

4.8.21

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Upcoming Chinese airport opposite India-China-Nepal trijunction:** An OSINT twitter handle has uploaded a satellite image of an upcoming Chinese airport opposite Indo-China-Nepal Trijunction at Burang County, Tibet. It can be seen in the picture that surface levelling work is going on (see Image 1). The airport would be located at an elevation of 4200 m. with a runway length similar to Ngari airport (between 4500-5000 m).
- **India's first indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant's (IAC-1) journey followed closely on Weibo:** Many military observer accounts also posted about Vikrant with the details such as it is expected to enter service in August 2022, and will be equipped with MiG-29K fighter jets, Ka-31 airborne early warning helicopters, MH-60R multi-purpose helicopter among others.
- **Weibo military observer account says that during Galwan, Xinjiang Transportation Construction Group was tasked with ensuring smooth roads around border:** The group immediately organized the deployment of personnel, equipment, materials, etc. to the front line, and it only took three days for all employees to arrive at their posts. The post then goes on to explain the hard adaptation the workers had to go through and recounts stories of their perseverance. The post also states that the Indian side obstructed work many times as it grew nearer to border frontier but the project was successfully completed nonetheless.
- **Weibo military observer account says TV series about army's special warfare is not passing review checks:** Even after two years post wrapping up filming, the series is not getting approval for release as reportedly China defeats India in the series; the user has wondered why the authorities are concerned about this as the narrative is in their favor.
- **A number of critical voices on the handling of the flooding in Henan have arisen on Weibo:** People are calling out the mishandling of the floods and grieving over loss of life and livelihood.

II. News in China

- Chinese state media has reported that the Ministry of Education has issued a notice that starting from the fall semester of 2021, all kindergartens in ethnic areas will use the national common language to carry out childcare and instructional activities. It aims to further strengthen the promotion of the national common language (mandarin Chinese) and utilize the critical period of language learning in early childhood.

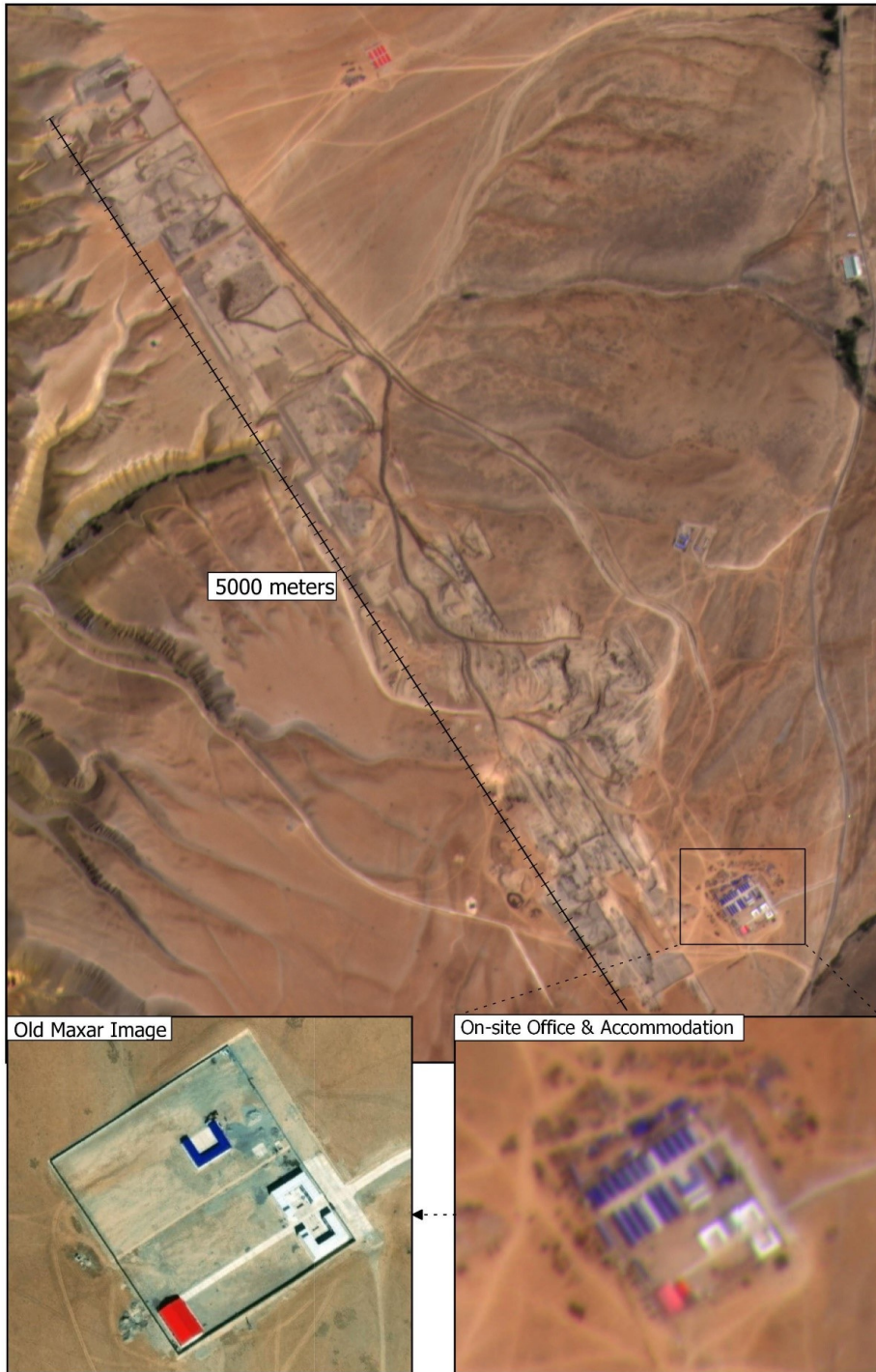
- Chinese and anti-Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Tibetan media has reported that a "summer camp" by the name "snow eaglet" started on 26th July in Rong He military training centre near Pagsum Lake in Nyingchi, Tibet. Hundred of students between the age group of 8-16 participated. It was organized by the Tibet Autonomous Region Sports Bureau, the Education Department of the Tibet Autonomous Region and the administrative committee of the Liuwu New area of Lhasa. Director of the Sports Bureau of Tibet says this military summer camp was to cultivate good behavior. Videos and pictures of the camp show emphasis on physical activities.
- Post the China-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) foreign ministers meeting, Xinhua has reported that China reiterated its support of ASEAN centrality in the region and stated that Beijing does not approve of or seek participation in any venture that undermines the same.
- Zhengzhou has reported a total of 101 people infected with the virus in this round of the epidemic.

III. India Watch

- China's ASEAN outreach (both with the organisation and with specific ASEAN states) remains central to Beijing's regional power ambitions. India's own ASEAN connect (strengthened great via its Act East Policy (AEP)) has dwindled amidst the pandemic, even as New Delhi meted out health-related aid, vaccines and equipment.
- Taiwan has welcomed the US State Department's approval of a proposed US\$750M arms sale of howitzers to Taiwan. Taipei has stated that the decision by the US demonstrates the Washington's commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act & the Six Assurances. China has stated it will undertake necessary countermeasures for this move.
- As US and Japan -both vital strategic partners of India -begin orienting a stronger stand vis-a-vis Taiwan, the time for New Delhi to revisit its own Taiwan policy is now. The growing ties between Lithuania and Taiwan also show that Eastern Europe is growing wary of China; India has the

Burang County Airport

0 250 500 750 1,000 m



30.39657° N, 81.13325° E
Imagery Date: 02-08-2021
@deadtrap777

Image 1: Upcoming Chinese airport opposite Indo-China-Nepal Trijunction at Burang County, Tibet