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SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

**An Initiative by the Nuclear and Arms Control Centre,
MP-IDSA**



China's Tiantuo satellite breakthrough enables global cargo surveillance: PLA scientists

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, March 1, 2025

Satellite technology that can track hundreds of millions of shipping containers around the world has been successfully tested by Chinese military scientists, in a huge leap forward in monitoring global supply chains. Developed by researchers with the National University of Defence Technology (NUDT) in Changsha, the technology centres on the Tiantuo-5 satellite – a compact, 80kg (175lb) orbiter launched in 2020. Recent trials have proved that China can gather real-time data from Internet of Things (IoT) sensors on cargo containers, including their location, internal conditions and even tamper alerts, according to a paper published earlier this year in the peer-reviewed Journal of NUDT.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3299550/chinas-tiantuo-satellite-breakthrough-enables-global-cargo-surveillance-pla-scientists>

Military delegates lose sway at China's signature political gathering

Kathrin Hille and Joe Leahy

Financial Times, March 1, 2025

The size of the military delegation to China's rubber stamp parliament is falling and may shrink further, as leader Xi Jinping's purges cast a shadow over Beijing's biggest annual political event. The military delegation at the annual plenary session of the National People's Congress, will number 267, down from the 281 appointed in 2023. Fourteen have been removed because of corruption investigations. The military delegation — including representatives from the People's Liberation Army and the People's Armed Police — has suffered a greater reduction in size than any other provincial delegation, government or industry segment represented in the NPC and an advisory body, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), according to a Financial Times review of the delegate list, NPC announcements and official media reports.

<https://www.ft.com/content/d9e16a83-13bb-42fa-b1f6-a2778bf35660>

China's thorium survey finds 'endless energy source right under our feet'

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, March 1, 2025

China could be sitting on top of enough thorium to power its energy needs almost forever, a national survey has revealed. This one radioactive metal alone could revolutionise global energy

production, ending the worldwide dependence on fossil fuels, an expert has said. According to a declassified report detailing the survey, which ended in 2020, China's thorium reserves, already known as the world's largest, may actually exceed previous estimates by orders of magnitude.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3300360/chinas-thorium-survey-finds-endless-energy-source-right-under-our-feet>

The Chinese nuclear arsenal: More DoD nuclear threat minimization

Mark B. Schneider

Real Clear Defence, March 1, 2025

The December 2024 Department of Defense (DoD) report on China's military capability stated that China had "...surpassed 600 operational nuclear warheads in its stockpile as of mid-2024." Thus, this number of "operational" nuclear warheads (left undefined) was already almost six months out of date. By the time the next report would normally appear (a year later), the DoD estimate of 600+ nuclear warheads would be about 18 months out of date. Yet, China is rapidly increasing its nuclear capability. Hence, much of the media will generally repeat the increasing out-of-date Pentagon number. Even worse, the DoD number is likely to be a considerable underestimate.

https://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2025/03/01/the_chinese_nuclear_arsenal_more_dod_nuclear_threat_minimization_1094753.html

Three Chinese Type 055 large destroyers train in different sea regions, demonstrate tactical flexibility: expert

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, March 2, 2025

Three Type 055 destroyers of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy have been recently conducting separate training exercises in the Yellow Sea, South Pacific, and South China Sea. Experts called the Type 055 the world's best destroyer in terms of comprehensive capabilities, and multiple ships of this class offer the PLA Navy tactical flexibilities in safeguarding national sovereignty, security and interests. The Type 055 large destroyer Nanchang affiliated with a destroyer detachment of the navy of the PLA Northern Theater Command recently conducted a high intensity, multi-course combat exercise in the Yellow Sea independently, the PLA Navy revealed.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1329326.shtml>

Taliban refute Trump's claim of Chinese control over Afghan base

Ayaz Gul

Voice of America, March 2, 2025

Taliban officials have denied President Donald Trump's recent assertions that China holds control over a crucial former U.S.-operated military base in Afghanistan. The sprawling Bagram Air Base in question, situated about 44 kilometers north of the national capital of Kabul, served as the central command for the 20-year U.S.-led military campaign in the country until all U.S. and NATO troops withdrew in August 2021 and Taliban insurgents reclaimed power. "Bagram is controlled by the Islamic Emirate [Taliban regime], not China. Chinese troops are not present here, nor do we have any such pact with any country," Mujahid said in the interview.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/taliban-refute-trump-s-claim-of-chinese-control-over-afghan-base-as-emotional-/7994356.html>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on China-Pakistan space cooperation

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, March 3, 2025

Exploring the universe is humanity's shared aspiration. We are glad to see the signing of a space cooperation agreement between China and Pakistan. We hope the Pakistani astronaut's entry into the Chinese space station will be a full success. Since the launch of the manned space engineering program, China has been following the principles of peaceful use, equality, mutual benefit and common development. We focus on sharing with all humanity the results of China's development and offer opportunities for cooperation in China's space station. We are willing to work with Pakistan to elevate our space cooperation to a new level, and give a stronger boost to the socioeconomic development of the two countries through space technologies. China also stands ready to conduct more international cooperation and exchange with other countries and regions that are committed to the peaceful use of outer space.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202503/t20250303_11567318.html

Manila's 'wake-up call' is a lullaby back to polarised past

Ding Duo

China Daily, March 3, 2025

The recent call by Philippine Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro for ASEAN to "resist coercion" and bolster unity against unnamed "external threats" reeks of geopolitical theatrics. Teodoro's

speech, dripping with vague references to "coercion" and "foreign activities", deliberately obscures context. The Philippines' recent provocations against China in the South China Sea—amplified by Manila's "transparency strategy" of publicizing every maritime encounter—are framed as "lawful maritime activities". Yet conspicuously absent is any acknowledgment of Manila's own role in stoking tensions: its infringement of China's sovereignty and refusal to engage in bilateral dialogue, its reckless reliance on US-backed legalistic brinkmanship (e.g., the 2016 arbitration ruling) and the US-Philippines Alliance Agreement.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202503/03/WS67c5178da310c240449d8307.html>

How China pulled ahead to become the world leader in electric vehicles

Christian Shepherd

The Washington Post, March 3, 2025

In the manufacturing heartlands of eastern China, Jinhua New Energy Vehicle Town stands as a monument to the country's decade-long march to dominance in electric cars. Today, Jinhua's EV dreamscape is becoming a reality. The city is one of at least a dozen localities vying to become China's Detroit for the electric age. China now produces more than 60 percent of the world's electric cars and 80 percent of the batteries that power them. Its automotive champions, once desperate for foreign cooperation, are these days sought out for their innovation.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2025/03/03/china-electric-vehicles-jinhua-leapmotor/>

China builds research hub for deep-sea cold seeps

CGTN, March 3, 2025

China commenced construction on a research facility focused on the cold-seep ecosystem in Guangzhou City, south China's Guangdong Province. The research facility, designated as one of the country's major national science and technology infrastructure projects, will support cutting-edge fundamental research and high-tech development. Its scope will encompass the exploration of the origins of life in extreme deep-sea environments and the green development of deep-sea resources. A cold seep is a region on the ocean floor where hydrogen sulfide, methane and other hydrocarbon-rich fluids seep out. These areas serve as a birthplace for life that can thrive under extreme conditions.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2025-03-03/China-builds-research-hub-for-deep-sea-cold-seeps-1BqZEKtLtny/p.html>

Over 620 suspected criminals repatriated to China from Myanmar

China Daily, March 3, 2025

More than 620 Chinese suspects in Myawaddy, Myanmar, were repatriated in recent campaigns jointly launched by China, Myanmar and Thailand to crack down on cross-border telecommunications fraud, the Ministry of Public Security said. The ministry said in a statement that departments from the three countries held a ministerial-level coordinating meeting in Bangkok on jointly tackling cross-border telecom and cyberspace fraud. The meeting was said to be an important milestone achievement in the joint efforts, and it was pointed out at the meeting that the three countries should set up a regular coordinating mechanism for combating telecom fraud and continue repatriation of suspects.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202503/03/WS67c547a0a310c240449d839d.html>

China to advance space station application and manned lunar landing preparations in 2025

Fan Anqi

Global Times, March 3, 2025

In 2025, China will continue to advance two major missions - the application and development of the China Space Station and preparations for manned lunar landing before 2030. Currently, crews for the two manned missions entering China Space Station this year have already been selected and are under training, while various research and construction tasks for landing taikonauts on the moon are progressing steadily as planned, the Global Times learned from China Manned Space Agency (CMSA). At present, the China Space Station is operating stably in orbit, yielding significant results, according to a CMSA statement.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1329387.shtml>

China's naval growth goes vertical

David Vallance

The Interpreter, March 3, 2025

China has sent Australia a message in recent days about the strength of its rapidly growing naval fleet, already the largest in the world by numbers. But the reaction in Australia to the flotilla of Chinese warships in local waters has also underscored the need to improve public knowledge about Beijing's capability. Outrage centred on China's live-fire exercise in the Tasman Sea, while there

was speculation about the prospect of a nuclear-powered submarine trailing secretly under the surface.

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/china-s-naval-growth-goes-vertical>

Beijing retaliates after Donald Trump imposes tariffs on top US trade partners

Arjun Neil Alim, Joe Leahy, Ryan McMorro and Mari Novik

Financial Times, March 4, 2025

Donald Trump has imposed a swath of tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China, sparking retaliation from Beijing and sending stock markets lower as fears mount over a trade war. The White House also imposed an additional 10 per cent tariff on Chinese imports on top of a 10 per cent levy imposed last month. The moves drew an immediate response from Beijing, which said it would levy a 10-15 per cent tariff on US agricultural goods, ranging from soybeans and beef to corn and wheat, from March 10. Lynn Song, greater China economist at ING, said Beijing's action — together with countermeasures last month — targeted a total of about 25 per cent of US exports to China, amounting to “a relatively muted response compared to the 10 per cent broad-based tariffs implemented by the US”.

<https://www.ft.com/content/7f794cf9-ed9d-408a-8925-806896a3f58d>

How China is solving F-22's stealth coating cracks with 3,000-year-old silk weaving tech

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, March 4, 2025

While US stealth fighters like the F-22 Raptor grapple with delaminating radar-absorbent coatings – a vulnerability likened to “moulting cicada wings” – China claims to have found an ancient solution for its fifth-generation jets. Recent revelations by defence industry researchers suggest that cutting-edge stealth technology aboard China's smooth-skinned stealth fighters may owe its resilience to a 3,000-year-old textile innovation: the art of silk jacquard weaving. Modern stealth aircraft, including the F-22 and F-35, rely on layered coatings to deflect radar signals. But these materials degrade rapidly under stress.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3300330/how-china-solving-f-22s-stealth-coating-cracks-3000-year-old-silk-weaving-tech>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Winston Peters' visit to Beijing

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, March 4, 2025

From February 25 to 27, New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Winston Peters visited China. This is an important high-level exchange as the China-New Zealand comprehensive strategic partnership enters the second decade. This visit is aimed at delivering on the important common understandings between the leaders of the two countries, enhancing strategic communication, and promoting the continued sound and steady growth of the bilateral relations at the new starting point. The two sides had candid and in-depth exchange of views on China-New Zealand relations and international and regional issues of mutual interest, and agreed to maintain high-level exchanges, strengthen dialogue and communication, and expand mutually beneficial cooperation.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202503/t20250304_11568271.html

Never mind Trump's tariffs. The Chinese Communist Party remains defiant

Christian Shepherd and Lyric Li

The Washington Post, March 4, 2025

Chinese leader Xi Jinping's year is off to a strong start despite the return of President Donald Trump to the White House and the threat of a second trade war. January marked the surprise release of a breakthrough chatbot from start-up DeepSeek, hailed as a potential "Sputnik moment" in the U.S.-China artificial intelligence race and sparking a Chinese stock market rally. Xi is hoping to sustain that run this week at the Chinese Communist Party's biggest political confab of the year, rallying officials and businesses to safeguard China's economy, deliver technology breakthroughs and take advantage of the global turbulence wrought by Trump.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2025/03/04/china-two-sessions-trump-trade-war/>

China vows to foster emerging and future industries in 2025: Government Work Report

Global Times, March 5, 2025

China will promote integrated and clustered development of strategic emerging industries, as the country strives to develop new quality productive forces and accelerate the development of a modernized industrial system. According to the Government Work Report, China will carry out demonstration initiatives on the large-scale application of new technologies, products and scenarios, and promote safe and sound development of commercial space, the low-altitude economy and other emerging industries. The country will establish a mechanism to increase

funding for industries of the future and foster industries such as biomanufacturing, quantum technology, embodied AI, and 6G technology, it said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1329515.shtml>

Supplies allowed to be delivered to grounded Philippine ship

Luo Wangshu

China Daily, March 5, 2025

China allowed the Philippines to dispatch a civilian vessel to deliver supplies to a warship that was illegally grounded at Ren'ai Reef in the South China Sea, a spokesman for the China Coast Guard said. China monitored the vessel throughout the process, "ensuring order and stability in the region", the spokesman, Liu Dejun, said. China urged the Philippines to honor its commitments, refrain from "hying the issue" and to work with China to properly manage the maritime situation, Liu said. The China Coast Guard will continue to conduct rights protection and law enforcement operations in waters under China's jurisdiction, including Ren'ai Reef and adjacent waters in the Nansha Islands, in accordance with the law, he said.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202503/05/WS67c7b435a310c240449d8bb8.html>

China's goals for 2025: five things to know

The Korea Times, March 5, 2025

China laid out its economic growth goals and spending for 2025 on March 5, 2025. China has set an economic growth target of around five percent for 2025, broadly in line with analysts' expectations. China will boost its defence spending by 7.2 per cent in 2025, the same as last year, according to a budget report. China will increase the minimum basic old-age benefits for rural and non-working urban residents by 20 yuan (\$2.75) per person per month, the budget report said. In addition, Premier Li Qiang pledged stronger support for private enterprises. Li acknowledged that an "increasingly complex and severe external environment" may exert a greater impact on China in areas such as trade and technology.

https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/world/2025/03/501_393514.html

Chinese Foreign Ministry on establishing the "International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations" at the UN

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, March 5, 2025

Last year, the resolution proposed by China to establish the "International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations" was adopted at the 78th United Nations General Assembly by consensus. This marks

a successful practice of China's Global Civilization Initiative put forth by President Xi Jinping, and represents a significant contribution to promoting dialogue among different civilizations worldwide, as well as advancing global peace and development. The special website for the "International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations" launched by the U.N. recently will help promote the common values of humanity, raise public awareness of respecting diversity of civilizations, and draw attention to finding solutions to global challenges.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202503/t20250305_11568916.html

The US has spurred the Chinese chip industry

June Yoon

Financial Times, March 5, 2025

Nvidia is facing its first real competitor in China. US export controls, designed to cut off China's access to advanced chips and chipmaking gear, were supposed to ensure that no domestic rival could emerge. But the very sanctions meant to shut down China's chipmaking sector have instead fuelled it, accelerating the rise of an unexpected challenger: Huawei. The paradox is clear — had the US never imposed chip export bans, the Chinese conglomerate would have continued to rely on Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company for its chips. Chinese chips would have probably remained second-tier, reliant on foreign technology with little urgency to innovate.

<https://www.ft.com/content/9ffa18c4-1ef9-4801-ba6d-9058c67f3b40>

China aims to carry out Mars sample return mission around 2030: NPC deputy

Fan Anqi and Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, March 6, 2025

A lawmaker from China's leading space contractor the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp (CASC) revealed on the sidelines of the ongoing two sessions that China aims to carry out a Mars sample return mission around 2030. Meanwhile, a political adviser from CASC told the Global Times that this year is expected to see a variety of reusable rockets being unveiled or making their maiden flights, including one of the country's new-generation manned launch vehicle series. Sun Zezhou, a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC) and a senior engineer at CASC, said the purpose of the Mars sample return mission is to search for water.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1329618.shtml>

CNOOC makes major breakthrough in South China Sea

Zheng Xin

China Daily, March 6, 2025

CNOOC Limited announced that it has made a major breakthrough in the exploration of Paleozoic buried hills in the Beibu Gulf Basin. The Weizhou 10-5 oil and gas field is located in the Beibu Gulf of the South China Sea, with an average water depth of about 37 meters. Exploration well WZ10-5-1Sa encountered an oil and gas pay zone of 283 meters, with a total drilled depth of about 4,840 meters, it said. The test results indicate that the well produces about 13.2 million cubic feet of natural gas and about 800 barrels of crude oil per day, a major breakthrough in natural gas exploration in the granite buried hills in the Beibu Gulf Basin.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202503/06/WS67c931e9a310c240449d90c1.html>

US charges 12 Chinese nationals with hacking American agencies for Beijing

Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, March 6, 2025

The US has charged 12 Chinese nationals, including two public security officials, with involvement in a hacker-for-hire campaign on Beijing's behalf whose targets included American government agencies. The justice department indicted 10 of the Chinese citizens for allegedly leading a decade-long hacking campaign at the request of Chinese intelligence and police agencies. They also allegedly sold data obtained through hacking to China's ministry of state security and the ministry of public security.

<https://www.ft.com/content/2c1990c7-8ca6-4dcc-8f06-f199ec90d9ea>

Chinese navy ships round out Australian circuit with sail near base hosting US submarine

Enoch Wong

South China Morning Post, March 6, 2025

A Chinese naval fleet led by the Type 055 destroyer Zunyi is nearing the completion of its unprecedented circumnavigation of Australia, which included sailing near a strategically sensitive defence facility off Western Australia. The Australian Defence Force said the flotilla was 630 nautical miles (1,166km) northwest of Perth. It was the ninth official update since last week and

was accompanied by surveillance images taken. Analysts suggest the warships may soon transit through the Sunda Strait, marking their return to the South China Sea. Some analysts said the Zunyi task group's passage near Australia went beyond military posturing, with the presence of People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy warships near Perth carrying intelligence-gathering implications.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3301331/chinese-navy-ships-round-out-australian-circuit-sail-past-base-hosting-us-submarine>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on U.S. Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth's comments that the U.S. doesn't seek a war with China, but will rebuild the military and prepare for war

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, March 6, 2025

The rhetoric of the U.S. official is aimed at fueling ideological confrontation and spreading so-called "China threat" that doesn't exist. The U.S. needs to realize that China is NOT a mirror image of the hegemonic U.S. The U.S. should stop viewing China-U.S. relations with an outdated Cold War mentality. The U.S. must no longer seek to contain or go after China in the name of strategic competition. We've always held the clear-cut view that whatever kind of war it is, a tariff war or a trade war, a cold war or a hot war, they should not be fought and cannot be won.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202503/t20250306_11569578.html

U.S. soldiers arrested in scheme to send classified data, missile documents to China

Cate Cadell

The Washington Post, March 7, 2025

Two active-duty U.S. soldiers stationed in Washington state and one former soldier in Oregon were arrested on Thursday, accused of passing classified information including weapons documents and hard drives to contacts in China as recently as December, according to federal court documents. Sgt. Jian Zhao, who was stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in western Washington, allegedly handed over around 20 government hard drives — some marked "secret" — along with military documents detailing missile-launcher technology and U.S. military exercises in the Indo-Pacific.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/03/07/indictment-classified-military-information-china-espionage/>

Donald Trump ‘confident’ China will not invade Taiwan during his presidency, Scott Bessent says

Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, March 7, 2025

Donald Trump is confident that Chinese President Xi Jinping will not attack Taiwan during his time in the White House, according to US Treasury secretary Scott Bessent. Speaking on CNBC, Bessent said Trump was “confident that President Xi will not make that move during his presidency”. Bessent was responding to a question about whether he thought China would attack Taiwan. US intelligence officials said Xi had told the People’s Liberation Army to develop the capabilities to invade Taiwan by 2027, but they had also stressed this does not mean 2027 is a deadline for war.

<https://www.ft.com/content/3f9bdf10-27a2-4274-89dc-f5832016f588>

A cooperative pas de deux of the dragon and the elephant is the only right choice for China and India

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People’s Republic of China, March 7, 2025

At the press conference on March 7, 2025, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi talked about China-India relations. Wang Yi noted, China-India relations have made positive strides over the past year. The successful meeting between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kazan last October provided strategic guidance for the improvement and development of the bilateral ties. Both sides have earnestly followed through on the important common understandings of our leaders, strengthened exchanges and practical cooperation at all levels, and achieved a series of positive outcomes. Wang Yi said, China and India are each other’s largest neighbors. China always believes that the two should be partners that contribute to each other’s success. A cooperative pas de deux of the dragon and the elephant is the only right choice for both sides.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbzhd/202503/t20250307_11570330.html

China and the United States must seek peaceful co-existence on this planet

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People’s Republic of China, March 7, 2025

At the press conference on March 7, 2025, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi stated China’s principled position on China-U.S. relations. Wang Yi noted, mutual respect is a basic norm governing state-to-state relations. It is

also an important prerequisite for China-U.S. relations. No country should fantasize that it can suppress China and maintain good relations with China at the same time. Such two-faced acts are not good for the stability of bilateral relations, or for building mutual trust. Wang Yi said, as the world's largest developing and developed countries respectively, China and the United States will stay on this planet for a long time.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbzhd/202503/t20250307_11570190.html

Commercial space dual inclusion in Govt Work Report ramps up satellite internet construction

Tao Mingyang

Global Times, March 7, 2025

During the annual two sessions, Rong Yi, a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the country's top political advisory body, and a rocket expert at China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp, said that China will see multiple types of reusable rockets make their debuts in 2025, with maiden flights slated for implementation across the year, China Media Group reported. Reusable rocket technology, as a key technology in the commercial space sector, enables significant reductions in launch costs while enhancing operational efficiency, and Zhang Changwu projected that the technology might be achieved this year.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1329653.shtml>

China could attack Pearl Harbor—and the West Coast

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas McCabe

US Naval Institute, March 8, 2025

In a potential conflict with China, especially one fought over Taiwan, it is reasonable to expect the war would start after a period of increasing tensions, which would give U.S. forces the chance to prepare. China would expect rapid U.S. intervention to support Taiwan. U.S. bases in the western Pacific, especially on Okinawa and Guam, would be likely targets for Chinese attack, in particular by missiles. U.S. warships at sea or in port in the region would be under the same threat.

<https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2025/march/china-could-attack-pearl-harbor-and-west-coast>

Australia's defences must be ready in two years, especially in the backdrop of Chinese forays into waters around Australia

Michael Pezzullo

The Strategist, ASPI, March 8, 2025

Beijing deployed a naval task group to the waters around Australia for three related reasons. First, to demonstrate the reach and potency of Chinese sea power and to put Australia on notice that it is vulnerable to the application of that power. Second, to test our political and military responses. Third, to rehearse for wartime operations against Australia. Regarding the last, the deployment was most likely a rehearsal run for the conduct of a seaborne missile strike on Australia, with China testing how it might most effectively launch missile strikes on Australian military facilities and critical national infrastructure.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/australias-defences-must-be-ready-in-two-years-heres-what-to-do/>

China says rising military budget 'reasonable' in face of 'complex security environment'

Shi Jiangtao

South China Morning Post, March 9, 2025

China has said it will “vigorously” develop new combat capabilities as it confronts the world’s “most complex security environment” amid the deepening rivalry with the United States. Speaking on the sidelines of the annual session of the National People’s Congress, defence ministry spokesman Wu Qian defended this year’s 7.2 per cent rise in military spending, as “reasonable and steady” and in line with economic growth. However, he admitted it remained an “arduous, uphill” battle to turn the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) into a “world-class” military and hit its modernisation targets by 2027, the centenary of its founding. Wu said national defence spending would rise to 1.81 trillion yuan (US\$250 billion) this year, including 1.78 trillion yuan allocated at the central level.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3301686/china-says-rising-military-budget-reasonable-face-complex-security-environment>

Key system of China's next-generation "artificial sun" passes acceptance process

Xinhua, March 9, 2025

China has hit another milestone in the development of its next-generation "artificial sun," with one of its key systems passing expert review and acceptance procedures, achieving an internationally

advanced development and operational capability standard. The one-eighth vacuum chamber and overall installation system was developed by the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Plasma Physics (ASIPP). It is one of the 19 key subsystems of the Comprehensive Research Facility for Fusion Technology (CRAFT), a platform on which engineers develop and test the key components of fusion energy reactors.

[https://english.news.cn/20250309/6b2214d0073d4f7c944ce8a8e2b4c2f8/c.html#:~:text=HEFEI%2C%20March%209%20\(Xinhua\),development%20and%20operational%20capability%20stand%20ard](https://english.news.cn/20250309/6b2214d0073d4f7c944ce8a8e2b4c2f8/c.html#:~:text=HEFEI%2C%20March%209%20(Xinhua),development%20and%20operational%20capability%20stand%20ard)

China set for joint naval exercise Security Belt-2025 with Russia and Iran

Victoria Bela

South China Morning Post, March 9, 2025

China will hold joint naval exercises with Russia and Iran in the Indian Ocean this month, the Chinese defence ministry said. The ministry said the “Security Belt-2025” joint exercise would be held near the Iranian port of Chabahar on the coast of the Gulf of Oman with the aim of deepening “military trust and pragmatic cooperation”. The exercise will include simulated attacks on maritime targets, joint search and rescue drills, and spot checks and arrests. China will send the Type 052D guided-missile destroyer Baotou and supply ship Gaoyouhu from the 47th naval escort task force to take part in the exercise.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3301673/china-set-joint-naval-exercise-security-belt-2025-russia-and-iran?module=top_story&pgtype=subsection

China's top universities expand enrollment for AI and strategic talent

CGTN, March 10, 2025

Several of China's top universities have declared plans to expand undergraduate enrollment in 2025, with a sharp focus on national strategic priorities and cutting-edge technologies. Both Tsinghua and Peking universities announced plans to expand their undergraduate intake by around 150 undergraduate spots each. Tsinghua University will establish a new undergraduate general education college to focus on cultivating interdisciplinary talents in artificial intelligence (AI). The new enrollment plan of Peking University will centre on fields of national strategic needs, fundamental disciplines, and emerging frontiers.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2025-03-10/China-s-top-universities-expand-enrollment-for-AI-and-strategic-talent-1BDjivHz1Kw/p.html>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the China-U.S. trade relations

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, March 10, 2025

China-U.S. trade and economic ties benefit both sides. If one had been ripping the other off, there is no way the ties would have come this far as we see today. To call the economic ties a “rip-off” and pursue absolute reciprocity in trade goes against the most basic economic common sense and those who do so are underestimating the judgement of U.S. companies and consumers. No matter what the purported rationale is, it cannot hide the U.S.’s aim of politicizing and weaponizing trade issues to contain and go after China. It’s been years and years since the U.S. initiated the trade war against the rest of the world, yet it has not stopped U.S. trade deficit from going up and reaching US\$918.4 billion last year. Whether it’s a tariff war or a trade war, they invariably start by hurting others before coming back to hurt the one who launched it. It’s time for the U.S. to learn its lesson and end this wrong practice.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202503/t20250310_11572149.html

NPC deputy proposes commercial satellite export policy

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, March 10, 2025

A deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) has proposed the swift introduction of a specialized commercial satellite export policy, with clear procedures and requirements to spur capable private aerospace firms to capture overseas markets. In recent years, opening-up policies at all levels of government have provided a solid foundation and vast opportunities for the development of the commercial space sector, with the market scale continuously expanding and the industry showing strong growth momentum, Zhang Tao, a deputy to the 14th NPC, China's national legislature, told the Global Times

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1329841.shtml>

China launches communication technology test satellite

China Daily, March 10, 2025

China sent a new test satellite for communication technology into space from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in the southwestern Sichuan province. The satellite was launched by a Long March-3B rocket at 0117 Hrs (Beijing Time). It has entered the planned orbit, marking the success of the launch, according to the launch centre. The satellite will be mainly used to carry out multi-band

and high-speed communication technology validation, said the centre. This launch was the 562nd mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202503/10/WS67cde08ca310c240449d9b11.html>

China's low-altitude economy set to take off in 2025, fuelled by policy support

Tao Mingyang, Fan Wei and Tu Lei

People's Daily Online, March 10, 2025

China's two sessions this year spotlighted the low-altitude economy as a strategic frontier, with national lawmakers and political advisors unveiling motions and proposals to steadily propel the trillion-yuan industry from pilot projects to nationwide commercialization. China vows to promote the safe and sound development of commercial space, the low-altitude economy, and other emerging industries. According to the 2025 Government Work Report, submitted to the national legislature session for deliberation on March 5, 2025, it was the second inclusion of the "low-altitude economy" in the report.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0311/c90000-20287858.html>

China builds giant anti-hypersonic radar that can track every small and big Indian missile from 5,000 km away

Sarahbeth George

The Economic Times, March 10, 2025

China has established a powerful new radar system capable of monitoring India's ballistic missile launches in real-time. The Large Phased Array Radar (LPAR), deployed in Yunnan province, near the China-Myanmar border, significantly enhances Beijing's surveillance capabilities. The system, with an estimated range exceeding 5,000 km, can track missile tests conducted from India's Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast, a key site for testing Agni-V intercontinental ballistic missiles and K-4 submarine-launched missiles. Indian security agencies have raised the alarm, warning the government that China's radar placement gives it an unprecedented intelligence advantage. "This system allows Beijing to detect, track, and analyse every missile test India conducts, giving them insights into our strategic capabilities," said a senior defence official.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/china-builds-giant-anti-hypersonic-radar-that-can-track-every-small-and-big-indian-missile-from-5000-km-away/articleshow/118839557.cms?from=mdr>

China wants to change world with disruptive technologies, but what are they?

The Korea Times, March 10, 2025

China's advancements in disruptive technologies are rapidly blurring the lines between science fiction and reality, from humanoid robots and a computer in the brain to encryption-shattering quantum computers and hypersonic aircraft. At the start of last year, Chinese President Xi Jinping called for the strengthening of "original and disruptive" scientific and technological innovation and accelerating efforts to achieve sci-tech self-reliance.

https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2025/03/501_393801.html

Sylloge on China is compiled by Mr. Niranjan C. Oak

Nuclear and Arms Control Centre, MP-IDSA