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SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

An Initiative by Indian Pugwash Society and Centre for Nuclear Issues and Arms Control (MP - IDSA)



INDIAN PUGWASH SOCIETY

If some people think that the nuclear-contaminated water from Fukushima is safe to drink or swim in, we suggest that Japan save the nuclear-contaminated water: Chinese FM

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, July 11, 2023

The nuclear-contaminated water in Fukushima comes from the cooling water injected into the damaged reactor cores, as well as seepage of groundwater and rainwater after the Fukushima nuclear disaster, and it contains various radionuclides released from the damaged reactor cores. It is totally different from the normal water discharge from operating nuclear power plants. The IAEA didn't assess the efficacy and long-term reliability of Japan's treatment facilities and therefore cannot guarantee that all nuclear-contaminated water will be up to standard after treatment in the next 30 years.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/202307/t20230711_11111546.html

China maintains nuclear arsenal at minimal required level for national security — diplomat

TASS, July 12, 2023

China maintains its nuclear arsenal at the minimal level required for its national security, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Wang Wenbin told a press briefing. "China has always adhered to the self-defense nuclear strategy and maintained its nuclear arsenal at the minimal level required for its national security," the Chinese diplomat said, commenting on a NATO communique, in which the alliance's member states voiced their concern over China's nuclear arsenal.

<https://tass.com/defense/1645725>

Chinese researchers make another new discovery from data acquired by Zhurong Mars rover

Global Times, July 12, 2023

Chinese researchers have made another new discovery while studying data acquired from China's Zhurong Mars rover, confirming that wind and sand activities on the Martian surface have recorded changes in the ancient Martian environment. The discovery, scientists said, may shed light on predicting future climate changes on Earth. The research findings have been published online in the science journal Nature, the China Lunar Exploration Project (CLEP) said on its official WeChat account.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202307/1294193.shtml>

China beats rivals with first methane-liquid rocket launch

Nikkei Asia, July 12, 2023

A private Chinese company launched into orbit the world's first methane-liquid oxygen rocket, beating U.S. rivals in sending what could become the next generation of launch vehicles into space. It was the second attempt by Beijing-based LandSpace, one of the earliest firms in China's commercial launch sector, to launch the Zhuque-2. A first attempt in December failed. LandSpace also became the second private Chinese company to launch a liquid-propellant rocket.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Aerospace-Defense-Industries/China-beats-rivals-with-first-methane-liquid-rocket-launch>

State-owned aerospace giant to build 300-satellite constellation at Very Low Earth Orbit by 2030 for better, more economic remote sensing services

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, July 12, 2023

China unveiled plans to build a new satellite constellation at the Very Low Earth Orbit (VLEO) that would comprise 300 satellites orbiting the globe by 2030 and provide ultra-fast remote sensing and communication services, with the first satellite to be launched December this year, the Global Times learned from developers. The Second Academy of the China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp (CASIC), a state-owned space contractor, announced its ambitious plan at the opening day of the Ninth China (International) Commercial Aerospace Forum (9th CCAF) in Wuhan, Central China's Hubei Province.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202307/1294211.shtml>

China unveils preliminary plan on manned lunar landing

Shine, Xinhua, July 12, 2023

China plans to land its taikonauts on the moon before 2030 to carry out scientific exploration, according to a preliminary plan released by the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA). The plan is to launch two carrier rockets to send a lunar lander and a manned spacecraft to a lunar orbit, respectively. The craft and lunar lander will rendezvous and dock with each other, and then taikonauts will enter the lander. As the lunar lander descends and arrives at the preset area on the lunar surface, taikonauts will carry out scientific tasks and collect samples.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202307/1294213.shtml>

China has a reputation for exporting shoddy weapons, but its sales may get a boost from Russia's blunders in Ukraine

Michael Peck

Business Insider, July 12, 2023

For countries interested in Chinese weapons, it is buyer beware, warns a US think tank. Chinese arms may be cheaper than those of competitors, but they can prove more costly in the long run. Despite the drawbacks, Chinese arms exports may get a boost from the war in Ukraine. Russia's focus on producing weapons to replenish its own military rather than for export is likely to create market opportunities for Beijing to use arms sales to gain profit and spread its influence. For developing nations with limited defense budgets, Chinese arms are tempting. China can offer an array of military equipment, from missiles and warships to armored vehicles and drones. Even China's high-end arms are relatively cheap.

<https://www.businessinsider.in/international/news/china-has-a-reputation-for-exporting-shoddy-weapons-but-its-sales-may-get-a-boost-from-russias-blunders-in-ukraine/articleshow/101680682.cms>

Russia shipping key equipment for nuclear power plant in northeast China

Xinhua, July 12, 2023

Key equipment for the third unit of China's northernmost nuclear power plant, the Xudapu Nuclear Power Plant, has been shipped from Volgodonsk in Russia's Rostov region. The equipment includes a nuclear reactor containment vessel and four steam generators, made at the Atommash plant which is part of Atomenergomash, a division of Russia's State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom. The shipped batch of equipment weighs near 1,700 tons. "China plays a significant role in the whole nuclear industry, it has very good developments and, like Russia, China is a leader with regard to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy," Igor Kotov, general director of Atomenergomash, told Xinhua at the ceremony marking the shipment of the equipment.

<https://english.news.cn/20230712/62822b1c45fe4ee0a2555d20a9ba2f72/c.html>

Chinese mission to EU voices strong opposition to NATO smear

CGTN, July 12, 2023

China has strongly rejected the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) leaders calling the country a "systemic challenge" to Euro-Atlantic security as alliance leaders gathered for a two-day meeting in

Lithuanian capital Vilnius. A spokesperson for the Chinese Mission to the European Union (EU) made the remarks in light of the NATO summit joint communique issued earlier in the day. The communique also claimed that "China's stated ambitions and coercive policies challenge our interests, security and values."

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2023-07-12/Chinese-mission-to-EU-voices-strong-opposition-to-NATO-smear-1ln0icB2rug/index.html>

Biden: China has warned Putin against using nuclear weapons

Alex Gangitano

The Hill, July 13, 2023

President Biden said that China has warned Russian President Vladimir Putin against using nuclear weapons during the war in Ukraine. In a joint press conference with Finnish President Sauli Niinistö, Biden was asked if there are new concerns about Putin taking more drastic steps following disarray among Russian generals and the rebellion by the Wagner Group. "I don't think there's any real prospect — you never know — of Putin using nuclear weapons. Not only has the West, but China and the rest of the world has said, 'don't go there,'" Biden said in Helsinki.

<https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/4095416-biden-china-warned-putin-against-nuclear-weapons/>

Japan offering 'hush money' to quieten protests over wastewater plan: Chinese Embassy

Global Times, July 13, 2023

Japan's move to provide subsidies to domestic fishing-related sectors is clearly an offer of "hush money" to keep the industry quiet, a spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in Japan said. China urges Japan to immediately stop the discharge plan, and consult with all stakeholders and the international community, and to dispose of the nuclear-contaminated wastewater in a scientific, transparent and safe manner, the spokesperson noted.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202307/1294336.shtml>

UK has ‘no strategy’ to tackle China threat as spies ‘aggressively’ target Britain, scathing report warns

Adam Forrest, Archie Mitchell, Kim Sengupta

Independent, July 13, 2023

Successive governments have failed to grasp the scale of the threat posed by China, a report by an influential group of MPs has warned, stating that Chinese intelligence is “prolifically and aggressively” targeting the UK and its interests. In a wide-ranging report the Commons intelligence and security committee (ISC) is scathing about the government’s “completely inadequate” response to the threat of China, saying it had “no strategy” to tackle the problem.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/china-spies-uk-intelligence-report-b2374570.html>

China completes first step in advanced nuclear reactor project by finishing core module

Echo Xie

South China Morning Post, July 14, 2023

China has finished building the core module of the world’s first commercial onshore small modular reactor. The Nuclear Power Institute of China said it was the first milestone in the construction of the reactor, known as Linglong One, and “marked a historical step in the manufacturing of small modular pressurised water reactors”. Nuclear industry insiders have said this type of reactor has several benefits, including the fact that they can be used for multiple purposes and provide both power and fresh water to areas where conventional reactors are not suitable.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3227777/china-completes-first-step-advanced-nuclear-reactor-project-finishing-core-module>

China’s nuclear weapons buildup

Peter Brookes

GIS, July 14, 2023

For decades, the People’s Republic of China (PRC) has been involved in an unprecedented military modernization of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), the collective name for its armed forces. China’s

effort to modernize its nuclear (also known as strategic) weapons program is of particular concern to analysts and policymakers in Asia and much of the West. Beijing is undertaking a significant expansion and diversification of its nuclear forces. In recent years, China has been developing a nuclear triad comprising land-, sea- and air-based forces. Moreover, the construction of hundreds of new intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) silos and advancements in novel nuclear-capable weapons have raised further concerns about the country's nuclear doctrine.

<https://www.gisreportsonline.com/r/chinas-nuclear-weapons-buildup/>

China begins construction of Pakistan's largest nuclear power plant

Ayaz Gul

Voice of America, July 14, 2023

Pakistan held a groundbreaking ceremony for what will be its largest civil nuclear power plant — constructed by China — that will contribute 1,200 megawatts of electricity daily to the national grid and is estimated to cost at least \$3.5 billion. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and senior Chinese officials attended the televised event in the central city of Chashma, dubbed the birthplace of China-Pakistan nuclear energy cooperation.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/china-begins-construction-of-pakistan-s-largest-nuclear-power-plant-/7181016.html>

US chip war on China weaponises interdependence, but the outcome is far from certain

Andrew Sheng

South China Morning Post, July 15, 2023

In a recent interview, historian Chris Miller, who traces these developments in his book *Chip War*, released last year, cited three reasons the US focused on chips. First, Washington was concerned about Chinese intentions over Taiwan, home to Taiwan Semiconductors Manufacturing Corporation (TSMC), the world's leading producer of advanced chips, which are essential to next-generation military and intelligence capabilities. Second, China was showing signs of narrowing the tech gap with the US. Third, the use of export controls as a deterrent didn't seem to be effective – as the case of Russia showed – so there was no point in waiting to restrict China's access to US technology.

<https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3227572/us-chip-war-china-weaponises-interdependence-outcome-far-certain>

Pakistan's Chashma Nuclear Power Plant imports one more Hualong-One generator from China

Global Times, July 16, 2023

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Unit 5 of the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant in Pakistan was held on Friday, the third one-million-kilowatt-class unit of Hualong-One, China's domestically developed third-generation nuclear power generator, exported from China to Pakistan. It marks China's 7th nuclear power generator exported to Pakistan, another milestone in nuclear energy cooperation between the two countries, the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC), the builder of the Hualong One, announced.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202307/1294451.shtml>

Supporting US military against China could draw Australia into nuclear war, expert warns

Daniel Hurst

The Guardian, July 16, 2023

Australia is making itself a bigger military target for China and risks being drawn into a war that “could end in nuclear catastrophe”, a leading defence analyst has argued. Sam Roggeveen, the director of the Lowy Institute’s international security program and a former Australian intelligence analyst, issues the stark warning in an essay. “Australia has taken the decision to bring US combat forces, and its military strategy to fight China, on to our shores,” Roggeveen wrote in the latest edition of the Australian Foreign Affairs journal.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/jul/17/supporting-us-military-against-china-could-draw-australia-into-nuclear-war-expert-warns>

Why China is opposed to the release of treated water in Fukushima

Alyssa Chen

The Japan Times, July 16, 2023

Ahead of the planned release of treated radioactive water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant, Hong Kong and mainland China — Japan’s top two seafood export destinations — are saying no to once-sought-after food products from Japan. “As a preventive measure, once Japan discharges the wastewater into the

sea, the Hong Kong city government will immediately ban all aquatic products from 10 prefectures in Japan,” the Hong Kong government said.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/07/16/national/china-japan-fukushima-water-release-explainer/>

Taiwan abandoning the one-China framework aggravates the risk of war

Terry Gou

The Washington Post, July 17, 2023

Under the so-called 1992 Consensus, Taiwan and China agreed to accept the framework of “one China” — although the parties have differing interpretations of that term — and held discussions that over the years resulted in a number of productive agreements. But shortly after Tsai Ing-wen became Taiwan’s president in 2016, China cited her refusal to accept Beijing’s interpretation — which includes Taiwan as part of China — as a justification to end the cross-strait talks, and they have not resumed.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/07/17/taiwan-china-agreements-safety/>

China-Pakistan nuclear cooperation marks a milestone

Zheng Xin

China Daily, July 17, 2023

The construction of Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit 5 in Pakistan marks another milestone in nuclear energy cooperation between China and Pakistan, while further enhancing the influence of China's nuclear power technology worldwide, said its operator China National Nuclear Corporation. The construction of the C-5 project will further enhance Pakistan's energy security, help promote Pakistan's economic development, and improve the well-being of local people, said the CNNC.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202307/17/WS64b4d2d4a31035260b816d18.html>

First steps on a long path: seizing the opportunity to reduce US-China nuclear risks

Miles Pomper

James Martin Centre for Nonproliferation Studies, July 18, 2023

China’s growing military might has raised alarm bells in Washington and led to close encounters with U.S. military ships and planes over contested territories in the South China Sea and the Taiwan Straits. Top U.S.

officials have sought to bolster communication to prevent crises and calm relations and to initiate discussions on measures to build confidence and reduce nuclear risks within the bilateral relationship. To date, they largely have been rebuffed by China's leaders, with Secretary of State Antony Blinken emerging empty-handed from a June meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping where he sought the restoration of military-military ties.

<https://nonproliferation.org/first-steps-on-a-long-path-seizing-the-opportunity-to-reduce-us-china-nuclear-risks/>

PLA Rocket Force explodes in capability, but China refuses to explain why

ANI, July 18, 2023

It is worrying when a military increases its Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) launchers fivefold. China has done exactly this, but Beijing has never explained the reasons for this blunder. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) is a secret organization, but the Missile Force takes the confusion to a whole new level. However, a researcher in the United States has shed much-needed light on the PLA Rocket Force (PLA RF), which is responsible for China's conventional and nuclear-tipped missile inventory. In total, the PLA RF has 41 combat missile brigades, many of which were created only in the last decade.

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/pla-rocket-force-explodes-in-capability-but-china-refuses-to-explain-why20230718085922/>

US lawmakers focus on containing China's missile expansion

Xiaoshan Xue

Voice of America, July 18, 2023

U.S. lawmakers have introduced a new bill that would require the secretary of defense to develop a strategy for building "Rings of Fire" in the Indo-Pacific region to shrink the missile gap with China in concert with allies. "China's aggression is growing, and a strong deterrence strategy is needed to confront the Chinese Communist Party. As China's rocket force has taken the lead in the Indo-Pacific, the shocking gap in America's missile capabilities calls deterrence into question," Ernst said.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/us-lawmakers-focus-on-containing-china-s-missile-expansion/7185214.html>

Taiwan says looking to buy NASAMS air defence system from US

The Economic Times, July 18, 2023

Taiwan is looking to buy National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems, or NASAMS, from the United States to upgrade its air defence capabilities having seen how well they work in Ukraine, the island's defence minister said. China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory, has stepped up military and political pressure over the past three years to try to force the democratically governed island to accept Beijing's rule.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/taiwan-says-looking-to-buy-nasams-air-defence-system-from-usa/articleshow/101852378.cms?from=mdr>

Henry Kissinger makes surprise visit to China, meets top diplomat

Anna Fifield

The Washington Post, July 19, 2023

China's top diplomat hinted to former American secretary of state Henry Kissinger, the 100-year-old who was at the heart of the United States' rapprochement with China half a century ago, that Beijing was nostalgic for the days he was running U.S. foreign policy. Kissinger is on an unannounced visit to Beijing that coincides with that by another former American secretary of state: John F. Kerry, now the Biden administration's climate envoy, is in Beijing for talks aimed at kick-starting cooperation between the world's two biggest polluters.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/07/18/henry-kissinger-beijing-china-visit/>

Chinese envoy opposes use of AI to seek military hegemony at UN's first-ever debate on AI

Global Times, July 19, 2023

The UN Security Council met for the first time on artificial intelligence (AI) risks, with the UN secretary-general warning of "deeply alarming" risks concerning the interaction between AI and nuclear weapons, and the Chinese envoy clearly opposed to the use of AI as a means to seek military hegemony. Addressing the meeting, Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the UN, urged all countries to uphold a responsible defense policy, oppose the use of AI to seek military hegemony or to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other countries, and avoid the abuse, unintentional misuse or intentional misuse of AI weapon systems.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202307/1294710.shtml>

Technology remains core battle with Beijing

Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, July 19, 2023

China's test of a hypersonic weapon that circumnavigated the globe, in 2021, provided a startling reminder that the country has become a formidable military rival to the US even faster than expected. Pentagon experts were stunned that Chinese scientists had overcome constraints posed by the laws of physics in developing a missile that was able to fire another projectile as it flew at hypersonic speed.

<https://www.ft.com/content/68f78a57-c2f4-4382-bbdd-39131630b236>

Washington and Beijing are talking again. Good

The Washington Post, July 19, 2023

When Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen arrived in Beijing early this month for a four-day visit, her Chinese greeter at the airport pointed skyward to a rainbow as an apparently auspicious sign for a restart in the United States and China's fraught relationship. Chinese premier Li Qiang later referenced the heavenly symbolism, saying, "After experiencing a round of winds and rains, we surely can see a rainbow."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/07/18/america-china-communication-relations-climate/>

China, Russia kick off joint military exercise in Sea of Japan

Liu Xuanzun and Guo Yuandan

Global Times, July 20, 2023

With a Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy destroyer designated as the command ship, the China-Russia Northern/Interaction-2023 joint military exercise kicked off in the Sea of Japan. The four-day drills will strengthen the two countries' military cooperation and contribute to the safeguarding of peace and stability in Asia-Pacific amid tensions and potential threats in the region, experts said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202307/1294773.shtml>

China is serious about winning the new space race

David Ignatius

The Washington Post, July 20, 2023

Of all the potential threats that China poses to the United States, the most worrisome for me is future domination of space. Quietly but persistently, the Chinese are developing an arsenal of weapons to challenge America — the nation that landed the first man on the moon — for preeminence in this domain. The Chinese tested the first anti-satellite weapon in 2007, which left a field of thousands of pieces of debris that still endanger other satellites. Since then, they have tested satellites that can snatch other craft and carry them to a distant orbit known as the “graveyard zone.”

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/07/20/china-united-states-space-competition/>

*Sylloge on China is compiled by Mr. Niranjan C. Oak
with inputs from Mr. Kushal Agrawal*

**Nuclear and Arms Control Centre, MP-IDSA
And
Indian Pugwash Society**