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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

## **China's Shandong aircraft carrier sails through Taiwan Strait days after Antony Blinken's visit to Beijing**

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, June 21, 2023

The Chinese aircraft carrier Shandong sailed through the Taiwan Strait, just two days after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken concluded a fence-mending visit to China. While both sides described his talks with senior officials – including President Xi Jinping – as constructive, Blinken failed to persuade his Chinese hosts to agree to resume high-level military dialogue between the two countries. Meanwhile, 19 PLA planes, including a Y-8 anti-submarine aircraft and a Y-8 electronic warfare plane, and five warships were spotted southwest of the island.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3224930/chinas-shandong-aircraft-carrier-sails-through-taiwan-strait-days-after-antony-blinkens-visit>

## **China and Pakistan ink \$4.8 billion deal to build 1,200-megawatt nuclear power plant: report**

Global Times, June 21, 2023

China and Pakistan inked a \$4.8 billion deal to construct a 1,200-megawatt nuclear power plant, according to media reports. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif made the announcement, stating that work on the Chashma 5 project would commence immediately. Reuters reported Sharif's remarks on state-run news channel PTV, which came after the signing of the memorandum of understanding between China National Nuclear Cooperation and Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202306/1292971.shtml>

## **China Considers Counter-measures to US HIMARS Missile System**

Lyle Goldstein and Nathan Waechter

The Diplomat, June 22, 2023

Chinese strategists have also been studying such land-based, medium-range rocket systems and have developed their own comparable variants. Yet watching the war unfold in Ukraine, they have also intensified their research into how to defeat the innovative U.S. weapon system. An article recently

appeared in a military affiliated periodical published by a research arm of the China State Shipbuilding Corporation, under the crisp title, “Countering HIMARS.” In this piece, we will assess that article as part of the broader effort to evaluate China’s lessons from the Ukraine War.

<https://thediplomat.com/2023/06/china-considers-countermeasures-to-us-himars-missile-system/>

## **China discovers potential reserve of rare earth minerals in Himalayas: Report**

AA Energy, June 22, 2023

Chinese scientists have discovered a potentially enormous reserve of rare earth minerals in the Himalayas, which could significantly enhance China's global supplier status, the South China Morning Post (SCMP) reported. To quickly identify the deposits and gain “strategic advantages,” Chinese government geologists propose employing artificial intelligence (AI), it said. The location of the deposits, along the southern border of Tibet, adds to the complexity of the ongoing territorial dispute with India.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/energy/world/china-discovers-potential-reserve-of-rare-earth-minerals-in-himalayas-report/38402>

## **Türkiye in contact with China for planned 3rd nuclear plant'**

Daily Sabah, June 23, 2023

Türkiye is in contact with China regarding the construction of a planned third nuclear power plant (NPP) and is surveying sites for a fourth, a top ministry official said. Türkiye is in contact with Russia and South Korea for its planned second plant and China for a third plant, Sarı said. It is also exploring small modular reactor technology with British, French and U.S. companies.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/energy/turkiye-in-contact-with-china-for-planned-3rd-nuclear-plant>

## **Premier Li emphasizes cooperation potential with France, Germany, as visit stabilizes China-EU relations**

Wang Jiamei

Global Times, June 23, 2023

As Chinese Premier Li Qiang is to wrap up his first overseas visit to the EU since taking office, experts said that the trip saw Li repeatedly stress the potential of China-EU cooperation and pledge that China will

continue to open up and improve its business environment, demonstrating the importance China attaches to the European market and the intention to dispel misunderstanding and strengthen economic ties with the two major European countries amid the "de-risking" rhetoric.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202306/1293027.shtml>

## **Chinese Are Boycotting Japanese Cosmetics Over Nuclear Plant Water Release**

Chongjing Li, and Winnie Hsu

Bloomberg, June 23, 2023

A consumer boycott in China over a planned release of water from the Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear plant is threatening to hurt Japanese cosmetics makers. The viral campaign began earlier this month when largely unproven allegations that water discharges from the plant are hazardous to health began trending on Chinese social media platforms.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-06-23/china-boycott-over-fukushima-nuclear-plant-water-release-sinks-japan-cosmetics>

## **US brings first charges against Chinese entities over fentanyl ‘precursors’**

Stefania Palma and Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, June 23, 2023

The Department of Justice announced charges against four China-based companies and eight Chinese nationals, two of whom have been arrested, for “knowingly” manufacturing, marketing, selling and supplying precursor chemicals for the production of fentanyl, a potent synthetic opioid that has been linked to thousands of deaths. Lisa Monaco, deputy US attorney-general, said the indictments break “new ground by attacking the fentanyl supply chain at its origin”.

<https://www.ft.com/content/4c8ef2fb-685c-4ada-8687-1f84e6cc4a5c>

## **China set to promote deeper cooperation with Pakistan under BRI and CPEC: Chinese Premier**

Global Times, June 23, 2023

China is ready to promote continued development of the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and build a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said

during his meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. During a meeting with Sharif on the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact in Paris, Li said that China stands ready to continue strengthening cooperation with Pakistan to jointly promote the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative, according to a Xinhua News Agency.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202306/1293026.shtml>

## **US convenes nuclear weapons meeting with China, France, Russia, UK**

Reuters, June 24, 2023

The United States convened a meeting of working-level experts from China, France, Russia and the United Kingdom to discuss nuclear weapons issues including strategic risk reduction, the State Department said. White House national security spokesperson John Kirby said the talks were part of "a routine, continuing dialogue." The department said in a statement that Washington hosted the meeting on June 13-14 in Cairo among the five nuclear weapons states, describing it as "an ongoing exchange in the context of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)."

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us-convenes-nuclear-meeting-with-china-france-russia-uk-state-dept-2023-06-23/>

## **China-US military tensions remain after Blinken visit, as warship, warplane activities continue in Taiwan Straits, S.China Sea**

Liu Xuanzun and Guo Yuandan

Global Times, June 24, 2023

Military tensions between China and the US have yet to see an immediate de-escalation after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to China, with both countries' warships and warplanes, including aircraft carriers, spotted operating in sensitive waters in the Taiwan Straits and the South China Sea on China's doorstep over the past few days. If the US really wants to control risks of accidents or seek dialogue, it should stop saying one thing and doing another, and stop making military provocations around China, experts said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202306/1293075.shtml>

## **Does the China-Pakistan nuclear deal flout global rules?**

Ananth Krishnan

The Hindu, June 25, 2023

On June 20, China and Pakistan signed an agreement for a 1,200 MW nuclear power plant in the Chashma nuclear complex in Pakistan. The deal, reported to be worth \$4.8 billion, comes amid Pakistan facing a dual energy and economic crisis. The latest nuclear deal between China and Pakistan has implications not only for the crisis-hit country but also for the global governance of nuclear commerce, with Beijing proceeding with the recent deal without seeking necessary waivers from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/explained-does-the-china-pakistan-nuclear-deal-flout-global-rules/article67006232.ece>

## **China bans release of radioactive wastewater as Japan moves closer to reckless dumping plan**

Global Times, June 25, 2023

China plans to ban the release of radioactive wastewater into the ocean, which would pollute the marine environment and damage marine ecology, in its second draft of the amended Marine Environmental Protection Law. The draft underwent a second review by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, according to media reports, the same day Japan was reported to have moved a step closer to finishing the system it will use to dump the Fukushima nuclear-contaminated wastewater.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202306/1293122.shtml>

## **Chinese Premier Li Qiang's Europe trip good for trade, but EU de-risking push makes matters 'more complicated'**

Kawala Xie

South China Morning Post, June 25, 2023

Chinese Premier Li Qiang's trip to the top two European Union economies has helped to reboot trade ties with the bloc, but roadblocks remain as Brussels pushes its de-risking strategy with China, analysts said. Li's visit to Germany and France last week was his first trip abroad since becoming premier in March. Arriving in Germany, he held high-level meetings with government officials including Chancellor Olaf Scholz and visited some of the biggest names in local manufacturing like BMW and Siemens.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3225257/chinese-premier-li-qiangs-europe-trip-good-trade-eu-de-risking-push-makes-matters-more-complicated>

## **Nuclear envoys of S. Korea, U.S. call for China's 'constructive role' over N. Korea's nuke issue**

The Korea Times, June 26, 2023

The two envoys agreed the recent U.S.-China meeting served as an "important opportunity to reaffirm" that North Korea's denuclearization was in the common interests among the international community and vowed to continue urging China to play a "constructive role" in the nuclear issue. During his visit to China earlier this month, Blinken met Chinese President Xi Jinping and agreed to work toward stabilizing their ties so that it "does not veer into conflict."

[http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2023/06/113\\_353714.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2023/06/113_353714.html)

## **Macron calls for China-US cooperation and autonomous Europe, an indication of shrinking distance between China and Europe: experts**

Xu Keyue

Global Times, June 26, 2023

French President Emmanuel Macron again made a public call for building an autonomous Europe in a persistent attempt to shake off Europe's shackles and prove that it is not the vassal of any superpower. His remarks were widely viewed as being constructive for pushing forward a more multipolar world and bringing more global stability.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202306/1293199.shtml>

## **China's premier criticises west's de-risking drive at 'Summer Davos'**

Thomas Hale

Financial Times, June 27, 2023

China's premier Li Qiang has criticised a western push to limit trade and business ties with the country and promoted international economic co-operation in a speech that described de-risking as a "false proposition". "Governments should not over-reach themselves, still less stretch the concept of risk or turn it into an ideological tool," Li said in the keynote address on Tuesday at a World Economic Forum event in which he criticised "the politicisation of economic issues".

<https://www.ft.com/content/f57b8408-20c9-4e54-802f-0f5cc03f94d9>

## **Japan says Chinese power plants already discharge more radioactive water than Fukushima**

Asia News, June 28, 2023

China's nuclear power plants are releasing into the ocean radioactively contaminated water without any supervision at levels 6.5 times higher than the amount set to be discharged from the Fukushima nuclear power plant, this according to the Japanese government, stung by China's criticism over its decision to allow the plant's owner, the Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings (TEPCO), to release contaminated water.

<https://www.asianews.it/news-en/Japan-says-Chinese-power-plants-already-discharge-more-radioactive-water-than-Fukushima-58689.html>

## **China urges Japanese govt, IAEA to respond to reports of 'donation' related to Fukushima water disposal**

Xu Keyue

Global Times, June 28, 2023

The Chinese Foreign Ministry urged Tokyo to provide a convincing explanation and the IAEA secretariat to respond over the allegation after South Korean media reports revealed that the Japanese government has made a political donation to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) concerning the Fukushima nuclear-contaminated water disposal. As Japan gets closer to releasing the Fukushima nuclear-contaminated water into the sea, South Korean media on June 21 revealed that the Japanese government has made a political donation of more than 1 million euros (\$1.10 million) to the IAEA in order to resolve differences of opinion between the IAEA and third country experts conducting a review of the nuclear-contaminated water from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202306/1293365.shtml>

## **Why China keeps snubbing U.S. overtures for military dialogue**

Hiroyuki Akita

Nikkei Asia, June 28, 2023

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Chinese President Xi Jinping during his visit to China on June 18 to 19, the first such trip by a top American diplomat in nearly five years. The meeting may have



brought the two sides a bit closer, but it is unlikely to mark a turning point in easing tensions, as Beijing continues to reject U.S. overtures to hold high-level security talks.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Comment/Why-China-keeps-snubbing-U.S.-overtures-for-military-dialogue>

## **Taiwan to get tactical boost with Nato's Link 22 and US Sea Guardian drones: analysts**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, June 28, 2023

Taiwan's acquisition of Nato's Link 22 tactical communications system will bolster the island's defences, especially with the planned addition of four advanced surveillance and reconnaissance drones from the United States, military experts said. Taiwan is also expecting to take delivery of powerful MQ-9B SeaGuardian drones in 2025 after the US State Department approved the US\$600 million deal three years ago.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3225627/taiwan-get-tactical-boost-natos-link-22-and-us-seaguardian-drones-analysts>

## **Russia and China hold talks on anti-missile defence: Russian Foreign Ministry**

Channel News Asia, June 28, 2023

Russia and China's foreign ministries on June 27 held a round of consultations on anti-missile defence, the Russian Foreign Ministry said. "A thorough exchange of views took place on various aspects of this issue, including its global and regional dimensions," the ministry said in a statement on its website. China has not condemned the invasion, and Washington and other Western allies said earlier this year that China was considering providing weapons to Russia, something Beijing denies.

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/asia/russia-and-china-hold-talks-anti-missile-defence-russian-foreign-ministry-3590602>

## **China, Vietnam defense heads' meeting rebuffs US attempts to woo Vietnam in containing China: experts**

Guo Yuandan

Global Times, June 28, 2023

China is willing to work with Vietnam to promote high-level communication, institutional construction and practical cooperation between their militaries, Chinese Defense Minister Li Shangfu said when meeting his Vietnamese counterpart Phan Van Giang, who agreed to push bilateral military ties to a new level.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202306/1293303.shtml>

## **Chinese military conjures world war Z scenario of all-out conflict to test and evaluate new navy weapons**

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, June 28, 2023

The Chinese military has recently added a “total war” scenario when testing and evaluating the performance of new weapons as the risk of military conflict between China and the US reaches its highest in decades, according to scientists involved in the project. Total war means all available resources and efforts of a nation are mobilised towards winning the war. It involves not only the military but also the civilian population and the economy, such as occurred in World War I and II.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3225529/chinese-military-conjures-world-war-z-scenario-all-out-conflict-test-and-evaluate-new-navy-weapons>

## **Blinken: US seeks to coexist peacefully with China**

Nike Ching

Voice of America, June 28, 2023

The United States has to find a way to “coexist peacefully” with China amid intense competition, said U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday, noting that Washington is not economically “decoupling” from Beijing and that bilateral trade last year hit a record high. “China is not going away. We are not going away,” Blinken told a New York audience during an event hosted by the Council on Foreign Relations. “We have to find a way to coexist and coexist peacefully.”

<https://www.voanews.com/a/blinken-us-seeks-to-coexist-peacefully-with-china-/7159127.html>

## **Chinese scientists find key evidence for existence of nanohertz gravitational waves**

Leng Shumei

Global Times, June 29, 2023

A group of Chinese scientists have recently discovered key evidence supporting the existence of nanohertz gravitational waves, marking a new era in nanohertz gravitational wave research. The findings have been published online in the academic journal Research in Astronomy and Astrophysics (RAA) on Thursday, the Global Times learned from the National Astronomical Observatories of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (NAOC).

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202306/1293374.shtml>

## **Construction of two nuclear projects to help Hainan reach 'dual carbon' goals**

Zhao Xinying, Liu Yuan and Chen Bowen

China Daily, June 29, 2023

The ongoing construction of two nuclear power projects in China's southernmost nuclear power base will hopefully help Hainan province to become the first in the country to achieve the "dual carbon" goals, according to a nuclear power professional. Hualong One is China's third-generation nuclear power technology with full intellectual property rights. It has an annual power generation capacity of nearly 10 billion kilowatt-hours, which can meet the annual production and living electricity demand of 1 million people of a medium-developed country.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202306/29/WS649d31bba310bf8a75d6c5cd.html>

## **China had the most new nuclear warheads entering its arsenal in 2022**

Monica Chansoria

Japan Forward, June 29, 2023

The statistics on China's warheads are based on publicly available information. Beijing assigns these warheads to its operational land- and sea-based ballistic missiles and to nuclear-configured aircraft. Moreover, projections indicate that the Chinese nuclear stockpile will continue growing over the coming

decade. In fact, the number of Chinese ICBMs is likely to reach the numbers held by either Russia or the US. It may even exceed them.

<https://japan-forward.com/all-politics-is-global-china-had-the-most-new-nuclear-warheads-entering-its-arsenal-in-2022/>

## **China's nuclear power development plans and RAM transport**

Nuclear Engineering International, June 29, 2023

In the past decades, China has been developing actively and orderly a domestic nuclear fleet. The State of Council approved 10 reactors in 2022 which made 23 new reactor projects having been approved over the period 2019 to 2022. As of today, there are 55 reactors in operation and 23 are under construction across China. Looking ahead, the nuclear installed base should reach around 104 GWe by 2030 and will play an important role in the energy mix to support China's carbon-peak and carbon-neutral strategy, especially if China maintains this pace of development.

<https://www.neimagazine.com/features/featurechinas-nuclear-power-development-plans-and-ram-transport-10974340/>

## **China's thorium reactor a step towards a clean energy future... But what about India?**

Huma Siddqui

Financial Express, June 30, 2023

The Chinese nuclear safety body has given the go-ahead for the nation's inaugural thorium reactor, a major step in its march towards advanced nuclear technologies. Located in the Gobi desert city of Wuwei, in Gansu province, the Shanghai Institute of Applied Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences operates a 2-MW liquid-fuelled thorium molten salt reactor (MSR). On June 7, the National Nuclear Safety Administration issued a permit granting the Shanghai Institute the ability to run the reactor for a decade starting with trial operations.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-chinas-thorium-reactor-a-step-towards-a-clean-energy-future-but-what-about-india-3149998/>

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