videos on Douyin(tiktok) about nearby dams breaching their dike.
- **Foreign journalists post of difficulty in covering Henan floods due to public pushback:** International journalists are posting about how Chinese citizens are encircling them, arguing with them, refusing them services like taxis, recording them and putting up Weibo posts against foreign media which they believe is trying to run a smear campaign against China. For example, '#BBC spreading rumours' also trended on Weibo.
- **Chinese dissident commentator highlighted strategy vis-à-vis Xi's Tibet visit:** A dissident international affairs Chinese commentator has spoken of how Xi arrived at Nyingchi Mainling airport rather than the administrative capital of Lhasa, hinting that this is to assert Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) power over 'South Tibet', which is a strategically important part of TAR. Some observer highlighted that 40 km upstream of the ravine of Yarlung Tsangpo there is a big U-shaped turn at this where lies the tributary Nyang river. In the river delta of Nyang river there is a strategically important town called Bayi which is an economic and military base. To protect this town, China has constructed a secondary hydropower station beside Bayi and will be constructing a major hydropower station near the estuary of Nyang river. After constructing this proposed dam, they will have complete control over the water resources of Yarlung Tsangpo which will basically further accentuate CCP's power over South Tibet.
- **Weibo military spectators question India's military prowess:** Chinese Weibo spectators are of the opinion that Indian army's equipment/technology are not good enough, hence India is focused on having more troops in numbers. The example of the recent deployment of strike corps by India to Ladakh was used. They also questioned whether India's national strength can sustain confrontation with China, Pakistan or

support India's role as a 'net security' provider for countries like Afghanistan.

- Tibet focus continues: A Weibo military observer posted satellite image of construction work in Burang (Ngari prefecture, Tibet). This comes amidst emphasis in Chinese social media on Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) post Xi's visit to the region. (see image 1)

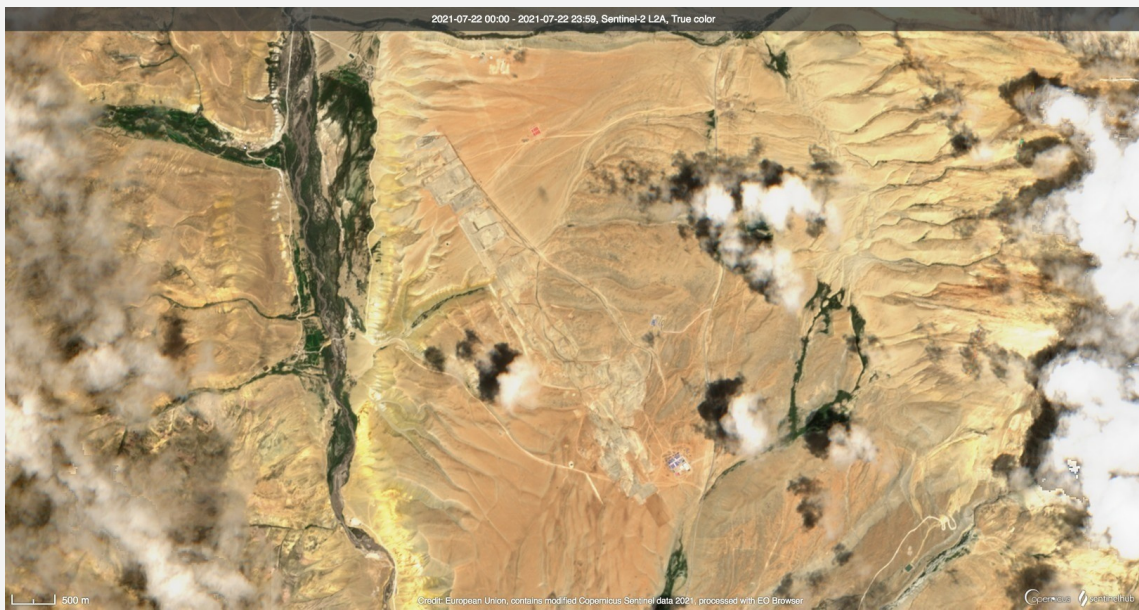
## II. News in China

- Typhoon In-Fa is gaining much coverage now after Typhoon Cempaka hit South China on July 20 and heavy rainfall caused destructive flooding in Central. Shanghai is bracing for the tropical storm, with technology and first-responders being deployed in advance. This is also going according to the CCP line that the flooding in Henan was an unexpected, sudden phenomenon with the region getting its most rainfall in 1000 years; otherwise, China is well prepared to handle such natural disasters.
- The eastern city of Nanjing is testing its population of over 9 million people for the second time in a week after dozens of people were found infected with COVID-19. The capital city of Jiangsu province had logged in 88 COVID-19 cases in a fresh outbreak that has been linked to an airport cluster. At least 57 people tested positive after the first round of the coronavirus tests.
- The death toll from the record rainfall and floods in central Henan province earlier this week has climbed to at least 56 as of Friday, according to state-run Xinhua News Agency. Nonetheless, the accuracy of this count is being questioned across the world. Officials estimate economic losses from the disaster have topped \$10 billion.

## III. India Watch

- China often uses the policy of distraction vis-à-vis domestic dissent, and conflict with India is at the lowest political cost. India is the only country which whom China has a boundary dispute remaining; Galwan was the first blood-shed conflict between the two countries in 35 years. Amidst increasing pressure on Xi regarding COVID-19 within China, Galwan offered a distraction tool to Beijing which they used to stir national fervour.
- Myanmar Junta are implementing China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects by despite post-coup chaos, the COVID-19 pandemic and rising anti-China sentiment. Reportedly, the military regime is by 'stealth' pushing

forward with Beijing-backed infrastructure projects. India must note that post the military coup, anti-China public resentment in Myanmar has reached its highest point in years. It must publicly push for stronger ties with Myanmar, especially with partners like Japan and Australia via initiatives like Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure (EPQI) and the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) to gain open support and show itself as a worthy alternative to BRI.



**Image 1: Satellite image of construction work in Burang**