

January 31, 2025

# SYLLOGE ON CHINA

**Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues**

**An Initiative by the Nuclear and Arms Control Centre,  
MP-IDSA**



## **Chinese Foreign Ministry on India-China relationship**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, January 21, 2025

As two major time-honored civilizations, developing countries and emerging economies, China and India need to focus on development and engage in cooperation. This serves the fundamental interests of over 2.8 billion people of the two countries, meets the common aspiration of regional countries and peoples, goes along with the historical trend of the Global South growing stronger, and is conducive to peace and prosperity of the region and the wider world. The two sides need to earnestly deliver on the important common understandings reached between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in their meeting in Kazan, including that China and India are each other's development opportunity rather than threat, and cooperation partner rather than competitor.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250121\\_11541995.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250121_11541995.html)

## **Shanghai rolls out the country's first heterogeneous humanoid robot training ground**

Zhang Weilan

Global Times, January 21, 2025

China's first heterogeneous humanoid robot training facility was officially inaugurated in Shanghai, a milestone in the country's efforts to advance the practical application and large-scale development of humanoid robots. The training facility, also known as Humanoid Robot Kylin Training Ground, is owned by Shanghai-based National and Local Co-Built Humanoid Robotics Innovation Center, Humanoid Robot (Shanghai) Co. Currently, the training ground is able to accommodate more than 100 humanoid robots, making it the largest of its kind in China. By 2027, it aims to train 1,000 general-purpose robots simultaneously, according to Yang Zhengye, the company's marketing director.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202501/1327325.shtml>

## **Donald Trump says China tariffs could hinge on TikTok deal**

Hannah Murphy, Myles McCormick, Demetri Sevastopulo and Joe Leahy

Financial Times, January 21, 2025

President Donald Trump has said that tariffs on China could hinge on a deal over TikTok's ownership, as he signed an executive order to keep the popular short-form video platform online in the US for 75 days. Within hours of his inauguration, Trump postponed a deadline requiring

TikTok's Chinese parent company ByteDance to sell its stake in the app or face a ban in the country. China was one of three countries Trump threatened to hit with tariffs on his first day in office. On Monday, he said he could impose levies of 25 per cent on Canada and Mexico from February 1.

<https://www.ft.com/content/9e4fa366-6bf7-4b15-b525-5bdfd3345792>

## **Chinese "Artificial Sun" sets milestone record towards fusion power generation**

Chen Na

Chinese Academy of Sciences, January 21, 2025

The Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST), commonly known as China's "artificial sun," has achieved a remarkable scientific milestone by maintaining steady-state high-confinement plasma operation for an impressive 1,066 seconds. This accomplishment sets a new world record and marks a significant breakthrough in the pursuit of fusion power generation. The duration of 1,066 seconds is a critical advancement in fusion research. This milestone, achieved by the Institute of Plasma Physics (ASIPP) at Hefei Institutes of Physical Science (HFIPS) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, far surpasses the previous world record of 403 seconds, also set by EAST in 2023. The ultimate goal of developing an artificial sun is to replicate the nuclear fusion processes that occur in the sun, providing humanity with a limitless and clean energy source, and enabling exploration beyond our solar system.

[https://english.cas.cn/head/202501/t20250121\\_899060.shtml](https://english.cas.cn/head/202501/t20250121_899060.shtml)

## **Shenzhou-19 crew completes second series of extravehicular activities**

The State Council Information Office, the People's Republic of China, January 21, 2025

Members of the Shenzhou-19 crew aboard China's orbiting space station completed their mission's second series of extravehicular activities (EVAs). Astronauts Cai Xuzhe, Song Lingdong and Wang Haoze worked for 8.5 hours to complete multiple tasks, including the installation of space debris protection devices and an extravehicular inspection. They were assisted by the space station's robotic arm and a team on Earth. Cai and Song, the two crew members assigned to undertake spacewalk duties, have since returned to the Wentian lab module safely. Since completing their first spacewalk on December 17, 2024, the crew members have undertaken a series of tasks, including the inspection and maintenance of the space station's equipment, system-wide pressure emergency drills, and preparations for the second series of EVAs.

[http://english.scio.gov.cn/m/chinavoices/2025-01/21/content\\_117677800.html](http://english.scio.gov.cn/m/chinavoices/2025-01/21/content_117677800.html)

## **Taiwan lawmakers risk alienating Donald Trump with defence funds freeze**

Kathrin Hille

Financial Times, January 21, 2025

Taiwan's parliament has frozen critical parts of the 2025 defence budget, heightening the risk that the country alienates US President Donald Trump just at the moment that it needs firm US support against security threats from China. But just hours after Trump was inaugurated to a second term on Monday, Taiwan's opposition-controlled legislature voted to freeze half the country's budget for its submarine programme, 30 per cent of the military's operations expenditure and one-third of the funding for a drone industry park. It also cut 60 per cent of the defence ministry's publicity budget.

<https://www.ft.com/content/105ed24f-30e3-41ac-b5b1-0efeb4e3a625>

## **China's submarine-launched drones can do more than the US military thinks: study**

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, January 22, 2025

The US military is reportedly considering a tactic that involves deploying a submarine near the Chinese coast to release a large number of drones from under the water. These drones would then form a swarm in the air and launch surprise attacks on the People's Liberation Army fleet during any potential attempt to land in Taiwan, thereby reducing the need for US ships to get too close to the combat zone and risk being hit. But there's a twist: China has already turned this idea into reality, and test flights suggest its drones could accomplish much more than the Pentagon has envisioned for its own.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3294993/chinas-submarine-launched-drones-can-do-more-us-military-thinks-study>

## **Chinese Foreign Ministry on the US Department of Treasury's sanctions against relevant Chinese company and citizen that were involved with Salt Typhoon's cyberattack**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, January 22, 2025

China opposes the accusations made by the Biden administration without any convincing evidence and their abuse of sanctions against China. In fact, the US has conducted large-scale and systemic cyberattacks on China for years. We have made very clear our concerns and opposition on this for

many times. When it comes to cyber issues, China and the US are countries with big influence. The two sides share similar concerns on safeguarding cybersecurity, especially the security of key infrastructure. It's important for the two countries to follow the principle of equality and mutual respect, frankly discuss issues of respective concerns on the basis of fact and evidence, observe the same international rules, and jointly keep the cyberspace peaceful and stable. The US needs to stop abusing sanctions.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250122\\_11543056.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250122_11543056.html)

## **Chinese company unveils supersonic plane prototype that can fly at Mach-4**

Global Times, January 22, 2025

A Chinese company working on a commercial transport plane capable of flying at Mach-4, twice the speed of the Concorde - unveiled the prototype of its next-generation supersonic aircraft, the Global Times learned. The supersonic aircraft, named Cuantianhou or Soaring Monkey from the Yunxing series, was revealed in Chengdu, capital city of Southwest China's Sichuan Province, Sichuan Lingkong Tianxing Technology Co said in a statement sent to the Global Times. The plane is scheduled for its maiden flight in 2026 to test key metrics such as aerodynamics, heat-resistant materials and power systems, according to the company. The aircraft is designed to operate in near space, approximately 20-100 kilometers above the Earth. The company said it aims to conduct the maiden flight of its supersonic passenger plane, Dasheng or Monkey King, in 2030.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202501/1327366.shtml>

## **Ships carrying missile propellant ingredients set to sail from China to Iran, say officials**

Demetri Sevastopulo and Kathrin Hille

Financial Times, January 22, 2025

Two Iranian cargo vessels carrying a crucial chemical ingredient for missile propellant will sail from China to Iran over the next few weeks, according to intelligence from security officials in two western countries. The Chinese embassy in Washington said it was "not familiar" with the situation and that Beijing was committed to "maintaining peace and stability in the Middle East and Gulf region and actively promoting the political and diplomatic settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue"

<https://www.ft.com/content/f0bc9fcc-11b3-4615-bd24-163f8938f2a5>

## **Chinese Foreign Ministry on the US-Philippines understanding vis-à-vis the South China Sea**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, January 23, 2025

China's activities in relevant waters are legitimate, lawful, and fully justified. The U.S. is not a party to the South China Sea issue and has no right to interfere in the maritime issues between China and the Philippines. The military cooperation between the U.S. and the Philippines should not undermine China's sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea, still less should such cooperation support or advance the Philippines' illegal claims. China will continue to take necessary steps to firmly safeguard its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests and uphold peace and stability in the South China Sea.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250123\\_11543900.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250123_11543900.html)

## **PLA Navy commissions new guided-missile frigate**

Zhao Lei

China Daily, January 23, 2025

China commissioned its first Type 054B guided-missile frigate in Qingdao, Shandong province, according to the People's Liberation Army Navy. The Navy said in a news release that the CNS Luohe was delivered to the North Sea Fleet at a commissioning ceremony at a naval port in Qingdao. Officials from the Navy and the city government of Luohe, Henan province, as well as representatives from China State Shipbuilding Corp, the ship's builder, attended the event, it added. The Type 054B has a displacement of nearly 5,000 metric tons and has better capabilities than its predecessor Type 054A in all aspects. It features technological breakthroughs in stealth, combat command, firepower control and other functions, and can better conduct naval battles and other missions. Its service will extensively bolster the naval fleet's overall operational ability, the Navy said. Currently, the Navy's frigate forces mainly consist of Type 054A ships, which began to be deployed in 2008.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202501/23/WS679177dba310a2ab06ea8b01.html>

## **China's air-to-air hypersonic US B-21 bomber's kryptonite**

Gabriel Honrada

Asia Times, January 23, 2025

China's hypersonic air-to-air missiles, designed specifically to shoot down US stealth bombers, signal a potential seismic shift in the future of air combat, one that could dramatically reshape the

Indo-Pacific's balance of power. Chinese scientists have confirmed the existence of a new hypersonic air-to-air missile, which has reportedly undergone extreme heat-resistance testing to meet the People's Liberation Army Air Force's stringent performance requirements, according to a recent report. Developed by the China Airborne Missile Academy (CAMA) in Luoyang, Henan province, the new missile poses a significant threat to US military aircraft, including the B-21 stealth bomber.

<https://asiatimes.com/2025/01/chinas-air-to-air-hypersonic-us-b-21-bombers-kryptonite/>

## **The Dalai Lama shares thoughts on China and the future in a new book**

Alexandra Alter

The New York Times, January 23, 2025

During his decades living in exile, the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet, has published dozens of books — including two autobiographies and works on ethics, Buddhist philosophy and practice, and the overlap between religion and science. But he has rarely delved extensively into raw politics. Now, in “Voice for the Voiceless: Over Seven Decades of Struggle With China for My Land and My People,” which comes out in March, he offers his first detailed account of his fraught negotiations with a succession of China's leaders, from meeting with Mao Zedong when he was just 19, to his more recent attempts to communicate with President Xi Jinping and other Chinese officials.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/23/books/dalai-lama-book-voice-for-the-voiceless.html>

## **China's expenditure on R&D exceeds \$495 billion in 2024, up 8.3% from 2023**

Du Qiongfang

Global Times, January 23, 2025

China's total expenditure on research and experimental development (R&D) exceeded 3.6 trillion yuan (\$494.69 billion) in 2024, marking an 8.3 percent year-on-year increase, China's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) announced. The R&D expenditure recorded a steady growth, ranking as the second-largest globally last year, the Beijing Daily reported. According to the latest data from the NBS, China's expenditure on R&D has steadily increased, with China's total expenditure on R&D surpassing 3.6 trillion yuan in 2024, an increase of 8.3 percent compared with the previous year, realizing a stable growth. The total investment remained the second-highest in the world.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202501/1327442.shtml>

## **Chinese Foreign Ministry on the one-year anniversary of the resumption of China-Nauru diplomatic ties**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, January 24, 2025

Over the past year, the two sides carried out practical cooperation across the board. China supported Nauru's purchase of cargo vessel to ensure the transportation of supplies. New energy buses manufactured by Chinese company helped Nauru realize energy conservation and emissions reduction goals. China's medical team under the Brightness Action helped to treat cataract patients in Nauru. Multiple batches of personnel from various sectors and students in Nauru came to China for study and training. In other words, more and more people in Nauru are feeling tangibly the dividends of the resumption of China-Nauru diplomatic ties.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250124\\_11544562.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250124_11544562.html)

## **Trump wants China to join nuclear arms talks with US and Russia. Will Beijing listen?**

Amber Wangin and Sylvie Zhuang

South China Morning Post, January 24, 2025

US President Donald Trump's latest call targeting China – this time to cut back on nuclear weapons – may be ignored by Beijing, according to some analysts. They said this was because China did not view its nuclear arsenal as being on a par with either the United States or Russia. The call from Trump was part of his address to the World Economic Forum in Davos, where he floated the idea of talks with Russia and China about reducing nuclear weapons stockpiles. Shi Yinhong, a professor of international relations at Renmin University in Beijing, said China's response to such calls had always been that "it would join after the US and Russia reduced their nuclear warheads to the level of China".

[https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3296211/trump-wants-china-join-nuclear-arms-talks-us-and-russia-will-beijing-listen?module=top\\_story&pgtype=subsection](https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3296211/trump-wants-china-join-nuclear-arms-talks-us-and-russia-will-beijing-listen?module=top_story&pgtype=subsection)

## **China detects first soft X-ray signals of early universe explosion using Tianguan satellite**

Global Times, January 25, 2025

China has detected a gamma-ray burst, designated as EP240315a, that originated approximately 12.5 billion light years away using its Einstein Probe (EP) astronomical satellite, also known as the Tianguan satellite, the Xinhua News Agency reported. This is the first instance of humanity detecting soft X-ray signals from an early universe explosion, opening a new window for research



into the young cosmos. The relevant research paper has been published online in the international academic journal Nature Astronomy, Xinhua said. There are numerous violent explosive events in the universe. Such events occur randomly and vanish swiftly, resembling fleeting cosmic "fireworks." Observing these cosmic "fireworks" is of great significance for researching frontier issues in fields such as black holes, gravitational waves, and cosmic evolution, the report said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202501/1327551.shtml>

## **China's Hainan commercial launch site to build two new launch pads**

Xinhua, January 25, 2025

A commercial spacecraft launch site on China's southern island province of Hainan started constructing its second phase that will include two launch pads designed for liquid propellant rockets. In addition to the two launch pads and their supporting systems, such as a propellant fueling system and a gas supply system, the second phase will also include a commercial aerospace command and control center, a rocket assembly and testing building, and a tracking, telemetry and command station. According to HICAL, the second phase will enhance the comprehensive launch capabilities of the site, meet the growing demand for commercial space launches in China, and boost Hainan's efforts to build an innovative industrial cluster for the commercial space sector.

<https://english.news.cn/20250125/5eabbadc778e4ce48956d407eedf6b02/c.html#:~:text=China's%20Hainan%20commercial%20launch%20site%20to%20build%20two%20new%20launch%20pads,-Source%3A%20Xinhua&text=HAIKOU%2C%20Jan.,designed%20for%20liquid%20propellant%20rockets.>

## **Chinese scientists build world's first deep sea radar that detects high-flying aircraft**

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, January 26, 2025

China's intelligence gathering network has achieved a significant technological breakthrough that could reshape the future of sea battles. In a secret location, an acoustic sensor array deployed on the seabed at a depth of 1,000 metres (3,280 feet) has successfully detected and tracked a fixed-wing aircraft flying at an altitude of 5,000 metres, according to scientists involved in the project. This groundbreaking deep sea radar has the potential to turn China's submarines from prey to predator in the game of anti-submarine warfare.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3295925/chinese-scientists-build-worlds-first-deep-sea-radar-detects-high-flying-aircraft>

## **Chinese Foreign Ministry on President Trump's allegations regarding supply of fentanyl by China to Mexico and Canada**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, January 27, 2025

China is one of the world's toughest countries on counternarcotics both in terms of policy and its implementation. China announced back in 2019 the decision to officially schedule fentanyl-related substances as a class. We are the first country in the world to do so. China has given support to the U.S.'s response to the fentanyl issue in the spirit of humanity and goodwill, and conducted counternarcotics cooperation with the U.S. side in a broad-based and in-depth way. The achievements we have made are there for all to see. We hope the U.S. will work to continue the hard-won positive dynamics in the counternarcotics cooperation.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250127\\_11546848.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250127_11546848.html)

## **China's large and mysterious dam project is alarming neighbours and experts**

Tiffany May, Isabelle Qian and Suhasini Raj

The New York Times, January 27, 2025

Step aside, Three Gorges Dam. China's latest colossal infrastructure project, if completed, will be the world's largest hydropower dam, high up in the Tibetan plateau on the border with India. China says the Motuo Hydropower Station it is building in Tibet is key to its effort to meet clean energy targets. Beijing also sees infrastructure projects as a way to stimulate the sluggish Chinese economy and create jobs. But this project has raised concerns among environmentalists and China's neighbors — in part, because Beijing has said so little about it. The area where the dam is being built is prone to earthquakes. The Tibetan river being dammed, the Yarlung Tsangpo, flows into neighboring India as the Brahmaputra and into Bangladesh as the Jamuna, raising concerns in those countries about water security.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/27/world/asia/china-tibet-dam-india.html>

## **Chinese provinces set tailored plans to support emerging, future industries**

China Daily, January 27, 2025

Chinese provinces have outlined plans this year to strengthen support for tech-intensive industries, most of which are tailored to local conditions. In their annual government work reports delivered at local "two sessions" this month, regional policy-makers unveiled more details on where the provincial economic landscape will be shifting for the year ahead. At least five provinces or

municipalities, including Shanghai, Guangdong, Zhejiang and Liaoning, proposed blueprints to boost the semiconductor industry, considered a critical "bottleneck" sector in China. Beijing is set to accelerate production capacity for major integrated circuit projects while supporting relevant firms to withstand external pressures.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202501/27/WS679751bba310a2ab06ea99d8.html>

## **DeepSeek: The Chinese AI app that has the world talking**

Kelly Ng, Brandon Drenon, Tom Gerken and Marc Cieslak

BBC, January 27, 2025

A Chinese-made artificial intelligence (AI) model called DeepSeek has shot to the top of Apple Store's downloads, stunning investors and sinking some tech stocks. Its latest version was released on 20 January, quickly impressing AI experts before it got the attention of the entire tech industry - and the world. US President Donald Trump said it was a "wake-up call" for US companies who must focus on "competing to win". What makes DeepSeek so special is the company's claim that it was built at a fraction of the cost of industry-leading models like OpenAI - because it uses fewer advanced chips.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5yv5976z9po>

## **Chinese military leaders urge war readiness in message to troops ahead of Lunar New Year**

Amber Wang

South China Morning Post, January 27, 2025

Top Chinese military officials pledged to fight corruption and strengthen war readiness while visiting People's Liberation Army troops ahead of Lunar New Year. General Zhang Youxia, first-ranked vice-chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission (CMC), China's top military decision-making body, recently inspected a unit of the Information Support Force in the northeastern city of Shenyang, state news agency Xinhua reported. General He Weidong, the second-ranked vice-chairman of the CMC, visited troops stationed in Beijing last week, according to another Xinhua report.

[https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3296469/chinese-military-leaders-urge-war-readiness-message-troops-ahead-lunar-new-year?module=top\\_story&pgtype=subsection](https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3296469/chinese-military-leaders-urge-war-readiness-message-troops-ahead-lunar-new-year?module=top_story&pgtype=subsection)

## **Closer than ever: It is now 89 seconds to midnight**

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, January 28, 2025

Longstanding concerns about nuclear weapons—involving the modernization and expansion of arsenals in all nuclear weapons countries, the build-up of new capabilities, the risks of inadvertent or deliberate nuclear use, the loss of arms control agreements, and the possibility of nuclear proliferation to new countries—continued or were amplified in 2024. China's nuclear arsenal has grown to about 600 warheads, and China may also now be deploying a small number of warheads on missiles during peacetime. In September 2024, China tested an intercontinental ballistic missile (DF-31AG) aimed at a location in the South Pacific 11,700 kilometers away; this was the first time China used the Pacific for a missile test since 1980.

<https://thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock/2025-statement/nuclear-risk/>

## **Images show China building huge fusion research facility, analysts say**

Gerry Doyle

Reuters, January 28, 2025

China appears to be building a large laser-ignited fusion research centre in the southwestern city of Mianyang, experts at two analytical organisations say, a development that could aid nuclear weapons design and work exploring power generation. Satellite photos show four outlying "arms" that will house laser bays, and a central experiment bay that will hold a target chamber containing hydrogen isotopes the powerful lasers will fuse together, producing energy, said Decker Eveleth, a researcher at U.S.-based independent research organisation CNA Corp.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/images-show-china-building-huge-fusion-research-facility-analysts-say-2025-01-28/>

## **China wants to see US, Russian nuclear disarmament efforts before talks**

Channel News Asia, January 28, 2025

China called on Washington and Moscow to "further reduce" their nuclear arsenals as a precondition for its participation in potential disarmament talks called for by US President Donald Trump. Trump said in a video address to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland that "we'd like to see denuclearisation", and reiterated his desire for three-way talks with Russia and

China. Beijing says it favours disarmament in principle but has regularly rejected Washington's invitations to join US-Russian talks on reducing their nuclear arsenals.

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/east-asia/china-wants-see-us-russia-nuclear-disarmament-efforts-talks-4901501>

## **PLA extends power supply to border outposts near disputed China-India frontier**

Fan Chen

South China Morning Post, January 29, 2025

The People's Liberation Army has extended the power supply to border outposts in remote areas with harsh conditions, including those at high elevations, according to an official Chinese military newspaper. PLA Daily reported earlier this month that border outposts in Xaidulla in Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region and Ngari prefecture in Tibet autonomous region – strategic areas along the contested China-India border – were completely covered by the national power grid. “The electricity and renewable energy used by the vast majority of border posts provide strong support for troops to stay warm and safe through the winter. This marks a structural change in the energy security of all high-elevation border defence outposts in the military,” it said.

[https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3296615/pla-extends-power-supply-border-outposts-near-disputed-china-india-frontier?module=top\\_story&pgtype=subsection](https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3296615/pla-extends-power-supply-border-outposts-near-disputed-china-india-frontier?module=top_story&pgtype=subsection)

## **China's DeepSeek: How adversity forged a new path in AI revolution**

Wilson Lee Flores

China Daily, January 29, 2025

In an era defined by toxic geopolitical friction and attempts to push zero-sum competition, the rise of China's DeepSeek AI offers a revelatory and inspiring counter-narrative. Against a backdrop of unilateral Western sanctions, resource constraints, and relentless skepticism, this 18-month-old startup has not only matched OpenAI's ChatGPT in performance but also surpassed it in efficiency, seizing the title of the most-downloaded AI app in the US and sending shockwaves through global markets. Its story is more than a corporate triumph; it is a manifesto for resilience, ingenuity, and the transformative power of turning constraints into catalysts. Indeed, DeepSeek reminds me of the Chinese word for "crisis", which is made up of two characters: "wei" for "danger" and "ji" for "opportunity".

<https://www.chinadailyhk.com/hk/article/603444>

## **Lessons for Russia as China builds navy to rival US by 2049: Moscow think tank**

Victoria Bela

South China Morning Post, January 29, 2025

China is seeking global leadership in key defence and military technologies amid fierce rivalry with the West – and Russia should learn from it, a Russian think tank has said. “By 2049, we can expect the PRC navy to achieve a combat potential comparable to the US Navy,” the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC) said in a report earlier this month, using the acronym for China’s official name. The year 2049 marks the 100th anniversary of the People’s Republic of China, by when it aims to have a “world-class military”.

[https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3296622/lessons-russia-china-builds-navy-rival-us-2049-moscow-think-tank?module=top\\_story&pgtype=subsection](https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3296622/lessons-russia-china-builds-navy-rival-us-2049-moscow-think-tank?module=top_story&pgtype=subsection)

## **DeepSeek is giving the world a window into Chinese censorship and information control**

Simone McCarthy

CNN, January 29, 2025

Previously little-known Chinese startup DeepSeek has dominated headlines and app charts in recent days thanks to its new AI chatbot, which sparked a global tech sell-off that wiped billions off Silicon Valley’s biggest companies and shattered assumptions of America’s dominance of the tech race. But those signing up for the chatbot and its open-source technology are being confronted with the Chinese Communist Party’s brand of censorship and information control. When questions veer into territory that would be restricted or heavily moderated on China’s domestic internet, the responses reveal aspects of the country’s tight information controls.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2025/01/29/china/deepseek-ai-china-censorship-moderation-intl-hnk/index.html>

## **US Navy confirms drone ‘hellscape’ for use against PLA in Taiwan Strait is on track**

Seong Hyeon Choi

South China Morning Post, January 30, 2025

The first iteration of drones, set to form part of America’s “unmanned hellscape” strategy to be used against China in a potential war in the Taiwan Strait, is on track to meet its August 2025

deadline, according to a US Navy official. Speaking at the West 2025 conference hosted by the US Naval Institute and AFCEA, Alex Campbell, maritime portfolio director of the US military's Defence Innovation Unit (DIU), said the Replicator initiative would meet the goal set by former deputy defence secretary Kathleen Hicks. The US would turn the Taiwan Strait "into an unmanned hellscape using a number of classified capabilities" by launching thousands of drones, from surface vessels and submarines to aerial drones, in response to a potential use of force by the PLA against the self-ruled island.

[https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3296808/us-navy-confirms-drone-hellscape-use-against-pla-taiwan-strait-track?module=top\\_story&pgtype=subsection](https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3296808/us-navy-confirms-drone-hellscape-use-against-pla-taiwan-strait-track?module=top_story&pgtype=subsection)

## **Love it or ban it, Chinese technology has made America better**

Shira Ovide

The Washington Post, January 31, 2025

Government officials and corporate executives talk a lot about the threats to America's economy and security if we let in Chinese technology like TikTok or fail to slow China's technology ambitions, including this week's emergence of DeepSeek's artificial intelligence. The worries are legitimate, but we rarely admit that two truths coexist: Holding back Chinese technology could be good for America, but it also hampers innovation for American consumers, businesses and the economy.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2025/01/31/us-china-technology-deepseek-tiktok-ai/>

## **China builds huge wartime military command centre in Beijing**

Demetri Sevastopulo, Joe Leahy, Ryan McMorrow, Kathrin Hille and Chris Cook

Financial Times, January 31, 2025

China's military is building a massive complex in western Beijing that US intelligence believes will serve as a wartime command centre far larger than the Pentagon, according to current and former American officials. Satellite images obtained by the Financial Times that are being examined by US intelligence show a roughly 1,500-acre construction site 30km south-west of Beijing with deep holes that military experts assess will house large, hardened bunkers to protect Chinese military leaders during any conflict — including potentially a nuclear war.

<https://www.ft.com/content/f3763e51-8607-42b9-9ef9-5789d5bf353d>

## **DeepSeek's answers include Chinese propaganda, researchers say**

Steven Lee Myers

The New York Times, January 31, 2025

Since the DeepSeek made its debut this month, rattling stock markets and more established tech giants like Nvidia, researchers testing its capabilities have found that the answers it gives not only spread Chinese propaganda but also parrot disinformation campaigns that China has used to undercut its critics around the world. In one instance, the chatbot misstated remarks by former President Jimmy Carter that Chinese officials had selectively edited to make it appear that he had endorsed China's position that Taiwan was part of the People's Republic of China.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/31/technology/deepseek-chinese-propaganda.html>

## **Is China's DeepSeek blessing or curse for Korean chipmakers?**

Lee Yeon-woo

The Korea Times, January 31, 2025

Samsung Electronics and SK hynix are expected to face growing uncertainties in the rapidly growing artificial intelligence (AI) memory chip business following the emergence of Chinese AI startup DeepSeek, which has dealt a blow to Nvidia and other U.S. AI tech firms, experts said. DeepSeek recently introduced its latest inference model, R1, which delivers performance comparable to OpenAI's o1. The startup said training the model cost just over \$5.5 million despite using lower-grade Nvidia graphic processing units (GPUs) designed for the Chinese market.

[https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/tech/2025/01/129\\_391287.html](https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/tech/2025/01/129_391287.html)



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

**Nuclear and Arms Control Centre, MP-IDSA**