

12.8.21

*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

- **China's clampdown on netizens seen in new example:** A Weibo user suggested that “since Yangzhou’s (the place where the Vice Premier recently visited to inspect the pandemic control and prevention measures) area and population is not that big, it should consider relaxing the strict measures and coexist with the virus, and see what happens. This experience can be used to draw upon”. He was detained for 15 days for his “inappropriate remarks” by the local authorities of Fengcheng, Jiangxi.
- **Chinese troops seen training in hand-hand combat along India-China border:** Some images have been uploaded by a Weibo military observer account with the #Sino-Indian\_border. The picture shows the troops training in hand-to-hand combat and with heavy wooden sticks. Troops can also be seen operating drones and conducting drills with guns.
- **Edited video of India-China clashes uploaded on Weibo:** An edited video of clashes between India and China has been uploaded in twitter as well as on Weibo. The uploaders claim that there is some unseen footage in the video. Another video was uploaded by the same Weibo account in which soldiers were seen living in harsh conditions and spoke of their dedication.
- **Violence by Chinese authorities caught on camera:** A video uploaded by a Chinese twitter handle on 12.8.21 shows a woman being kicked so hard by the police that she has possibly fell into coma or died. There are no further details since the speakers of the video are using a local dialect but one comment suggests that the authorities were asking for a blood pressure report from her.
- **Pakistan Foreign Minister's statements trending on Weibo:** Shah Mehmood Qureshi's comment that India’s R&AW and Afghan NDS were behind the Dasu attack is widely being discussed on Weibo. Opinions are divided along the lines of Pakistan making a scapegoat out of NDS and R&AW while the second one believes Pakistan FM’s version and supports retaliation, sanctions and even military strikes against India.

## II. News in China

- Wang Jingyu, a 19-year-old Chinese student( says he has U.S permanent residency), is on the run for his online comments asking Chinese authorities to come out clean about the number of deaths of Chinese soldiers in the Galwan clash. It was reported by some Chinese twitter accounts and non-

mainstream media that he and his fiancée were detained in Netherlands while seeking political asylum and are currently under detention. It is also reported that they were required to sign a document that voluntarily waived their asylum application.

- As the 20th party congress approaches, speculations are being made in non-mainstream Chinese media about possible appointments. As per our deductions, Chin Min'er who is currently the Party Secretary of Chongqing looks to be at great advantage because he is only 60 years old and is unlikely to be made a Provincial Secretary again like Wang Yang (after being Party Secretary for Chongqing for 2 years, he was made Party Secretary for Guangdong for 5 years and then made Vice Premier in 2013), instead he has more probability of assuming a more central role. There are chances that he can serve as Vice Premier of the State Council, provided that Hu Chunhua takes the position of Premier in turn (which is very probable).
- Chinese media has reported that on 10th August, Xi Jinping wrote a reply letter to foreign participants at the Global Young Leaders Dialogue (GYLD). Again, there has been no public appearance by him starting from August 1. This can be due to him being in Beidaihe.

### **III. India Watch**

- Images of troops training in hand-hand combat along the border must be interpreted as training for a specific kind of face-off with India, where guns cannot be used and drone operating skills can help in assessing the enemy positions and terrain. This is in line with our previous assessment and report (from 2.8.21) of Chinese troops learning nunchaku skills along the border. Such skills can be used along the border and do not violate the treaty prohibiting use of firearms.
- Afghan Foreign Minister Mohammad Haneef Atmar on Monday expressed concern at Pakistani Foreign Ministers comments while Global Times has run a piece stating post Pakistan's preliminary investigations that the "truth seems to start to surface".
- With respect to increased videos/articles by official/social media in China regarding Galwan (read our previous reports to follow), many of them show a ravine which looks like the spot where the clash occurred in Galwan. Chinese soldiers are standing with their flag, seeing those pictures in articles and visuals in videos feels like there is a message being given through the visuals that "the place where clash happened is still under our control and we the victors".

- It seems that the increase in the videos and articles is due to the 3 dates that come in successive months. First phase was near 15 June which is the date of Galwan clash- during which we saw articles in the Chinese media about the 1 year anniversary of Galwan. Second phase was after July 1 when focus was on the martyrs; example is Chen Hongjun who was posthumously awarded the July 1 Medal. Most of the articles and social media posts had to do more with highlighting the sacrifice of Chen Hongjun as a July 1 awardee and his devotion to service as something to learn from. The third phrase was after the PLA day. Examples include a 10-minute documentary about Wang Zhuoran was posted on Weibo by some military observer accounts.

**Image 1-6: Chinese troops seen training in hand-hand combat along India-China border**



**Image 1**

**Image 2**





Image 3



Image 4



Image 5



Image 6