

6.8.21

*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

- **Online trolling and harsh comments continue for Japanese and Taiwanese Olympians:** Even as China is leading the table for gold medals at the 2020 Olympics, Chinese social media remains harsh on its own athletes who lost medals as well as towards winners from Taiwan and Japan (even Australia and India). National pride has swept through Chinese social media especially as China's ties with countries in the post-pandemic geopolitical order have been adversely impacted.
- **Images of Mao badges censored:** Chinese state and social media have censored images of gold medalists Bao and Zhong's Mao badges amid an investigation into whether the badges broke Olympic rules. The move sparks ire among Maoists and leftists back home in #China, who believe Mao is a symbol of national pride.
- **Weibo admin discontinues 'Star Power' list, potentially in light of calls for more accountability post Kris Wu sexual misconduct allegations:** On August 6th, Weibo 微博 admin issued an announced that the Weibo "Star Power List" was offline. In order to encourage fans to chase stars rationally and fulfill their corporate responsibilities, Weibo decided to take the "Star Power List" offline; the list was launched in 2014 to break the criteria for evaluating the influence of celebrities by computing number of fans and interaction time.

## II. News in China

- India-China agreed to disengage from Gogra in Eastern Ladakh which is one of the three remaining key points of friction that resolution is still awaited on via border talks. The standoffs in Depsang and Hot Springs continue.
- A week after China, led by foreign minister Wang Yi, hosted a Taliban delegation in the city of Tianjin, Afghanistan envoy to China has questioned Taliban's pledge to Beijing on not harbouring Islamist militants seeking to separate Xinjiang, saying the insurgent group cannot be trusted. The killing of Dawa Khan Menapal, head of the Government Media and Information Centre, has also been widely covered in Chinese media. Nonetheless, Chinese state-media outlets like Global Times have stated that making an enemy of Taliban is not in 'best interest' of Taliban.

- Xinhua Net has reported that 15 provincial-level regions out of 31 in the mainland have reported cases of COVID-19 in China.
- People's Daily has carried a written message by Xi Jinping to the first meeting of the international forum on COVID-19 vaccine cooperation. Xi promised to provide 2 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses to the world throughout this year and offer \$100 million to COVAX with a focus on developing countries.

### **III. India Watch**

- China's growing vaccine diplomacy, accentuated via its International Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine Cooperation, is a matter of diplomatic concern for India as New Delhi's own vaccine diplomacy in its neighborhood is in close competition with Beijing's. Both China and India target mostly developing nations since they generally lack access to vaccines produced by Western companies
- India and China's disengagement at Gogra shows signs of improvement in bilateral ties and trust; however, with troops remaining at Hot Springs and Depsang, border resolution talks are poised to continue.