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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

## **Li Qiang confirmed as China's premier at annual parliament**

CK Tan

Nikkei Asia, March 11, 2023

Li Qiang, the former boss of Shanghai, was tapped as China's premier on Saturday, putting him in charge of steering a post-pandemic economic recovery as the country's second-in-command. The 63-year-old's elevation was confirmed at the National People's Congress (NPC), China's annual rubber-stamp parliament, when Li is scheduled to give a traditional media briefing as the new premier.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/China-People-s-Congress/Li-Qiang-confirmed-as-China-s-premier-at-annual-parliament>

## **Aircraft carrier Shandong ready for far sea drills as Liaoning starts regular maintenance**

Liu Xuanzun and Guo Yuandan

Global Times, March 11, 2023

Having obtained its combat training certificate last year, China's second aircraft carrier, the Shandong, is expected to hold far sea exercises beyond the first island chain soon, making up for the absence of the country's first carrier, the Liaoning, which started regular maintenance last month, experts said. In a series of tests held last year, the Shandong proved it had achieved planned operational capability on schedule, and obtained the certificate for combat training, China Central Television (CCTV) reported.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1287090.shtml>

## **Chinese satellite gathering intel for Pearl Harbor-style hypersonic missile attack by using green lasers, claim experts**

Tariq Tahir

The Sun, March 12, 2023

Initially the lights were thought to come from a NASA satellite before it was finally established it was a Chinese pollution monitoring satellite the Daqi-1. But questions immediately began to be raised about why the Chinese would feel it necessary to monitor pollution in Hawaii, given the large US military presence there.

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/21648480/china-satellite-lasers-hypersonic-missiles/>

## **CNNC announces largest ever annual investment plan on nuclear power, new energy**

Global Times, March 12, 2023

China National Nuclear Power Co (CNNC) recently unveiled its 2023 investment blueprint, worth of 80.02 billion yuan (\$11.58 billion), which is a near 60 percent of year-on-year increase, also marking the highest annual investment since it was listed on the stock market. According to the announcement, the annual investment plan was devised based on the company's development and operational projects, which will cover various sectors of nuclear power, multipurpose nuclear energy, new energy and other investments in fixed assets and program acquisition.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1287123.shtml>

## **With China in mind, G-7 to call for groupwide supply chains**

Reiko Miki

Nikkei Asia, March 12, 2023

With China in mind, the project will aim for stable supplies of microchips, rare earths and other commodities that are increasingly important to economic security, grappling with such risks as a crisis in Taiwan or a prolonged Ukraine war. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has positioned economic security as a major agenda item at the G-7 Hiroshima summit, which he will chair. This will be the first time that economic security will be its own theme at such a summit.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Supply-Chain/With-China-in-mind-G-7-to-call-for-groupwide-supply-chains>

## **CMSA reveals first batch missions for China Space Station's new chapter of application and development**

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, March 12, 2023

China has scheduled launch missions for the Tianzhou-6 cargo spacecraft and the Shenzhou-16 and -17 crewed spacecraft in 2023 as the first batch of missions since the China Space Station embarked on new chapter of application and development, the Global Times learned from the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA). According to a statement from the CMSA, the China Space Station is under stable operation in its orbit, with the Shenzhou-15 spaceflight crew onboard in good condition. The crew is expected to return to Earth in June.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1287133.shtml>

## **US' sanction on China's new defence minister extra trouble for defence talks: expert**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, March 12, 2023

Western media hyped that General Li Shangfu, who has been endorsed by the national legislature as China's new defense minister, was once sanctioned by the US for purchasing Russian weapons for the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), with experts saying that the US' sanction and the media hypes could cause extra trouble for communication between the two militaries at a time when military tensions are already high between the two countries. The National People's Congress (NPC) endorsed secretary-general of the State Council and heads of 26 departments of the State Council at a plenary meeting of the first session of the 14th NPC, including Li as the minister of national defense, according to the Xinhua News Agency.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1287140.shtml>

## **China could strike US bases from California to Japan with "invincible" hypersonic missiles, experts have warned**

Imogen Braddick and Tariq Tahir

The U.S. Sun, March 13, 2023

Beijing has already demonstrated its military might by launching two hypersonic nuclear missiles which circled the world and "defied the laws of physics". As tensions continue to mount between Washington and Beijing over Taiwan, US officials fear China could use hypersonic weapons to wipe out American warplanes and bases in Japan or Guam in the event of a war.

<https://www.the-sun.com/news/7617825/china-strike-us-bases-california-japan-hypersonic-missiles/>

## **How to avoid nuclear war with China**

Richard L. Garwin, Frank N. von Hippel

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, March 13, 2023

The United States is in a developing military confrontation with China over Taiwan, made more dangerous by the enormous perceived stakes: global leadership and the future of democracy. When the United States was faced with analogous stark choices during the Cold War with the Soviet Union, nuclear threats and even "limited" resort to nuclear weapons became more thinkable.

<https://thebulletin.org/premium/2023-03/how-to-avoid-nuclear-war-with-china/>

## **China's nuclear power plants have world-leading safety record: political advisor**

Cao Siqi, Leng Shumei and Fan Wei

Global Times, March 13, 2023

Lu Tiezhong, a member of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), told the Global Times in an exclusive interview that China's nuclear power units have a world-leading safety record, and developing nuclear power is an inevitable choice for ensuring China's sustainable social and economic development, meeting people's need for better lives and realizing the country's "dual carbon" goal. China has announced that it will peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060, which is known as the "dual carbon" goal.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1287217.shtml>

## **Nuclear Notebook: Chinese nuclear weapons, 2023**

Hans M. Kristensen, Matt Korda, Eliana Johns

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, March 13, 2023

China is continuing the nuclear weapons modernization program that it initiated in the 1990s and 2000s, but is expanding it significantly by fielding more types and greater numbers of nuclear weapons than ever before. China has continued to modernize its road-mobile intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), has significantly advanced the construction of its three new missile silo fields for solid-fuel ICBMs, and has also expanded the construction of new silos for its liquid-fuel DF-5 ICBMs.

<https://thebulletin.org/premium/2023-03/nuclear-notebook-chinese-nuclear-weapons-2023/>

## **China's space success is ready to launch - with or without foreign partners**

Brian Waidelich

Channel News Asia, March 13, 2023

On Jan 25, Space News reported that the European Space Agency (ESA) no longer intends to send European astronauts to Tiangong, China's newly completed space station. The report quoted the ESA director general Josef Aschbacher saying that the agency was already "very busy" with its International Space Station (ISS) commitments and that it currently lacked both the budgetary and political "green light" to engage with China's space station.

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/commentary/china-space-station-tiangong-iss-nasa-research-political-3339251>

## **China says Aukus submarines deal embarks on ‘path of error and danger’**

Amy Hawkins and Rhoda Kwan

The Guardian, March 14, 2023

China has accused the US, UK and Australia of embarking on a “path of error and danger” in response to the Aukus partners’ announcement of a deal on nuclear-powered submarines. “The latest joint statement from the US, UK and Australia demonstrates that the three countries, for the sake of their own geopolitical interests, completely disregard the concerns of the international communities and are walking further and further down the path of error and danger,” China’s foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said during a regular press briefing.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/mar/14/china-aukus-submarines-deal-embarks-path-error-danger>

## **Chinese FM rebukes Japan in shifting risk of nuclear pollution to all mankind through dumping nuclear-contaminated wastewater**

Xu Keyue and Yu Xi

Global Times, March 14, 2023

The Chinese Foreign Ministry once again denounced that Japan's unilateral decision to dump nuclear-contaminated wastewater into the sea is trying to shift the risk of nuclear pollution to all mankind, warning the country of not starting the plan without full consultation with its neighbours and other stakeholders as well as relevant international institutions. The remarks came after rallies were held in Japan and many other countries and regions across the world in recent days to protest against Tokyo's unilateral plan, during the 12th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster on Saturday.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1287270.shtml>

## **Are US sanctions on China’s new defence chief the real barrier to dialogue?**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, March 14, 2023

The chances for high-level military discussions between the United States and China in the near future appeared unlikely as Washington showed no indication it would remove China’s new defence minister from a sanctions list, analysts said. Lifting the sanctions on General Li Shangfu is considered a necessary step by Beijing for such talks to resume between the Pentagon and the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), but that appeared doubtful, according to Zhou Bo, a senior fellow from the Centre for International Security and Strategy at Tsinghua University.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3213398/are-us-sanctions-chinas-new-defence-chief-real-barrier-dialogue>

## **China expected to prepare for AUKUS nuclear submarine program with underwater buildups**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, March 14, 2023

The leaders of Australia, the UK and the US announced details of the AUKUS nuclear-powered submarine program in California, a move that experts said is a part of a threatening underwater encirclement designed by the US to militarily confront China, and that China will need to prepare to defend itself. The so-called AUKUS trilateral security partnership and the promotion of cutting-edge military technology cooperation, including nuclear submarines between the three countries, come under a typical Cold War mentality that will only stimulate an arms race, sabotage international nuclear non-proliferation systems and harm regional peace and stability, said Wang Wenbin, a spokesperson for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at a regular press conference in response to the announcement.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1287263.shtml>

## **China tightens grip on emerging tech, spooking foreign investors**

Noriyuki Doi

Nikkei Asia, March 14, 2023

China seeks to extend the growing state influence over its technology sector into new manufacturing fields amid the threat of U.S. sanctions, leaving foreign investors spooked about government involvement in areas expected to drive the country's economy. Beijing's stated pursuit of "self-reliance and self-improvement" in technology as a shield against Washington goes beyond its political crackdown in recent years intended to subdue hugely influential IT giants like Alibaba Group Holding.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/China-People-s-Congress/China-tightens-grip-on-emerging-tech-spooking-foreign-investors>

## **Geopolitical game in US interest obstructs repair of China-Australian trade ties**

Hu Weijia

Global Times, March 14, 2023

Mark McGowan, premier of the state of Western Australia, is expected to make his first visit to China in four years by late April. McGowan is set to become the first Australian state premier to travel to China since before the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic as tensions thaw between the two nations, Australian media outlet 7News reported. There's a need to continue to repair Australia's relationship with China by focusing on areas of common interest, but, regrettably, there are complex challenges ahead, and the US factor cannot be ignored. The leaders of the US, UK

and Australia have announced more details of how Australia will acquire nuclear submarines under the AUKUS agreement, aljazeera.com reported.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1287287.shtml>

## **China has launched hundreds of satellites to target US**

Rob Crilly

Mail Online, March 15, 2023

China has launched dozens of satellites in the past six months and the People's Liberation Army now has 347 orbiting craft that can gather intelligence on American armed forces, according to the head of the U.S. Space Force. Gen. Chance Saltzman told senators that Beijing was the 'most immediate threat' to U.S. operations as it develops lasers to disrupt satellite sensors, electronic warfare jammers and even builds craft that could grab and move rival orbiting platforms out of position.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11864231/Space-Force-chief-says-China-developing-anti-satellite-missiles-electronic-jammers-lasers.html>

## **China firmly opposes AUKUS' coercing IAEA to endorse its nuclear submarine cooperation: FM**

Global Times, March 15, 2023

China is gravely concerned about the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General's latest statement in relation to the AUKUS nuclear submarine cooperation and firmly opposed to the US, the UK and Australia's coercing the IAEA Secretariat into endorsement on the safeguards issues, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said. The three countries have unveiled details of their plan to create a new fleet of nuclear-powered submarines, with Australia not only getting its first nuclear-powered subs - at least three - from the US, but the allies will also work to create a new fleet using cutting-edge tech, including UK-made Rolls-Royce reactors, read a report from the BBC.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1287350.shtml>

## **China's semiconductor output shrinks 17 per cent in first 2 months of 2023 amid economic headwinds, US sanctions**

Ann Cao

South China Morning Post, March 15, 2023

China's integrated circuit (IC) output dropped 17 per cent in the first two months of 2023, as the country's semiconductor industry grappled with economic headwinds and escalating US trade sanctions. Production of ICs in January and February totalled 44.3 billion units, marking a stark



contrast with the same period last year when chip output fell just 1.2 per cent to 57.3 billion units, according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

<https://www.scmp.com/tech/tech-trends/article/3213633/chinas-semiconductor-output-shrinks-17-cent-first-two-months-2023-amid-economic-headwinds-us>

## **Unit 1 of Ling'ao Nuclear Power Plant hits 6,000 days of safe operation, setting a world record**

Global Times, March 16, 2023

Unit 1 of Ling'ao Nuclear Power Plant of China General Nuclear has achieved 6,000 days of continuous safe operation, setting an international record for reactors of the same type, according to a statement sent to the Global Times. Daya Bay Nuclear Power Base has a total of six megawatt-class nuclear power units at Daya Bay Nuclear Power Plant and Ling'ao Nuclear Power Plant, which have been operating safely and stably since the first unit was put into commercial operation in 1994. The World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) index is an important international indicator to measure the safety level of nuclear generation. Over the past three years, the average WANO index of the six units has reached the world advanced level of 77.8 percent, maintaining its top position in global ranking.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1287401.shtml>

## **China and UAE team up to build Abu Dhabi space tech centre**

Ling Xin

South China Morning Post, March 16, 2023

China plans to build a new facility in the Middle East to help the region train talent and develop technology in the space sector. Nanjing-based start-up Origin Space, the United Arab Emirates University's National Space Science and Technology Centre and the University of Hong Kong's Laboratory for Space Research signed a letter of intent in Abu Dhabi last week to build a joint research and development centre in the city.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3213783/china-and-uae-team-build-abu-dhabi-space-tech-centre>

## **China refutes claims of 'trade curbs' on Australian coal, says permits can be applied for normally**

Wang Cong

Global Times, March 16, 2023

China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) pushed back against foreign media claims of Chinese "trade curbs" against Australian coal imports, saying such misleading claims are inappropriate and

China's automatic permit management system for coal imports is functioning normally. Bloomberg reported that China has removed "all remaining curbs" on Australian coal imports, which signals "an end to trade restrictions imposed in late 2020." The report cited unidentified people "familiar with the decision." The news drew widespread attention amid growing expectations for improving bilateral ties. Asked about the report at a press conference, Shu Jueting, a spokesperson for the MOFCOM, stressed that "China manages foreign trade in accordance with WTO rules and Chinese laws and regulations, and it is inappropriate to misinterpret the relevant management methods as restrictive measures."

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1287442.shtml>

## **German minister to visit Taiwan despite Berlin's push for dialogue with Beijing**

Kathrin Hille, Guy Chazan and Yuan Yang

Financial Times, March 17, 2023

Taiwan will host its first visit by a German federal minister in 26 years next week, a trip that has highlighted divisions in Berlin over the handling of its relationship with China amid rising geopolitical tensions between Beijing and the west.

<https://www.ft.com/content/f4470f7d-07b2-436e-988d-578a0ef084f3>

## **China launches new Earth observation satellite**

Global Times, March 17, 2023

China sent a new Earth observation satellite into space from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province. The satellite, Gaofen-13 02, was launched at 1633hrs (Beijing Time) by a Long March-3B carrier rocket, and entered its planned orbit successfully. The satellite will be mainly used in land surveys, crop yield estimation, environmental governance, meteorological early warning and forecasting, as well as comprehensive disaster prevention and mitigation. It was the 468th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1287502.shtml>

## **Xi to visit Putin in show of strong Russia-China ties**

Joe Leahy and Max Seddon

Financial Times, March 17, 2023

China's president Xi Jinping will pay a state visit to his Russian counterpart starting on March 20 in a move that will reaffirm the two leaders' strong ties despite western opposition to Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. China's foreign ministry confirmed the dates for the three-day visit, which Moscow had first flagged earlier this year. The Kremlin said Vladimir Putin and Xi would discuss

“issues of developing relations of all-encompassing partnership and strategic interaction between Russia and China” and will sign “important bilateral documents”.

<https://www.ft.com/content/e34e00d2-e6f5-408d-90c8-bb6f7e06741f#post-e552d2d3-d1e6-4444-b573-25ce0ce07fc0>

## **EU seeks to diversify critical raw material supply away from China**

Catherine de Beaurepaire

Nikkei Asia, March 17, 2023

The European Union on Thursday presented plans to accelerate its transition to green technologies and boost production of critical raw materials, aiming to reduce its dependence on countries such as China. Amid geopolitical tensions and growing competition for resources, the EU wants to reduce its reliance on third countries, especially China, which controls much of the global supply of many key materials, such as magnesium and rare-earth metals.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Trade/EU-seeks-to-diversify-critical-raw-material-supply-away-from-China>

## **Republicans urge White House to crack down on Russia-China nuclear co-operation**

Felicia Schwartz

Financial Times, March 17, 2023

Top Republicans are urging the White House to crack down on nuclear co-operation between Russia and China following reports that Moscow’s state-owned nuclear energy company is providing highly enriched uranium to Beijing. In a letter sent to US National Security adviser Jake Sullivan, the chairs of the House armed services, foreign affairs and intelligence committees expressed concern that Russia’s Rosatom is supplying uranium for Chinese fast-breeder reactors.

<https://www.ft.com/content/119b77ad-60b7-4a3f-9dd9-eeeb57636e5e>

## **China building border infrastructure at hectic pace: Army chief General Manoj Pande**

Times of India, March 18, 2023

China continues to build border infrastructure development at 'a very hectic pace' and has not reduced troops along the LAC, Army chief General Manoj Pande said Friday, amidst the three-

year military confrontation in eastern Ladakh. “Overall, the situation along the LAC is stable but we need to keep a very close watch as it develops,” he said.

[http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/98742075.cms?from=mdr&utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/98742075.cms?from=mdr&utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

## **Before Xi Visit, Russia Says It Held Naval Drills with China and Iran in Arabian Sea**

Voice of America, March 18, 2023

Russia, China and Iran have completed three-way naval exercises in the Arabian Sea that included artillery fire at targets on the sea and in the air, the Russian defence ministry said. The exercises, off the Iranian port of Chabahar, took place as Russian President Vladimir Putin prepares to host his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in Moscow for a three-day state visit.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/before-xi-visit-russia-says-it-held-naval-drills-with-china-and-iran-in-arabian-sea/7011072.html>

## **China’s flagship CPU designer puts on a brave face amid US sanctions**

Che Pan

South China Morning Post, March 19, 2023

A Chinese chip designer, whose mission has been to reduce the country’s reliance on Intel and AMD, is trying to develop its own general-purpose graphic processing unit (GPU) despite being added to a US trade blacklist. Loongson Technology Corp, whose founder Hu Weiwu used to cite Mao Zedong to express his aspirations, is evaluating the advanced 7-nanometre process from a number of foundries to manufacture its future chips, according to a response from the company this week to investor questions.

<https://www.scmp.com/tech/tech-war/article/3213889/tech-war-chinas-flagship-cpu-designer-loongson-puts-brave-face-amid-us-sanctions>

## **Canberra warned of being double-dealer in its China policy after aggressive AUKUS deal**

Xu Keyue

Global Times, March 19, 2023

Analysts called on Beijing to be alert toward Canberra, which could be a double-dealer over its China policy, after Australia's defense minister claimed that Australia has "absolutely not" given the US a commitment that it would join its top security ally in a potential conflict over the Taiwan

question in AUKUS negotiations. Richard Marles, Australian defense minister, made the comment as he continued to defend Australia's multi-decade plan to acquire nuclear-powered submarines with the help from the US and the UK at a total cost of up to \$368 billion between now and the mid-2050s, media reported. Marles told Australian media outlet ABC that the AUKUS submarines would back up Australia's interests in "protecting trade and freedom of navigation and flight in the South China Sea."

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1287561.shtml>

## **Russia Helping China Speed Up Its Nuclear Build-up. U.S. Unprepared to Counter It**

Patty-Jane Geller and Jack Kraemer

The Heritage Foundation, March 20, 2023

Policymakers are increasingly concerned about evidence of increasing cooperation between the United States' two greatest adversaries, Russia and China. While recent discussion has focused on China providing Russia with lethal aid to support its aggression in Ukraine, a potentially more dangerous element to this budding relationship has just come into public view: Russian support for China's nuclear buildup.

<https://www.heritage.org/global-politics/commentary/russia-helping-china-speed-its-nuclear-buildup-us-unprepared-counter-it>

## **Under pressure, Chinese chipmakers pull socks up**

Ma Si

China Daily, March 20, 2023

A combination of factors, however, has sensitized people to the fact that chips are strategically important for China, and breakthroughs alone could end reliance on imports. China's chip sector is under pressure to grow up fast in the face of the US government's crackdown and sweeping restrictions. The fact is, China uses its own chips for military use. When it comes to civilian use, domestic pioneers like Huawei are now able to design smartphone chips and modems that can compete with those made by US tech giant Qualcomm.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202303/20/WS6417af94a31057c47ebb5599.html>

*Sylloge on China is compiled by Mr. Niranjana C. Oak with inputs  
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