

1.8.21

*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

- **Zhengzhou floods death toll reaches 292 as per Weibo:** While data of such kind is usually kept confidential –and what is shared is not entirely dependable –Weibo discussions are hinting at the overall death toll in Henan to be 302.
- **Chinese netizens showing increasingly anti-Japan rhetoric after two high-profile losses to Japan at Olympics:** Anti-Japan sentiment –and reopening of old war wounds –is becoming increasingly active on Chinese social media with netizens accusing judges of bias as China lost high-profile matches to Japan who it has traditionally dominated at sports. Japanese team is being mocked with epithets such as “little Japan”, a derogatory label popular in east Asia after the second world war, following Japan’s upset win against China in the table tennis mixed doubles final and the artistic gymnastics men’s all-around event.

## II. News in China

- Ou Biaofeng, a Chinese activist who has spent the last eight months in detention, has now been charged with subversion. This shows increasing crackdown on dissent in China; Ou is known for showing support for Dong Yaoqiong (also known as ‘Ink Girl’) who came into the limelight after she posted a video of herself splashing ink on a portrait of Xi Jinping. Dong has been forcibly admitted to a psychiatrist facility twice since sharing the video. Ou also has been an outspoken supporter of anti-government protests in Hong Kong and the now defunct pro-democracy paper Apple Daily.
- China is looking to reassure global investors who have been drawn to country’s strong growth and booming tech industry but lost ‘hundreds of billions’ in July in the country amidst Beijing’s growing regulatory crackdowns.
- The Clean Heating Branch of the China Building Metal Structure Association has launched a carbon neutral action initiative for the heating industry in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR).
- Xi Jinping, speaking at the Army Day celebrations marking 94 years of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) stated that the PLA should “unswervingly obey the party’s command and march towards a world-class army”.

### III. India Watch

- The International Airport in Kandahar Province in southern Afghanistan was attacked by Taliban rockets on Saturday (July 31) and ceased operations from August 1. India's political sway and clout in Kabul has waned drastically; amidst such increasing hostilities in the country, it is important that New Delhi reinvigorates its presence in Afghanistan peace talks. China has already reacted sharply to this attack on the airport.
- Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee has held a meeting to focus on high-quality development and rebuild Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in the post pandemic order. Amidst delays in BRI, it is crucial that India builds on its own outreach via initiatives like Sagarmala, Bharatmala, Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and the Japan-India-Australia led Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI).