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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 to pick first moon landing taikonauts from space veterans

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, March 11, 2025

China will select taikonauts for its first-ever manned moon landing mission from the current pool that has participated in spaceflight missions to the China Space Station, China's first astronaut and a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) disclosed during a latest video interview with the People's Daily. Yang Liwei, also deputy chief designer of China's manned space program, revealed that the main products commissioned for the country's first manned moon landing mission, including the manned spacecraft Mengzhou, lander, launch vehicle, spacesuits and rover, have entered the prototype development stage, various large-scale experiments have also been initiated, and the construction of supporting facilities has begun.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1329881.shtml>

Chinese naval modernization may be aided by foreign firms, report says

Lily Kuo

The Washington Post, March 12, 2025

A single Chinese state-owned shipbuilder produced more commercial vessels by tonnage in 2024 than the entire U.S. shipbuilding industry has since World War II, according to a report that underscores how China has come to dominate the sector. Foreign companies may be inadvertently fueling the expansion of the Chinese navy, according to the report from the Center for Strategic and International Studies, posing a national security threat to the United States and its allies. "China's shipbuilding sector has undergone a striking metamorphosis. Twenty years ago, the country was a peripheral player in the global shipyard business. Today, it dominates the industry," the report said.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2025/03/12/chinese-shipbuilding-military-national-security/>

China's red-eye AI just killed human pilots' last hope to win in air combat: researchers

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, March 12, 2025

In a breakthrough set to reshape the future of air combat, Chinese researchers claim to have nullified humanity's final tactical advantage over artificial intelligence (AI) in dogfights: the

ability to outmanoeuvre algorithms through unpredictable, high-intensity aerial acrobatics. Detailed in a study published late last year, the method combines advanced infrared imaging with AI-driven predictive modelling to anticipate an opponent's moves by detecting subtle wing-tail movements.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3300557/chinas-red-eye-ai-just-killed-human-pilots-last-hope-win-air-combat>

Another group of 18 Qianfan Constellation satellites launched in Hainan, South China

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, March 12, 2025

China's Long March-8 carrier rocket, developed by the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT), successfully lifted off from the Launch Pad 1 at the Hainan Commercial Space Launch Site, which was also developed by CALT. The rocket carried 18 satellites, successfully deploying the fifth batch of Qianfan Constellation satellites into their designated orbit. The mission is a complete success and marks the maiden launch from the Launch Pad 1, Global Times learned from CALT.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1329950.shtml>

China seeking AI totalitarianism

Ryan Xu

Taipei Times, March 13, 2025

Chinese artificial intelligence (AI) start-up DeepSeek early this year launched a new model to much fanfare internationally, but the company's technological breakthroughs did not come from independent research and development, they relied on the technological achievements accumulated by the US and other Western countries. As early as 2017, the Chinese government proposed a plan for a "new generation of AI," with the goal of becoming a global leader in the technology by 2030. This is not only about tech competition, but also an important step for the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to achieve "digital totalitarianism."

<https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/editorials/archives/2025/03/13/2003833328>

Chinese personnel stationed abroad trapped in ‘tailored prostitution,’ leaks information under blackmail: MSS

Global Times, March 13, 2025

China’s Ministry of State Security (MSS) on Thursday disclosed a case in which a personnel from a Chinese overseas institution was targeted and coerced by an overseas espionage agency through a carefully staged “romantic drama,” reminding individuals to enhance security awareness in foreign exchanges, which is not only a safeguard for national security but also a responsibility for personal safety. Zhang, personnel stationed at a Chinese overseas institution, regularly visited upscale venues known for extravagant entertainment and social gatherings during his time abroad.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1330034.shtml>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the German foreign intelligence service’s conclusion about Corona virus originating in Wuhan, China

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People’s Republic of China, March 13, 2025

The COVID-19 origins-tracing is a matter of science, and the judgement should be made by scientists and the science-based spirit should be upheld. It is “extremely unlikely” that the pandemic was caused by a lab leak—this is the authoritative conclusion reached by the experts of the WHO-China joint mission based on science following their field trips to the lab in Wuhan and in-depth communication with researchers. The conclusion has been widely acknowledged by the international community, including the science community. On the COVID-19 origins-tracing, we firmly oppose all forms of political manipulation.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202503/t20250313_11574297.html

Open-source chip design spurring on AI

Ma Si

China Daily, March 13, 2025

Open-source chip design architecture RISC-V is gaining in popularity in China, experts said, as domestic tech companies such as Alibaba Group Holding Ltd work to sharpen their technological strengths in semiconductors amid the rapidly evolving era of artificial intelligence. RISC-V technology manages memory systems shared between CPUs, and has been open and free for use since its debut in 2010. Developers can use it to design a chip tailored to their unique needs. In China, hundreds of companies are already engaged in, or exploring, RISC-V development.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202503/13/WS67d2317aa310c240449da88f.html>

Top Chinese scientist calls for global cooperation in near Earth asteroid defence

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, March 13, 2025

Wu Weiren, chief designer of China's lunar exploration program, called for operational asteroid defence services and deeper international cooperation to protect the Earth, advocating for a global planetary defence community, when addressing the 776th session of the Xiangshan Science Conference, themed "Key Scientific and Engineering Challenges in Near-Earth Asteroid (NEA) Defence.". Organized by the Deep Space Exploration Laboratory (DSEL), the conference gathered over 50 leading Chinese space scientists and researchers. Discussions focused on four core topics: asteroid defence science, detection, tracking, and impact technology.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1330066.shtml>

China holds trilateral meeting with Russia, Iran on Iranian nuclear issue

Global Times, March 14, 2025

A China-Russia-Iran meeting on the Iranian nuclear issue started in Beijing. China's Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu chairs the meeting with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Ryabkov Sergey Alexeevich and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi, according to China's Foreign Ministry. A day before the trilateral meeting, Ma met with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Gharibabadi, and said that China attaches great importance to the development of China-Iran relations and is willing to work with Iran to implement the important consensus reached by the heads of state of the two countries.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1330119.shtml>

Taiwan calls China 'foreign hostile force' and vows tough measures

Koh Ewe

BBC, March 14, 2025

In some of his strongest rhetoric yet amid worsening cross-strait ties, Taiwan leader Lai Ching-te has labelled China a "foreign hostile force". He said Taiwan had "no choice but to take even more proactive measures" as a result, as he announced a raft of new national security measures, including reinstating a military court system and tightening the residency criteria for those from China, Hong Kong and Macau. In response to Lai's remarks, Chinese authorities called him a "destroyer of cross-straits peace" and a "creator of crisis".

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c3e4dg3e2z4o>

Defence Ministry responds to US report ‘China building large nuclear-powered aircraft carrier’, says it’s ‘purely speculative’

Liu Xuanzun, Guo Yuandan and Li Yawei

Global Times, March 14, 2025

A Chinese Defence Ministry spokesperson called US reports claiming China is building a large nuclear-powered aircraft carrier "purely speculative," but cited China's national security needs and technology development for the country's aircraft carrier development. Chinese military affairs experts said China's aircraft carrier construction does not need to be compared with US carriers, but they remain open about the possibility of China developing new technologies for aircraft carriers.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1330128.shtml>

China proposes five points on proper settlement of Iranian nuclear issue

Xinhua, March 14, 2025

China proposed five points on the proper settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue, as Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Ryabkov Sergey Alexeevich and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi in Beijing. Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said that China stays committed to peaceful settlement of disputes through political and diplomatic means, and opposes the use of force and illegal sanctions. China stays committed to balancing rights and responsibilities, and takes a holistic approach to the goals of nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, said Wang.

<https://english.news.cn/20250314/15256c9c770c4d6a84ce045f8252cf1f/c.html>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on Indian PM Modi’s remarks on new quality productive forces

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People’s Republic of China, March 14, 2025

The new quality productive forces are those driven by technological and industrial innovation. “New” is what makes them different from other productive forces. Large-scale AI model, quantum computer, humanoid robot, and unmanned new energy vehicle all bring out the charm of the new quality productive forces. China actively explores new energy, new material and new technology, and develops new quality productive forces through technological innovation. The new quality productive forces also speed up the transition from old growth drivers into new ones, enhance the efficiency of resource allocation, promote industrial transformation and upgrade, and offer fresh impetus to high-quality development.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202503/t20250314_11576059.html

China lodges solemn representations with Canada; 'suppressing China not a panacea for resolving G7's internal disagreements'

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, March 15, 2025

Commenting on the joint statement of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the G7 Foreign Ministers' Declaration on Maritime Security and Prosperity, the spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in Canada refuted that such statements are filled with arrogance, prejudice and malicious intentions to suppress and attack China. China strongly deplores and opposes this and has lodged solemn representations with the Canadian side, the embassy spokesperson said in a statement published on its website, criticizing that "such statements repeat the same old rhetoric, ignore facts and China's solemn position, grossly interfere in China's internal affairs, and blatantly smear China."

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1330162.shtml>

China unveils first homegrown space mining robot

Global Times, March 16, 2025

China's first space mining robot has been developed by the China University of Mining and Technology (CUMT). It not only adapts to the microgravity conditions of space but also navigates the rugged, cratered terrain of asteroids, CCTV News reported. The prototype has now filed patents with relevant authorities and successfully cleared preliminary reviews, the report said. This multifunctional space mining robot is developed by a research team headed by Professor Liu Xinhua at CUMT. According to CCTV, it features a six-legged configuration with three wheeled limbs and three clawed limbs.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1330219.shtml>

Did a US military contractor use a Chinese-made jet engine in 'Strategic Strike' missile?

Zhang Tong

South China Morning Post, March 16, 2025

A US defence contractor is facing scrutiny after allegations surfaced that its latest weapon system may be using a jet engine that was made in China and sold online. On March 5, California-based start-up Mach Industries posted a promotional video on social media showcasing its latest product

– a vertical take-off cruise missile. But it did not take long for viewers analysing the video to suggest that the engine design closely resembled the Swiwin SW800 Pro, a Chinese-manufactured model.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3302388/did-us-military-contractor-use-chinese-made-jet-engine-strategic-strike-missile>

Chinese FM warns DPP's attempt to rename overseas offices, urges certain countries to recognize malicious intentions behind

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, March 17, 2025

The one-China principle is a well-recognized norm in international relations, a prevailing consensus in the international community and the political foundation for China to establish and grow its relations with other countries. The government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China. Taiwan is never a country, not in the past, and never in the future. China has all along opposed official interaction of any form between the Taiwan authorities and countries that have diplomatic relations with China. We hope relevant countries will see through the Taiwan authorities' ill-intentioned schemes, abide by the one-China principle with concrete actions, and uphold the political foundation of their relations with China.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202503/t20250317_11577262.html

China's private rocket firm Galactic Energy sends eight satellites into orbits

Global Times, March 17, 2025

Chinese commercial space company Galactic Energy announced that it successfully deployed eight satellites into sun-synchronous orbits from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Northwest China's Gansu Province. Six of the satellites launched, designated No.55 to No.60 of the Yunyao constellation, are capable of collecting data on atmospheric temperature, humidity, pressure, and ionospheric electron density. This data has broad applications in meteorological observation, offering crucial support for weather forecasting, climate monitoring, and space weather early-warning systems, the company said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1330271.shtml>

DARPA is losing a critical next-gen stealth jet tech race to China: study

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, March 17, 2025

In 2021, as US defence contractors sketched concepts for a futuristic drone controlled by blasts of air instead of mechanical flaps, China quietly flew one. Now, newly published research has revealed for the first time details of how Beijing outpaced Washington in this pivotal arms race. Next-generation air dominance hinges on eliminating traditional control surfaces. Rudders, flaps and tail fins create radar reflections and thermal signatures.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3301298/darpa-losing-critical-next-gen-stealth-jet-tech-race-china-study>

Beijing meeting on Iran's nuclear issue backs rule of law, multilateralism

Xinhua, March 17, 2025

The recent Beijing meeting between China, Russia, and Iran on the Iranian nuclear issue has helped lay the cornerstone for backing the rule of law at the international level and promoting multilateralism, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei said. "In the meeting, the cornerstone was laid for a constructive and fruitful process for the three countries as well as supporting the rule of law at the international level and promoting multilateralism," Baghaei told a weekly press conference. Expressing gratitude to China for hosting the meeting and to Russia for its participation, Baghaei said such meetings will continue in the future.

<https://english.news.cn/20250317/70da035953d74dee85358824ce0d0c89/c.html>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on Indian PM Modi's remarks on India-China relations

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, March 17, 2025

China appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent positive statements on China-India relations. 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. In the two-thousand-year-plus history, the mainstream of China-India

interactions has been friendly exchanges and mutual learning. This greatly contributes to the progress of civilizations and humanity. As the two largest developing countries, China and India have a shared task to achieve respective development and revitalization, and should understand and support each other, and help each other succeed.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202503/t20250317_11577262.html

New footage of alleged Chinese 6th-gen fighter emerges, appears to show smooth progress: expert

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, March 17, 2025

An alleged Chinese sixth-generation fighter jet that first appeared in December last year apparently has conducted another flight test recently, according to videos and images on social media. A Chinese military affairs expert said the footage, if authentic, showed that the flight tests of the new aircraft are progressing smoothly. One of the videos on Sina Weibo was reposted by Naval & Merchant Ships, a popular Chinese magazine on military affairs that also ran a cover story about China's sixth-generation fighter jets for its March edition. The aircraft, nicknamed by netizens as the "ginkgo leaf" due to its appearance, was taken on camera this time with its landing gears retracted, with no other aircraft accompanying it.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1330293.shtml>

Chinese nuclear scientists identify flaw in Nasa's lunar reactor design

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, March 18, 2025

Chinese nuclear engineers have discovered a critical inefficiency issue in Nasa's lunar nuclear reactor design – but, they claim, minor structural adjustments could slash fuel consumption by 75 per cent while boosting power output and longevity. The findings, from a study led by Zhao Shouzhi, chief reactor designer at the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC), have already been integrated into China's lunar base reactor programme – a development that could tilt the ongoing moon race in Beijing's favour.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3302163/chinese-nuclear-scientists-identify-flaw-nasas-lunar-reactor-design>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on China-South Korea overlapping maritime claims in the Yellow Sea

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, March 18, 2025

China and the ROK have overlapping claims on maritime rights and interests. The two sides are advancing negotiations on maritime delimitation and in the meanwhile, actively carrying out cooperation in the provisional maritime zone in accordance with the China-ROK Fishery Agreement. Regarding the maritime disputes between the two sides, China and the ROK maintain sound communication through the dialogue and cooperation mechanism of maritime affairs, and the maritime law enforcement authorities of the two countries also have smooth communication channel. The situation in the Yellow Sea is stable at the moment.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202503/t20250318_11577921.html

Why China is suddenly flooding the market with powerful AI models

June Yoon

Financial Times, March 19, 2025

Retaliation seemed certain. When the US tightened its grip on advanced artificial intelligence technologies in January — blocking China's access to advanced AI chips and locking proprietary models behind trade barriers — the response appeared predictable. China would build its own walls, guard its breakthroughs and double down on secrecy. Instead, China is doing something unexpected: it is giving away its most advanced AI models. Chinese tech groups are taking a very different approach. By open sourcing AI, they not only sidestep US sanctions but also decentralise development and tap into global talent to refine their models. Even restrictions on Nvidia's high-end chips become less of an obstacle when the rest of the world can train and improve China's models on alternative hardware.

<https://www.ft.com/content/13df6250-dffb-40fc-bb79-309764fa3905>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on Japanese approach to oppose any attempts by the Chinese government to unilaterally change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, March 19, 2025

The Taiwan question is China's internal affair and brooks no external inference. Japan bears historical responsibilities to the Chinese people for its colonial rule over Taiwan. It must act with extra prudence on this issue. As for the China-related negative moves of Japan, China lodged serious protests with Japan immediately after those moves. The China-Japan relationship is at a

crucial juncture for improvement and development. We hope Japan will act on its pledges of comprehensively advancing the China-Japan strategic relationship of mutual benefit and building a constructive and stable China-Japan relationship fit for the new era.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202503/t20250319_11578652.html

China's HQ-19 system to shield against hypersonic weapons and nuclear threats

Hayley Wong

South China Morning Post, March 19, 2025

After 14 years of testing, China has debuted the Hongqi-19 (HQ-19), an anti-ballistic missile system capable of intercepting threats beyond the atmosphere, as well as those moving at hypersonic speeds within the atmosphere. The HQ-19, also known as the Red Flag-19, has been touted as a more competent rival of the US Army's Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) anti-missile system developed in the 1990s. The new anti-ballistic missile system is expected to be crucial for defending Chinese territory from a high altitude against ballistic missiles, which can be armed with nuclear warheads.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3302865/chinas-hq-19-system-shield-against-hypersonic-weapons-and-nuclear-threats>

China makes breakthroughs in reusable launch vehicle engine technology; engine ready for delivery

Global Times, March 19, 2025

The China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC) announced that its commercial rocket subsidiary has successfully completed the second-stage propulsion system test for a reusable launch vehicle. This marks a significant breakthrough in reusable engine technology for China's commercial space sector. Reusable engine technology is a key advantage in the global commercial space race, directly impacting the success of rocket recovery. The YF-102V, an open-cycle liquid oxygen-kerosene high-altitude engine, is designed for the second stage of cost-efficient, medium-sized launch vehicles.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1330402.shtml>

China delays approval of BYD's Mexico plant amid fears tech could leak to US

Gloria Li, Cheng Leng, Thomas Graham and Kana Inagaki

Financial Times, March 19, 2025

Beijing is delaying approval for carmaker BYD to build a plant in Mexico amid concerns that the smart car technology developed by China's biggest electric-vehicle maker could leak across the border to the US. Authorities feared Mexico would gain unrestricted access to BYD's advanced technology and knowhow, they said, even possibly allowing US access to it. "The commerce ministry's biggest concern is Mexico's proximity to the US," said one of the people. Beijing is also giving preference to projects in countries that are part of China's Belt and Road infrastructure development programme, according to the people.

<https://www.ft.com/content/36ac6f78-aadb-47bb-a5cd-ec69b420cbe1>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on Chairman of the U.S. House "Select Committee on the CCP" John Moolenaar's letters to presidents of six U.S. universities, requesting information on details regarding the enrollment of Chinese national students

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, March 20, 2025

Chinese students account for about a quarter of international students in the U.S. Education cooperation not only expands student exchange and deepens mutual understanding between Chinese and Americans, but also contributes to America's economic prosperity and scientific and technological progress. Both sides have benefited from such cooperation. We urge the U.S. to stop brandishing national security as a false pretext and protect the legitimate and lawful rights and interests of Chinese students in the U.S. The U.S. should not take discriminatory and restrictive measures against Chinese students.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202503/t20250320_11579377.html

Chinese-led team achieves world's first 10,000-km quantum-secured communication

China Daily, March 20, 2025

An international team led by Chinese scientists have realized quantum-secured communication across over 12,900 kilometers between China and South Africa. Using the Jinan 1 micro-nano satellite and compact ground stations, this new breakthrough in quantum technology demonstrates the potential for secure quantum communication on a global scale. In an international first, the

team led by the University of Science and Technology of China enabled real-time quantum key distribution (QKD) between the satellite and miniaturized ground stations — including one in Stellenbosch, South Africa.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202503/20/WS67db7120a310c240449dbd37.html>

China raises state funding for strategic minerals amid US trade war

Edward White

Financial Times, March 20, 2025

China is boosting state support for domestic minerals exploration as policymakers increase efforts to achieve President Xi Jinping's ambition for resource self-sufficiency amid intensifying competition with the US. Over the past year, at least half of China's 34 provincial-level governments, including those of top resource-producing regions such as Xinjiang, have announced increased subsidies or expanded access for mineral exploration, according to a Financial Times analysis of official announcements.

<https://www.ft.com/content/cace5b0f-e08c-4cb9-aac5-c3117d5a93bc>

How China is solving the nightmare that killed Elon Musk's Hyperloop

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, March 20, 2025

For nearly two centuries, the dream of vacuum tube transport has tantalised scientists and engineers. It is a dream that was reignited by Elon Musk in 2013 with his Hyperloop, which promised to revolutionise travel, seeing people whizz between cities at 1,000km/h (621mph). But halfway across the world, China cracked the code – and rewrote the rules. In 2024, China unveiled a 2km (1.2-mile) maglev hyperloop test line in Yanggao county, Shanxi province. This megaproject was detailed for the first time last month in a peer-reviewed paper published in Chinese journal Railway Standard Design.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3301447/how-china-solving-nightmare-killed-elon-musks-hyperloop>

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