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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

- **Chinese social media users fail to pay respect to dead, remains a direct outcome of extreme nationalism:** A social media user by the name of Zhang Beihai informed her 2.6 million Weibo followers that "Abe is dead and that's it." He was deserving of death. More from a different Weibo user: "His entire family deserves to perish." The death of Abe Shinzo, the former Prime Minister of Japan, on July 8 sparked a flood of jubilant online responses in China, where he was deeply despised. One joked, "News just in. President Kennedy of the United States meets Prime Minister Abe of Japan."
- **Chinese social media app Tik Tok goes public with confession about accessing Australian data:** In response to a letter from James Paterson, the shadow cyber security minister, TikTok acknowledged that employees in China had access to Australian data. Brent Thomas, the company's Australian head of public policy, wrote: "Our security teams minimise the number of people who have access to data and limit it solely to people who require that access in order to do their jobs. "We have policies and processes in place that restrict internal access to Australian user data for all of our employees, regardless of where they are based, in accordance with need."

II. News in China

- In what Washington described as a patrol to assert freedom of travel across the critical seaway, the U.S. Navy sailed a destroyer near to Chinese-controlled islands on Wednesday in the South China Sea. The USS Benfold, a guided-missile destroyer, passed by the Paracel Islands before continuing its operations in the South China Sea. According to a news release from the 7th Fleet, the action "upheld the rights, freedoms, and authorised uses of the sea."
- On July 17, India and China are expected to hold the 16th round of Corps Commander level negotiations to work out a solution for the early withdrawal of troops from some flashpoints in Eastern Ladakh. On March 11, the final round of military-level negotiations took place. Following an assessment of the situation at the LAC in Bali, Indonesia, by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, talks will now take place at a border meeting location along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). On July 7, the discussions took place outside of a gathering of the G-20 foreign ministers. It was discovered that the border dispute with eastern Ladakh came up in the conversations.
- According to an analyst cited by Radio Free Asia (RFA), China's "world's most far-reaching radar" may also be used for military purposes. China is currently constructing "China Fuyan," a new high-definition deep-space active observation facility, in Chongqing Municipality. The programme is run by Beijing Institute of

Technology (BTI). Tsinghua University and Peking University were both classified by the tracker as "extremely high risk" and "high risk," respectively.

- Since the Chinese air force has begun an intensive defence drill across the border in Tibet, India has escalated fighter operations in Ladakh, with frontline jets flying more sorties, including night operations. Sources claim that over the past several days, fighter aircraft from Leh and Thoise air bases have been flying more often, including Rafales and Su-30MKIs, despite the People's Liberation Army Air Force activating its air defence system and conducting a significant exercise with its combat jets.
- By explicitly acknowledging Tibet's unsettled status and criticising China for violating the Tibetan people's right to self-determination, a bill proposed in Congress today would take meaningful steps to end China's decades-long illegal occupation of Tibet. The promotion of a resolution to the Tibet-China Conflict Act will reaffirm US policy that, despite more than six decades of China's illegal occupation and Chinese government disinformation falsely claiming that Tibet has been a part of China since ancient times, Tibet's legal status is still subject to international law determination.
- China is allegedly furious over the Dalai Lama's birthday celebrations, which included ministers, and his planned trip to Leh this Friday. His trip to Leh will mark his first in about four years. The Tibetan spiritual leader's travels to the area, including his most recent one in 2018, have always drawn criticism from China. One of the individuals cited above claims that China may have seen India's close connections with the Dalai Lama and the leader of the Tibet Government-in-Exile since 2014 as a change in India's stance on Tibet.

III. India Watch

- The New Delhi government seems to make changes in the 'One China Policy'. This change is a mixed result of the changing dynamics of the foreign policy at home as well the slow transition of events in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The new round of talks between the Foreign Ministry of India and China sets an important benchmark for the border dispute. India remains firm on the stand and hope the Chinese negotiators are open to more diplomatic methods than violent ones.
- Dalai Lama's political asylum clearly is an internal matter of the Indian Government. Moreover, the religious teacher is revered by the Indian populace. The government shall continue to honour such personalities who are ardent advocates of peace.