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SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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(MP - IDSA)**



Xi's 'two sessions' messages highlight China's high-quality development in crucial year

State Council Information Office, 11 March 2024

Chinese President Xi Jinping has shone more light on the country's source of confidence for high-quality development by expounding on a wide range of topics at this year's "two sessions," a key political event. Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, joined national legislators in deliberations and participated in discussions with national political advisors at the event, making a raft of remarks on issues including new quality productive forces, environmental protection, overall reform and coordinated regional development. In this crucial year for fulfilling the objectives and tasks set out in the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), Xi stressed that efforts must be made to sustain and reinforce the positive momentum of economic recovery, and boost confidence in development across society. Key messages from Xi at the sessions provided insight into the trajectory of the world's second-largest economy.

http://english.scio.gov.cn/m/topnews/2024-03/11/content_117052431.htm

China's new hypersonic drone beats F-22 in aerodynamic efficiency: study

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, March 11, 2024

A new breed of China's unmanned hypersonic aircraft can now challenge the aerodynamic performance of the most advanced fighter aircraft in the US military, according to a group of scientists from Beijing. The new hypersonic drone boasts a lift-to-drag ratio of 8.4 in subsonic flight. While it is not exceptionally high, it is already on par with that of the F-22 Raptor. The lift-to-drag ratio is a crucial parameter for measuring aerodynamic efficiency. A higher value indicates greater resistance of the aircraft to the pull of gravity and enables it to fly a greater distance.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3254642/chinas-new-hypersonic-drone-beats-f-22-aerodynamic-efficiency-study>

Chinese Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications

China Aerospace Studies Institute, Air University, March 11, 2024

The People's Liberation Army Rocket Force (PLARF) and China's Nuclear Deterrence Capabilities Have Grown Considerably in the Past 15 Years. Originally, the PLARF was constructed as purely a delivery force for China's nuclear weapons. However, that role has expanded dramatically in recent decades to include conventional missile launch and nuclear comingling. The PLARF has also increased in size, with the number of launch brigades increasing from 22 to 41 since 2005. In 2021, China began construction of at least three large ICBM silo

fields, which will increase the number of silos under the PLARF's command. Further, the PLA has diversified its delivery systems for nuclear deterrence. These systems now include mobile launch options, silo-based missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles, and possibly air-launched nuclear ballistic missiles.

<https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/CASI/Display/Article/3688852/chinese-nuclear-command-control-and-communications/>

CPPCC members call for nuclear to be included in green energy transition

The National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, March 11, 2024

Nuclear power has massive potential to boost green electricity development in China and should be included in the country's green electricity system for low-carbon development, according to national legislators, CPPCC members and industry experts. "Including nuclear power in the green electricity certificate system can help provide an authoritative certification platform for the green and low-carbon attributes of nuclear power, meeting the purchasing demands of the market," said Yang, who is also a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

http://en.cppcc.gov.cn/2024-03/11/c_971804.htm

Chinese research vessel enters Bay of Bengal days before planned missile tests by India

Keshav Padmanabhan

The Print, March 11, 2024

Days before planned missile tests by India off its eastern coast, a Chinese research vessel, the Xiang Yang Hong 01, has entered the Bay of Bengal region. This is the second Chinese research vessel to enter the oceans around India in the past few weeks. India is expected to carry out missile tests of two nuclear-capable ballistic missiles — including the K4 submarine-launched ballistic missile and the land-based Agni-V surface-to-surface ballistic missile — between 11 and 16 March, with the final launch date depending on several factors. According to maritime analytics provider Marine Traffic, the Xiang Yang Hong 01 departed from the Chinese port of Qingdao on 23 February 2024. Open-source intelligence expert Damien Symon highlighted the ship's entry to the Bay of Bengal Sunday on the social media platform X.

<https://theprint.in/defence/chinese-research-vessel-enters-bay-of-bengal-days-before-planned-missile-tests-by-india/1996156/>

Shipbuilding: the new battleground in the US-China trade war

Rana Foroohar

Financial Times, March 12, 2024

Even Adam Smith, the father of modern capitalism, believed that shipbuilding was one of the very few industries that deserved national support and should not be left to market forces alone. That's a key part of the argument being made in a new petition for trade relief and state support of the US shipbuilding industry under a so-called section 301 case filed by the United Steelworkers union and other labour organisations on March 12. The petitioners accuse China of distorting global markets in the maritime, logistics and shipbuilding sectors through "unreasonable and discriminatory acts, policies, and practices". The petition, which the US government now has 45 days to respond to, seeks a variety of penalties and remedies to level the global playing field in shipbuilding and stimulate demand for commercial vessels built in the US. These include port fees on Chinese-built ships docking at US ports, and the creation of a Shipbuilding Revitalisation Fund to help the domestic industry and its workers.

<https://www.ft.com/content/4e2d5bb7-e4d5-4b98-b1a8-895c0d493b07>

India should maintain strategic sobriety with MIRV tech success: Global Times

Wang Wenwen

Global Times, March 12, 2024

Whenever India makes military progress, public opinion in India and some major Western countries, which are keen on fanning hostilities between the two Asian powers, immediately hypes that it will make China and Pakistan feel afraid. It is as if the newly added deterrent should be quickly used in India's relations with China and Pakistan. This idea is naive and dangerous. The attitude of China actively developing friendly relations with India is sincere. And truth be told, China is not very concerned about the improvement of India's military capabilities because this improvement does not constitute a trend of India's military power surpassing China.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202403/1308688.shtml>

Beijing urges respect in South China Sea dispute

Mo Jingxi

China Daily, March 12, 2024

The Foreign Ministry said that China has sent proposals to the Philippine side with regard to managing the situation in the South China Sea and ensuring maritime cooperation out of consideration for bilateral ties and the need to maintain peace and stability. The remarks came after

the Philippine Foreign Ministry said it had received several maritime-related proposals from China, but added that they could not be considered because they went against the Southeast Asian country's national interests. Speaking at a news briefing in Beijing, ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said that China has indisputable sovereignty over islands and reefs in the South China Sea and there is no dispute regarding territorial sovereignty in the South China Sea between China and the Philippines.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202403/12/WS65f07579a31082fc043bc3ee.html>

China's 'minimum' nuclear deterrence is still a threat

Brad Glosserman

The Japan Times, March 13, 2024

Estimates of the number of Chinese warheads range from 400 to 500, a striking contrast to the several thousand that the U.S and Russia are each thought to possess. Significantly, those are foreign estimates as China doesn't release its own figures, reasoning that uncertainty about the size of its arsenal makes an adversary's calculations in a crisis more difficult. While this lack of transparency makes sense from a Chinese perspective, it unnerves those adversaries. No competent defence planner will rely solely on a competitor's own statements, but they help frame and understand policy. When the only declarations seem to fly in the face of evidence, however, those planners make worst-case assumptions, and then add a dollop of deceit to the mix.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/commentary/2024/03/13/world/china-nuclear-deterrence/>

Hyping tritium content in Chinese nuclear plant effluents just an attempt to divert attention: experts

Fan Wei and Leng Shumei

Global Times, March 13, 2024

Chinese experts have slammed claims in the Japanese media that the content of tritium in the liquid effluent discharged from Chinese nuclear power plants was higher than the annual emission limit of the treated water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant. They said it is clearly an attempt to shift public focus away from the Japanese side's reckless nuclear contaminated water discharge plan. Nikkei Asia reported on March 9 that in 2022, Chinese nuclear power plants released wastewater containing tritium at levels up to nine times higher than the amount expected to be found in the planned annual discharge from Japan's crippled Fukushima Daiichi complex.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202403/1308717.shtml>

China leads the world in hypersonic technology

David Rovella

Bloomberg, March 13, 2024

China leads the world in developing, testing and deploying hypersonic weapons, beating out Russia while the US, having already spent \$12 billion, has yet to field even one. The weapons can travel five times the speed of sound, making interception by existing defensive systems difficult at best. China, senior US defence intelligence analyst Jeffery McCormick told Congress, has the world's "leading hypersonic arsenal" thanks to Beijing's two-decade long effort "to dramatically advance its development of conventional and nuclear-armed technologies and capabilities through intense and focused investment, development, testing and deployments."

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2024-03-12/bloomberg-evening-briefing-china-leads-the-world-in-hypersonic-technology>

Russia and China announce plan to build shared nuclear reactor on the moon by 2035, 'without humans'

Harry Baker

Space, March 13, 2024

Russia's space agency Roscosmos has announced plans to work with China to build an automated nuclear reactor on the moon by 2035. The proposed reactor will help power a proposed lunar base that the two countries will jointly operate. Back in 2021, Roscosmos and the China National Space Administration (CNSA) revealed that they intended to build a shared base on the moon, named the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS), which they claimed at the time would be "open to all interested countries and international partners."

<https://www.space.com/russia-china-shared-nuclear-reactor-2035-moon>

China's precautionary measures in response to Fukushima nuclear-contaminated water discharge legitimate, reasonable, necessary: spokesperson

Xinhua, March 13, 2024

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said that it is entirely legitimate, reasonable and necessary for China and other countries to take precautionary measures to protect food safety and people's health in response to the ocean discharge of the Fukushima nuclear-contaminated water. Spokesperson Wang Wenbin made the remarks at a regular press briefing in response to Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's remarks of not accepting China's suspension of the import of all aquatic products originating from Japan, and calling for immediate lifting of such regulations by China.

<https://english.news.cn/20240313/97ba6602049245d49a8a00eff53f18a/c.html>

China plans to build a giant rail gun to launch hypersonic planes into space, making Nasa's dream come true

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, March 14, 2024

People could soon be launched into space using a type of hypersonic rail gun, as Chinese scientists and engineers combine the significant advances made in recent years in both electromagnetic launch and hypersonic flight. Essentially the goal is this: to use a giant electromagnetic launch track to accelerate a hypersonic aircraft to Mach 1.6. The aircraft would then separate from the track, ignite its engine and enter near space at seven times the speed of sound. This space plane, a behemoth weighing 50 tonnes and measuring longer than a Boeing 737, is part of the “Tengyun project” unveiled in 2016.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3255351/nasas-dream-comes-true-china-plans-build-giant-rail-gun-launch-hypersonic-planes-space>

An Australian spy chief triggers a debate about China

The Economist, March 14, 2024

Mike Burgess, Australia's chief domestic spook, sent shockwaves through Canberra when he declared that a former Australian politician had been recruited by a foreign spy ring and “sold out their country”. The ring was later revealed to be Chinese. The politician remains unnamed. The claim triggered fierce speculation, and a debate about whether Mr Burgess was stoking paranoia. Australian intelligence agencies “will do anything to destabilise any meaningful rapprochement” with China, said Paul Keating, a former Labor prime minister, on March 5.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2024/03/14/an-australian-spy-chief-triggers-a-debate-about-china>

The US House of Representatives' legislation about TikTok and China's response

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, March 14, 2024

The bill adopted by the US House of Representatives puts the US on the wrong side of the principles of fair competition and international trade rules. If “national security” can be abused to bring down other countries' competitive companies, there would be no fairness or justice at all. It is sheer robbers' logic to try every means to snatch from others all the good things that they have. How the US has handled TikTok enables the world to see clearly whether the US's “rules” and “order” serve the whole world or only the US.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/202403/t20240314_11260832.html

China's new Linglong One reactor just one piece of nuclear expansion

Nuclear Newswire, March 14, 2024

China is on pace to add as many as 10 reactors a year and may surpass the United States' total nuclear capacity by 2030. As part of this growth, construction is wrapping up this month on the world's first onshore commercial modular pressurized water reactor—Linglong One, which is located in the Hainan province. That's according to China Metallurgical News, an established news unit reporting on China's industrial chain.

<https://www.ans.org/news/article-5861/chinas-new-linglong-one-reactor-just-one-piece-of-nuclear-expansion/>

Taiwan can't shake its nuclear ghosts

Jane Darby Menton and Andrew W. Reddie

Foreign Policy, March 14, 2024

Considering its location in one of the world's most contentious bodies of water and its fraught relationship with Beijing, Taiwan's resistance to what was once a dependable domestic source of power may seem puzzling. For Taipei, however, it's complicated. Lai's impending choice of whether to preserve or abandon the nuclear option will be informed by a long and lesser-known history of proliferation, espionage, disaster, and democratization. Taipei's interest in all things nuclear began during the early days of the atomic age. In December 1949, after years of civil war with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), Gen. Chiang Kai-shek relocated Nationalist forces to the island of Taiwan, where he established a dictatorship under Kuomintang (KMT) party rule.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/03/14/taiwan-nuclear-energy-weapons-policy-history/>

China's space station completes material exposure tests

Xinhua, March 15, 2024

China has completed the material extravehicular exposure tests on its space station, with the experimental equipment and the first batch of material samples safely retrieved to the orbiting spacecraft, the National Space Science Center of the Chinese Academy of Sciences said. The orbiting taikonaut crew subsequently moved the experimental assembly to the lab module, where they disassembled and stored the samples. These samples will be returned to Earth onboard the Shenzhou spacecraft and handed over to scientists for further research, the center noted.

<https://english.news.cn/20240315/09c4aaa4cb0b46a6a70cd31c29838485/c.html>

‘Systemic’ China-US rivalry could last a decade: Washington envoy Nicholas Burns

Dewey Sim

South China Morning Post, March 15, 2024

The United States and China are likely to remain “systemic rivals” for the next decade as they wrestle over differences and compete in areas such as the military and technology, according to Washington’s top envoy in Beijing. Speaking at a virtual seminar, ambassador Nicholas Burns called the deepening competition between the US and China “quite profound”, spanning areas such as security and the military. Burns told the seminar, organised by the East-West Centre think tank, that the US had long been a Pacific power – particularly after World War II – but now “there’s a competition under way for military power and military influence”.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3255479/systemic-china-us-rivalry-could-last-decade-washington-envoy-nicholas-burns>

Navigating the chip industry's landscape

Hu Xiaofei and Gao Shan

China Daily, March 15, 2024

China's semiconductor industry has made remarkable progress on almost all fronts in recent years. The Chinese government's implementation of strategic, favorable policies and incentives, from financial support to tax exemptions and talent attraction, has played a pivotal role in propelling the industry forward. These measures have borne fruit across the semiconductor production spectrum, including chip design, manufacturing, testing and packaging. China's prowess in chip design has greatly improved, with domestic companies making breakthroughs in specific domains.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202403/15/WS65f38d54a31082fc043bcbc2.html>

China, U.S. restore military communications

Shizuka Kuramitsu

Arms Control Association, March 16, 2024

China and the United States resumed military-to-military contacts with a series of recent meetings, delivering on a decision by their leaders at a November 2023 summit. Two days of meetings, called the China-U.S. defence policy coordination talks, took place Jan. 8-9 at the Pentagon. It was the first formal in-person encounter between the two militaries since January 2020. The two sides discussed Chinese-U.S. defence relations and regional and global security issues, including Ukraine, North Korea, and the South China Sea, according to the U.S. Defence Department, which

added that it “will continue to engage in active discussions with [Chinese] counterparts about future engagements between defence and military officials at multiple levels.”

<https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2024-03/news/china-us-restore-military-communications>

Taiwan war game exposes vulnerability of energy grid to a China attack

Kathrin Hille

Financial Times, March 17, 2024

Taiwanese security experts and retired military officials close to the opposition Kuomintang have called for drastic reforms to make the country’s energy sector less vulnerable against a Chinese attack. A war game conducted by the non-partisan Taiwan Center for Security Studies think-tank found that energy reserves, the electricity grid, storage facilities and crisis planning fell far short of securing even basic power supplies in case of a blockade or missile attack by Beijing. China claims Taiwan as part of its territory and has over the past few years stepped up military intimidation, economic coercion and efforts to enforce diplomatic isolation to force the island to acquiesce to unification.

<https://www.ft.com/content/9ac24303-ae9-4a73-825d-c32366a9cde6>

SpaceX's spy satellite network deal a major step toward 'space militarization,' poses new threat to global security: experts

Fan Anqi and Guo Yuandan

Global Times, March 17, 2024

SpaceX's increasing involvement in US' military deployment poses a new threat to world peace and stability, and may even impact the everyday lives of ordinary people around the world, experts warned after the company is reportedly building a powerful spy satellite network using hundreds of its satellites for US intelligence agencies. In an exclusive report from Reuters on Saturday, the commercial space giant is allegedly building a network of spy satellites under a classified contract worth \$1.8 billion with a US intelligence agency called the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), Reuters said, citing sources familiar with the program. The reason the NRO chose SpaceX was mainly due to the company's advantage in the number of small satellites it has in orbit, which allows for maximum coverage of more orbital levels, Wei Dongxu, a Beijing-based military expert and media commentator, told the Global Times.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202403/1308988.shtml>

China's nuclear missile force, army giving Xi sleepless nights: Here's why

Bhaswar Kumar

Business Standard, March 17, 2024

Chinese President Xi Jinping and other leaders of the People's Republic of China (PRC) are "almost certainly" concerned about the ongoing impact of corruption on the People's Liberation Army's (PLA's) capabilities and reliability, the US intelligence community (US IC) has said in a recently released assessment. "Beijing will focus on building a fully modernised national defence and military force by 2035 and for the PLA to become a world-class military by 2049," said an intelligence report, called The Annual Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community, published on March 11.

https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/china-s-nuclear-missile-force-army-giving-xi-sleepless-nights-here-s-why-124031700288_1.html

Chinese and western scientists identify 'red lines' on AI risks

Cristina Criddle and Eleanor Olcott

Financial Times, March 18, 2024

Leading western and Chinese artificial intelligence scientists have issued a stark warning that tackling risks around the powerful technology requires global co-operation similar to the cold war effort to avoid nuclear conflict. A group of renowned international experts met in Beijing last week, where they identified "red lines" on the development of AI, including around the making of bioweapons and launching cyber attacks. In a statement seen by the Financial Times, issued in the days after the meeting, the academics warned that a joint approach to AI safety was needed to stop "catastrophic or even existential risks to humanity within our lifetimes".

<https://www.ft.com/content/375f4e2d-1f72-49c8-b212-0ab2a173b8cb>

Chinese opinion on Taiwanese participation in the Summit for Democracy in the ROK

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, March 18, 2024

China firmly opposes the ROK inviting the Taiwan authorities to participate in the so-called Summit for Democracy. There is but one China in the world. Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory. The government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China. Any attempts by external forces to interfere in China's internal affairs, and connive at and support "Taiwan independence" are doomed to failure. China has strongly urged the ROK to abide by the one-China principle and stop providing podium for or supporting "Taiwan independence" forces. The world will not be deceived by the DPP authorities'

attempt to seek larger space for “Taiwan independence” activities under the banner of “democracy” and “human rights,” which will only make itself look bad and is doomed to failure.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/202403/t20240318_11262102.html

US is still chasing down pieces of Chinese hacking operation, NSA official says

Martin Matishak

The Record, March 18, 2024

The U.S. government has yet to learn the full extent of a massive Chinese espionage campaign that targeted American critical infrastructure, according to a senior National Security Agency official. Federal agencies are “not done with efforts to uncover or eradicate” the threats created by the Chinese hacking group known as Volt Typhoon, said Rob Joyce, the outgoing director of the NSA’s Cybersecurity Directorate, during a roundtable with reporters. Investigators are “still finding victims and making sure to clear out intrusions” tied to the sweeping operation, which Western nations first disclosed nearly a year ago, he said.

<https://therecord.media/china-hacking-volt-typhoon-response-nsa-rob-joyce>

China's former anti-terrorism official under probe

Global Times, March 18, 2024

Liu Yuejin, former commissioner for counterterrorism of the Ministry of Public Security, has been placed under investigation for suspected severe violations of Party discipline and laws, an official statement said. Liu, 65, was a former vice-minister level official and a member of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). The investigation is being conducted by the Communist Party of China Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) and the National Commission of Supervision (NCS), China's top anti-graft watchdogs, according to the statement.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202403/1309067.shtml>

Chinese opinion about arms control talks with China and Russia without any preconditions

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, March 19, 2024

China and the US have channels of dialogue on arms control and nonproliferation. The US should stop its megaphone diplomacy. In terms of advancing the international arms control process, the top priority now is that countries with the largest nuclear arsenals should fulfill their special and

primary responsibilities in nuclear disarmament by further reducing the nuclear arsenals significantly and substantially to create conditions for other nuclear-weapon states to join in multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. This is also a widely shared consensus in the international community.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/202403/t20240319_11262678.html

Blinken warns China against armed attack on Philippines

Michael Crowley

The New York Times, March 19, 2024

Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken warned China that an “armed” attack against Philippine vessels in the South China Sea would trigger a mutual self-defence pact between Washington and Manila, a reflection of rising tensions in the region that risk dragging the United States into armed conflict with Beijing. But in a sign that the United States hopes to de-escalate the situation, Mr. Blinken, on a visit to Manila, gave no indication that recent Chinese provocations — which include ramming Philippine vessels and blasting them with water cannons — crossed the threshold of “armed” attacks.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/03/19/us/politics/blinken-china-philippines.html>

Starship rival: Chinese scientists build prototype engine for nuclear-powered spaceship to Mars

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, March 19, 2024

A collaboration of more than 10 research institutes and universities across China has made significant strides towards interplanetary travel with the development of a nuclear fission technology that could power large-scale exploration of Mars. In a paper published by the Chinese Academy of Sciences’ peer-reviewed journal *Scientia Sinica Technologica*, the research team said its prototype lithium-cooled nuclear reactor system has passed some initial ground tests. The results confirmed some of the key technological solutions invented by Chinese scientists and engineers to shrink a megawatt-class reactor – seven times more powerful than a rival system being built by Nasa – to an unprecedented size, they said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3255889/starship-rival-chinese-scientists-build-prototype-engine-nuclear-powered-spaceship-mars>

Chinese missile boats operate on an attack swarm principle

Richard Sterk

Defence and Security Monitor, March 19, 2024

The Project 022 Houbei class fast attack craft-missile (FAC-M) of China's People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) is believed to have completed its known and projected production run with a total of 83 boats built. Word amongst defence analysts is roughly only about 60 boats are believed to be combat operational and in active service with China's PLAN. The remaining boats are likely in various stages of operational usefulness from being cannibalized for parts to waiting for a trained crew (which is another issue facing China's PLAN). These fast attack craft were originally designed as the ultimate product of the "coast defence" philosophy that had dominated Chinese naval doctrine since the late 1940s.

<https://dsm.forecastinternational.com/2024/03/19/chinese-missile-boats-operate-on-an-attack-swarm-principle/>

SpaceX has made progress, so has China's aerospace industry

Shi Hao

Global Times, March 20, 2024

SpaceX's Starship rocket launched its third test flight last week and "accomplished several major milestones and firsts," according to the US company. This latest progress of Starship, the "star" of the global rocket launch market, has gained international attention and sparked heated online discussions in China, with some arguing that "the gap between China's spaceflight and that of the US has further widened" and "the absence of a SpaceX equivalent in China is the result of systematic problems in the country's spaceflight industry." Before discussing whether the gap between China and the US in space is widening, we should take a look at a few moments in history and see how big the gap between the two countries in space technology used to be.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202403/1309200.shtml>

Envoy urges cooperation on nuclear disarmament

Minlu Zhang

China Daily, March 20, 2024

China's top ambassador to the United Nations called on countries to resist Cold War thinking and promote nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation together. "Nuclear weapons are a product of history, and nuclear disarmament will naturally have a historical process," Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the UN, told a Security Council meeting. Expecting countries with different nuclear policies and numbers of nuclear weapons to follow identical disarmament and

transparency rules "is not consistent with the logic of history and reality, nor is it in line with international consensus, and as such will only lead international nuclear disarmament to a dead end", Zhang added.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202403/20/WS65fa3ae0a31082fc043bda5e.html>

China opens nuclear R&D facilities for global cooperation

Zheng Yibing

CGTN, March 20, 2024

China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) announced during the ongoing Nuclear Industry China 2024 expo that it will open its scientific research facilities and test platforms, in batches, to international scientific institutions and nuclear energy companies for cooperation. The first batch to be opened has ten key facilities, including the nuclear fusion reactor HL-3, a test reactor for medical isotopes, the world's first third-generation underground research lab, and an advanced research reactor, considered to be one of the six major neutron sources in the world.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-03-20/China-opens-nuclear-R-D-facilities-for-global-cooperation-1s7OmJzveI8/p.html>

China launches Queqiao-2 as key relay communication platform for future lunar missions

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, March 20, 2024

China successfully launched into preset orbit the Queqiao-2 relay communication satellite as well as Tiandu-1, Tiandu-2 communication and navigation technology experiment satellites, the key constellation supporting the country's subsequent Chang'e lunar exploration missions as well as international exploration programs. Queqiao-2, or Magpie Bridge-2, is a relay satellite for communications between the far side of the moon and the Earth. The satellite will serve as a relay platform for the fourth phase of China's lunar exploration program, providing communications services for Chang'e-4, Chang'e-6, Chang'e-7, and Long March-8 missions.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202403/1309151.shtml>

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

Nuclear and Arms Control Centre, MP-IDSA