

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Chinese twitter user posts video from Shanghai's Pudong Airport:** A Chinese twitter account has posted a video which is claimed to be from Shanghai's Pudong Airport, where the delta variant cases were traced. The video shows construction of new double occupancy units for quarantine which means the authorities are expecting more covid cases in the coming time.
- **Nanjing launches vaccine campaign for teens:** China has launched a vaccination campaign for teenagers aged 12-17 in Nanjing which lies in east China's Jiangsu Province as infections from Delta variant spread in the city.

II. News in China

- Seven prominent Hong Kong democrats – including former League of Social Democrats (LSD) chairs Raphael Wong and Avery Ng, and LSD members Figo Chan, and “Long Hair” Leung Kwok-hung – have pleaded guilty to offences in connection with 2019 protests and unrest.
- A regulatory complaint has been upheld against embattled public broadcaster RTHK after it referred to Taiwan as a “nation” in a story about an election poll.
- On the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Tibet and the continuing sensitive moment in the Sino-Indian border dispute, China's CCTV revealed footage of 2 brigade plateau exercises in the Tibet Military Region, in which new equipment was unveiled. According to CCTV footage from China, the full crew of the brigade in the Tibet Military Region were given "Star Sky Camouflage" training uniforms, and equipped with third-generation Mammoth assault vehicles and the new 122 mm vehicle howitzers
- Spending on 5G networks and other infrastructure by Chinese telecommunications companies dropped 25% in the first half of the year due to cost-sharing and chip shortage, during a period they had previously identified as a peak time for building out their new high-speed systems.
- Lu Junhua appointed to the People's Daily. Lu Junhua from his post as Deputy Secretary-General of the State Council. Appointed to the People's Daily.
- The conflicts between Xi and Li have intensified. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang was nearly a month late to visit the victims in Henan on August 18, but on the same day Chinese party media was suspected of deliberately downplaying Li Keqiang's trip to Zhengzhou as it reported only news about Xi Jinping, and did not report on Li Keqiang's trip.
- Forty-two illegal social organizations have been banned by local civil affairs authorities.

- PLA Daily reported that a unit of the Xinjiang Military Region conducted communications support training in high-altitude areas. It mentions that the training content was set in accordance with actual combat standards: from low altitude to high altitude, from erection route planning to wiring, and communication guarantee training were all carried out step by step. On a snowy field 5,000 meters above sea level, the men carried more than 10 kilograms of tools on their backs, and worked together to advance to the top of the mountain.
- On August 20, after Chinese Premier Li Keqiang ended his two-day trip to Henan, Beijing finally launched an investigation into Henan floods as on August 20, the State Council investigation team entered Zhengzhou, claiming to investigate the "July 20" devastating flood in Zhengzhou. Analysts in HK media have now pointed out that it is quite abnormal that the investigation started 18 days after the announcement.

III. India Watch

- The recent appointments (see our report from 20.8.21 as well) indicate a push towards Xi Jinping's call to strengthen the building of international communication capabilities and form an international voice that matches China's comprehensive national strength and international status. In addition, the Communist Party's propaganda system recently called for the strengthening of Chinese cultural exports. India must view this soft power diplomatic outlook by China with focus, especially as Xi tries to move away from 'wolf warrior diplomacy'.
- With respect to the investigation regarding flooding in Zhengzhou, the top leaders in Henan Province and Zhengzhou City are all Xi's confidants. Lou Yangsheng, secretary of the Henan Provincial Party Committee, was a subordinate of Xi Jinping in Zhejiang in his early years. Xu Liyi, secretary of the Zhengzhou Municipal Party Committee, has been promoted from the post of mayor of Hangzhou in the past two years. He is also a member of Xi Jinping's subordinate and also belongs to the "Zhejiang New Army" because he has been an official in Zhejiang for a long time. Xi may want them to rise to the next level at the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China next year: maybe let Lou Yangsheng join the Politburo, and let Xu Liyi become a member of the Central Committee. India should watch the conclusion of this investigation with focus to ascertain what the future of Xi's CCP could look like in the near future vis-a-vis leadership.