

27.7.21

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

PREPARED BY

Team ORCA

writetous.orca@gmail.com

I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Boundary around flowers placed at Zhengzhou metro station removed:** People have taken down the boundary put up by the authorities near the gate of metro station line 5 of Zhengzhou; they have placed even more flowers at the location in accordance with Chinese rituals. Weibo users have praised this action; they continued their stand that putting up boundaries around the flowers was disrespectful. Authorities put up a higher and larger boundary but that was also taken down by the public.
- **Censorship on Jingguang tunnel begins:** Posts on Weibo in support of local citizens laying flowers at Zhengzhou metro station have been taken down. Meanwhile, pro-Chinese Communist Party (CCP) accounts and 'little pink' (young, nationalistic netizen who attacks the social media accounts of people perceived to have slighted China) have begun posting that no boundary had been placed and no police is on ground monitoring movement near the tunnel. In a new development, some military observer accounts that have always posted pro-China nationalistic posts were also seen criticizing the authorities strongly.
- **People's Liberation Army (PLA) conducts cross-sea landing drill:** PLA Weibo accounts have posted videos of the army conducting drills and live fire exercises using several Type 05 series amphibious landing units and Type 072A tank landing ships in waters off the coast of Fujian. This comes as U.S military planes have been landing frequently in Taiwan the last few months.
- **Chinese twitter account posts images of unmanned strike vehicle inducted into PLA:** The vehicle has been captioned as Shanmao(山猫突击车) or Lynx Attack Vehicle; no details about this military vehicle can be found on Baidu yet, hinting that it is a very new induction. (see images 1 and 2)
- **New registrations for WeChat suspended:** These will be restored in the beginning of August. Wechat says it is upgrading security to comply with rules and regulations, but chatter shows confusion as to why a security upgrade would require not allowing new registrations.

II. News in China

- Hong Kong High Court's conviction of activist Tong Ying-kit as 'guilty' under the new Hong Kong Security Law –the first conviction under the same – continues to be widely covered. Under the new law, Tong was not allowed a jury-trial. Instead, he was convicted by 3 judges hand-picked by Beijing.

- People's Daily has covered topics ranging from flooding in Henan to continued focus on the Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy. Importantly, on page 7, the seventh piece on the Xi Thought series was printed with a focus on the 'four self-confidences'. This piece has made comparisons between India and China.
- PLA daily reported that a unit of Airforce in the southern theatre command conducted 12 days of intensive training. They invited military academicians and universities experts to teach military theory and coordination of the leaders of theatres, services and branches. The training focused on integrated sea-air missions such as 'land-air joint fire strike' and "sea-air battlefield command link construction". The report notes that cross-domain joint training has now become the norm. Cross-service and multi-branch joint exercises and joint training are even more important.
- Amidst crackdown on private tutoring sector in China, excerpts from the book 'Xi Jinping on the Governance of China- Volume 3' are doing rounds. The book covers speeches and written works of Xi from 2017 to 2019 and is officially authored by Xi himself. In chapter 12, it says "Some off-campus coaching institutions violate the laws of education and the growth and development of students..... An industry of conscience cannot become a profit-seeking industry. The off-campus training institutions must be managed in accordance with the law". This shows that the direction for the private education firms was long decided and has only now been implemented by barring for-profit education firms in core school subjects.

III. India Watch

- The course of events regarding flowers at Zhengzhou must be seen as a closely fought ideological battle between Chinese citizens and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Normally, dissent of this kind would be more quickly censored online and physically stopped on the ground. But the CCP is treading carefully as people's emotions are attached to this incident especially as recovery of bodies from the tunnel is still going on and information on number of deaths is not revealed yet.
- The terms popularized in China's military strategy such as "informatized warfare" and "operations under unified command" are reflected in the drills that PLA conducts, especially in the southern theatre. The frequency of drills in the southern command has been the highest. India must note that

this is perhaps in light of the shift in how Japan and U.S are interacting with Taiwan; New Delhi's own Taipei policy requiring immediate fine-tuning and formalization.

- With US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken set to arrive in India to meet with Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, China and the Line of Actual Control (LAC) standoff with China are to be at the top of the agenda. While Blinken has hinted that he will be raising the Kashmir issue, it is important for New Delhi to maintain focus on US-India defence ties and 'global strategic partnership' in these discussions. China is focused on this visit as it seeks to study what it views a 'widening gap' between US-India.
- As Myanmar Junta begin to seek aid from the international community to tackle COVID-19 –especially looking towards the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) –and move beyond China's help, India should take note of the opportunity to improved its neighbourhood vaccine diplomacy.

Image 1-2 : Screenshots of a video that describes this unmanned strike vehicle as Shanmao or Lynx Attack Vehicle



Image 1



Image 2