

5.8.21

DAILY
**CONVERSATIONS
IN CHINESE
MEDIA**



**ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH ON
CHINA AND ASIA**

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I. Social Media Chatter in China

- **Chinese troops patrolling near Pangong Lake:** Official Weibo account of Xinjiang Military region uploaded a video in which troops can be seen patrolling in the area near Pangong lake and singing a song about loyalty to the party. The post says that the soldiers of the Red Army Corps of the Xinjiang military region will "remain true to the original aspiration and keep the mission firmly in mind": this was a slogan given by Xi Jinping at the 19th Party Congress. See Image 1 in which carving on the ground says "long live our motherland" which is a screenshot from the video and also shows traces of the camp left by the troops stationed during an earlier time.
- **Video shows violence against teacher:** A video uploaded by a Chinese dissident on Twitter shows 3 people kicking down a door to enter a room in which a teacher was tutoring students. They then drag the teacher out, yell at him and then asks him to show his ID. In the video, they are speaking in Anhui's dialect (Jianghuai dialect). There is split regarding understanding of whether this was done in light of new rules regarding off-school tutoring or for pandemic prevention.

II. News in China

- Amidst surge in COVID-19 cases, China has imposed stricter scrutiny over issuing/renewing passports to curb "non-urgent and unnecessary" cross-border travel.
- Chinese Maritime Administration has announced that China will conduct military training within a line of eight points in the South China Sea (SCS), and that sailing in is prohibited from August 6 to 10. The area restricted for the exercise has hence become one of the largest restricted areas imposed in the SCS.
- Yuan Shuhong (Secretary of the Party Leadership Group of the Ministry of Justice of the Communist Party of China) and Bu Xiaolin (Chairman of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Government) have recently resigned due to health reasons. However, as many leaders in the past have continued to serve even in health conditions, these resignations perhaps reflect that the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China seems to have taken a new approach to the health problems of senior officials.
- Xinhua Net and People's Daily covered Wang Yi's speech at the East Asia Summit (EAS) where he pushed back against the US and Japan on issues of

issues of human rights. Importantly, Yi spoke of “massive killing exercise by the United States on American Indians” as “the real genocide”. He also said that “massive casualties” suffered by innocent civilians due to warfare by the US are “crimes against humanity”.

- State-backed Shanghai Electric's President Huang Ou has died by suicide; his wife says that he tried to cut his wrist on 30.7.21 but was rescued and two days later he went to work as he was being asked repeatedly to attend meetings. While initial reporting only mentioned that he suddenly died, reports have now started stating that he died by suicide quoting his wife. As Shanghai Electric in May 2021 issued a major risk warning which could lead to it facing a loss of 8.3 billion yuan and as Zheng Jianhua, Secretary of the Party Committee and Chairman of Shanghai Electric (Group) Corporation was suspected of violations, Ou's suicide could be spurred by high-level power struggle within the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) itself.

III. India Watch

- China's SCS military training must be viewed in tandem with : US' large-scale military exercise in the Indo-Pacific region for nearly a month starting on August 2 (with participation from British Armed Forces, the Australian Defence Force and the Japanese Self-Defense Force). Concurrently, USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier has been deployed to the region on August 2, carrying a squadron of F-35C naval stealth fighters for the first time, bringing the total number of US-made five-generation aircraft around mainland China to nearly 100.
- India's Defence Ministry has also announced that it will send a task force of four warships on a two-month mission to the Indo-Pacific, including into the SCS. Furthermore, British carrier strike group HMS Queen Elizabeth has entered the SCS while France's aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle is also on its way to the region. With Europe and the US showing increasingly active presence in the SCS, India and its Asian partners must use this opportunity to further maritime security and defence cooperation while building capabilities in the region.
- With regards to military activities in China with a view on India's national security, it is important to note that a number of events have happened in quick succession after Xi's Tibet visit.

- For instance, as reported in our previous newsletters, recently a few seconds of unseen footage of Galwan was released in a documentary, then on 4.8.21 the first military transport mission was carried out via Lhasa-Nyinhchi Railway, and now a video near Pangong Lake through the official Weibo account.



Image 1: Carving on the ground says "Long Live Our Motherland"); traces of the camp left by the troops stationed during an earlier time can be seen