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*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

- **Padma Bridge:** China Railway Group Limited (CREC) which took up the installation of railway tracks in the lower deck of the Padma Bridge in Bangladesh is expected to be operational this week. The Padma Bridge Rail Link Project stretches up to 172 km and is a crucial project by China in Bangladesh since it connects the trans-Asian railway network. This project is supposed to contribute to the economic development of Bangladesh by promoting regional connectivity.
- **Xuntian Space Telescope:** According to the Changchun Institute of Optics, Fine Mechanics and Physics, China's largest space station telescope known as the Xuntian Space Telescope will be operational around 2024. The telescope will be equipped with advanced probes and has a length equal to a three-storied building. The telescope will be installed with a wide vision survey camera to conduct sky surveys.
- **Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems:** President Xi Jinping sent a letter congratulating the World Conference on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems which was held on 17 July in the Zhejiang Province of China marking the 20th anniversary of the initiative by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The conference was arranged by the Ministry of Agricultural and Rural affairs along with the provincial government of Zhejiang.

## II. News in China

- China has sent its Long March-5B Y3 rocket to the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in Hainan Province of South China. This rocket will send the Wentian lab module to the Chinese space station which is under construction. The necessary checks and tests have been underway in the past days to prepare for the launch. The under-construction space station is composed of a Shenzhou-14 crewed spaceship, core module Tianhe, and a Tianzhou-4 Cargo vessel. The Tianzhou-3 cargo craft has already been separated from the complex which leaves the front docking port of Tianhe open for the Wentian lab module to be docked. This operational docking of the Tianhe and Wentian lab module in the orbit will be witnessed by the three Shenzhou-14 astronauts who were sent to the core module in the previous month.
- China has already launched its third naval carrier named Fujian with a fourth carrier currently in the development pipeline. These developments have put the Chinese navy onto the world's second-largest aircraft carrier fleet next to the US Navy. However, defence analysts have suggested that China requires six or seven carriers to keep a watch on both the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean. According to Wang Hongliang of the Shanghai Jiao Tong University's National Strategic Research Centre the three naval fleets would require two aircraft carriers each and possibly

one more for the Indian Ocean fleet in the future if the country can afford it. The Chinese navy is divided into three fleets, namely, the North Sea Fleet, East Sea Fleet, and the South Sea Fleet. Wang predicts that Fujian may be deployed to the East Sea Fleet and will serve a crucial role if any conflict arises in the Taiwan Strait. Further, Wang believes that although China has built bases on islands and in the area, due to the risk of involvement of the US military, it would not be enough and therefore China would require six or seven carriers to multitask and carry out “high-intensity” naval operations.

- Ht. Zhao, ambassador to Portugal attended and addressed a round table conference on “A consensus on future industrial cooperation between Madeira and Bay of Australia region of Hong Kong” on 13 July 2022. The meeting brought out prospects of industrial cooperation between Madeira and the Australasian Bay region of Hong Kong which will maximize resource sharing and will further enhance cooperation in domains of industrial development, scientific and technological research and development, infrastructure, and environment. The result of such cooperation would be mutually beneficial and will add new dimensions to the strategic partnership. The meeting resulted in a broad consensus regarding interstate relations and potential cooperation between the Madeira Autonomous Region with China and opportunities in the Greater Bay Region of Hong Kong.
- Wang Wenbin, spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a routine press conference held on 18 July stated that the Philippines Department of Transport indicated engaging with China on loan agreements for three railway projects as soon as possible. Wenbin further highlighted that the Philippines has always been a close and friendly neighbour and that China has always placed the Philippines at the forefront of diplomacy. Given that the Philippines has now a newly formed government, both countries have identified four areas of cooperation and will develop friendly cooperation. The press conference further highlighted that China welcomes the instructions under newly elected President Marcos and will fully engage with the new government.

### **III. India Watch**

- Global Times has accused India of backing a hacking group that under the alias “Confucius” has launched cyberattacks on Pakistan specifically focusing on government, military, and energy infrastructure. It also stated that other than Pakistan, the group has also targeted China and Bangladesh to acquire sensitive data. The group has been categorized as an “Advanced Persistent Threat” (APT) which is used to describe a hacking group that attacks particular targets repeatedly. This is the second-time Chinese media has made such claims regarding India. Back in November 2021, accusations of an Indian hacking group called Evil Flower conducting multiple cyberattacks on the government and military infrastructure of

Nepal, China, and Pakistan were made. Global Times reported that the Chinese cybersecurity firm Antiy, which ran a one-and-a-half-year investigation of the claim, determined that the group's cyber activities can be dated back to 2013. Antiy's Chief Engineer Li Bosong has stated that the group uses the phrase "Confucius says" for commanding cyberattacks. Bosong further suggested that the group uses specific social engineering techniques, spear-phishing emails, and phishing websites on their targets. Bosong further added that the social engineering techniques and using Confucius's name suggest that the group has studied Chinese culture as well.