

March 31, 2025

SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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



China raises state funding for strategic minerals amid US trade war

Edward White

Financial Times, March 20, 2025

China is boosting state support for domestic minerals exploration as policymakers increase efforts to achieve President Xi Jinping's ambition for resource self-sufficiency amid intensifying competition with the US. Over the past year, at least half of China's 34 provincial-level governments, including those of top resource-producing regions such as Xinjiang, have announced increased subsidies or expanded access for mineral exploration, according to a Financial Times analysis of official announcements.

<https://www.ft.com/content/cace5b0f-e08c-4cb9-aac5-c3117d5a93bc>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on Taiwan's "Legislative Yuan" appointing Iwasaki Shigeru, the former chief of the Joint Staff of Japan's Self-Defence Forces, as a consultant

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

Taiwan is an inalienable part of China and the Taiwan question is purely China's internal affair that brooks no external interference. The one-China principle is the political foundation of China-Japan relations. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. Japan bears historical responsibilities to the Chinese people over the Taiwan question and should act with extra prudence and honor its promise of adhering to the one-China principle with concrete actions. We've lodged protests with the Japanese side. The DPP authorities' separatist provocations with foreign support are doomed to fail.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202503/t20250321_11579916.html

US to probe Chinese telecom groups it suspects of posing security risk

Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, March 21, 2025

The Federal Communications Commission is investigating several Chinese telecom companies, including Huawei and China Telecom, over concerns that some of them are ignoring restrictions on their operations in the US. The regulator said it had opened a "sweeping investigation" into Chinese groups that also include ZTE, a big telecoms equipment provider, and Hikvision, the world's largest maker of surveillance cameras. It is also targeting China Mobile International USA, and the US subsidiaries of China Telecom, and China Unicom.

<https://www.ft.com/content/6a8a681a-f86a-483b-8e75-fd773376c2c3>

China builds mega network for space weather forecasting

Xinhua, March 21, 2025

One of China's key scientific infrastructures, the Chinese Meridian Project (CMP), successfully passed national acceptance for its second phase. It will boost cutting-edge scientific research and provide key support for the country's space weather forecasting services, according to the National Space Science Center of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The project, also known as the Ground-based Space Environment Monitoring Network, is the world's first comprehensive ground-based monitoring facility to cover Sun-Earth space from the solar atmosphere to near-Earth space.

<https://english.news.cn/20250321/455369da2ba44a4d99ab683a3942107a/c.html>

China's rare earth dominance could crumble in 10 years, CAS study forecasts

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, March 21, 2025

Researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) predict the country's unparalleled dominance of the world's supplies of rare earths – critical to hi-tech and green industries – could be coming to an end. In a study published last week by the peer-reviewed journal Chinese Rare Earths, the scientists warned that the country's estimated 62 per cent share of the raw materials may fall to just 28 per cent by 2035 as new sources emerge. Even China's heavy rare earths stronghold in southern China – concentrated in its ion-adsorption clays – could be threatened by Greenland's Kvanefeld and a number of South American projects, according to the paper.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3303167/chinas-rare-earth-dominance-could-crumble-10-years-cas-study-forecasts>

China to send regenerative flatworms to space station for scientific study

Xinhua, March 21, 2025

China's space station is set to introduce a novel participant in its space science experiments -- the planarian, a creature renowned for its extraordinary regenerative capabilities, China Media Group reported. Researchers aim to investigate how the space environment affects the regenerative processes and physiological behavior of planarians. They will also explore the molecular mechanisms behind space-induced effects on planarian regeneration, thereby advancing our understanding of regenerative biology.

[https://english.news.cn/20250323/256961474dd94cc180982101403a8047/c.html#:~:text=BEIJING%2C%20March%2023%20\(Xinhua\),Media%20Group%20reported%20on%20Saturday.](https://english.news.cn/20250323/256961474dd94cc180982101403a8047/c.html#:~:text=BEIJING%2C%20March%2023%20(Xinhua),Media%20Group%20reported%20on%20Saturday.)

Shenzhou-19 crew completes third extravehicular activities

Xinhua, March 22, 2025

Members of the Shenzhou-19 crew aboard China's orbiting space station completed their mission's third series of extravehicular activities (EVAs), according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA). Astronauts Cai Xuzhe, Song Lingdong and Wang Haoze worked for about seven hours to complete multiple tasks, including the installation of space debris protection devices and extravehicular auxiliary facilities, as well as extravehicular equipment inspection. They were assisted by the space station's robotic arm and a team on Earth.

<https://english.news.cn/20250322/2d1bc5b2b0c249618c64db85c285bfa1/c.html>

China unveils a powerful deep-sea cable cutter that could reset the world order

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, March 22, 2025

A compact, deep-sea, cable-cutting device, capable of severing the world's most fortified underwater communication or power lines, has been unveiled by China – and it could shake up global maritime power dynamics. The revelation marks the first time any country has officially disclosed that it has such an asset, capable of disrupting critical undersea networks. While it was created as a tool for civilian salvage and seabed mining, the dual-use potential of the tool could send alarm bells ringing for other nations.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3303246/china-unveils-powerful-deep-sea-cable-cutter-could-reset-world-order>

China firmly opposes politicisation, weaponisation of trade issues, says vice premier in meeting with US senator Daines

Global Times, March 22, 2025

China firmly opposes the politicization, weaponization, and instrumentalization of economic and trade issues, and is willing to engage in candid dialogue with the US based on mutual respect and equality, Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng said Saturday during a meeting with visiting US Senator Steve Daines in Beijing, the Xinhua News Agency reported. China and the US share broad common interests and significant opportunities for cooperation, and can be partners and friends, achieving mutual success and shared prosperity that benefits both countries and the world, He, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, emphasized.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1330628.shtml>

China says it is ready for ‘shocks’ as Donald Trump’s fresh tariffs loom

Edward White and Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, March 23, 2025

China said it was ready for any “unexpected shocks” ahead of US President Donald Trump imposing higher tariffs on the world’s second-biggest economy. Premier Li Qiang, responsible for the Chinese economy under leader Xi Jinping, told foreign business leaders gathered in Beijing that uncertainty and instability were rising, but China would choose the “correct path” of globalisation and multilateralism. “We have preparations for possible unexpected shocks, which of course mainly come from external sources,” Li said.

<https://www.ft.com/content/cf030e98-80b3-4e29-adb5-8c5674753b66>

US Space Force general's dogfighting claim against Chinese satellites disputed by US experts, viewed as budget ploy

Global Times, March 23, 2025

A senior official of US Space Force recently claimed that Chinese satellites engaged in "dogfighting" maneuvers in low Earth orbit. Such a claim however has been disputed by even the US experts, who also questioned the claim's "hostile intentions" as the US also undertakes it. Chinese observers saw the claim as a budget-driven ploy, and part of a broader effort to curb space advances by emerging powers and preserve US dominance in orbit.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1330667.shtml>

Arms Control and Proliferation Profile: China

Arms Control Association, March 23, 2025

China, one of the five nuclear weapons states under the NPT, is estimated by independent experts to possess, as of January 2025, between 470 and 600 nuclear warheads, an arsenal that has increased significantly in recent years. It has sought to modernize and expand its nuclear delivery systems in pursuit of a robust nuclear triad. China continues to develop road-mobile ICBMs, advance the construction of three new ICBM silo fields, and improve the capabilities of its sea and air-based deterrent. China’s self-stated nuclear policy has been to keep its capabilities at the minimum level required to maintain its national security and deter a potential first strike, and it was the first nation to declare a “No First Use” policy.

<https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/arms-control-and-proliferation-profile-china>

China, Japan reach 20 key consensus points, pledge to deepen economic collaboration

Fan Anqi and Xing Xiaojing

Global Times, March 23, 2025

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Japanese counterpart Takeshi Iwaya co-chaired the sixth China-Japan High-Level Economic Dialogue in Tokyo, which concluded with 20 key consensus points as both sides pledged efforts to deepen economic collaboration between the two nations. The resumption of dialogue after a six-year hiatus is seen by Chinese experts as progress in thawing the freeze between China and Japan. It signals Japan's willingness to improve ties with China across various fields.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1330692.shtml>

China tests a hypersonic afterburner, doubling thrust at Mach 6

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, March 24, 2025

Chinese scientists have unveiled a propulsion breakthrough that could redefine the future of hypersonic flight. Led by Yang Qingchun, an associate professor with Beihang University in Beijing, the research team has developed an innovative secondary combustion technique that nearly doubles the thrust of a scramjet engine by injecting magnesium powder into the exhaust gases from conventional jet fuel combustion.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3303283/china-tests-hypersonic-afterburner-doubling-thrust-mach-6>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the China-Japan-ROK Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting

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

The foreign ministers of China, Japan and the ROK had in-depth exchanges of views on the trilateral cooperation and regional and international issues. They agreed that it's important to uphold the momentum of trilateral cooperation, advance practical cooperation on all fronts, expand cooperation areas, deepen cultural and people-to-people exchange, and work for more outcomes that benefit the people of the three countries and the wider region.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202503/t20250324_11580922.html

China releases report on participation in construction, protection of intl communication submarine cables

Fan Wei and Zhao Yusha

Global Times, March 25, 2025

Industry and Planning Research Institute of China Academy of Information and Communication Technology (CAICT) released a report on China's participation in the construction and protection of international communication submarine cables. The report highlights major breakthroughs in China's submarine cable technology in recent years and outlines the role of Chinese enterprises in building and operating international submarine cables. It also details government efforts to protect submarine infrastructure and safeguard national data security, and refutes the groundless smear of some Western politicians and media outlets.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1330835.shtml>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on a report entitled Mobile Cyberattacks Conducted by U.S. Intelligence Agencies, revealing how the U.S. carried out cyberattacks and eavesdropping and espionage activities on global mobile smart terminals, supply chain and operators

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, March 25, 2025

The China Cybersecurity Industry Alliance released a report entitled Mobile Cyberattacks Conducted by U.S. Intelligence Agencies. According to this report, the U.S. government has taken advantage of its monopoly in telecommunication technology and in the upstream of the industrial and supply chains, and carried out large-scale and long-term malicious cyber activities targeting mobile phones and even the entire mobile industry ecosystem globally. Such activities have been pervasive.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202503/t20250325_11581716.html

US adds dozens of Chinese entities to export blacklist

Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, March 26, 2025

The US has put dozens of Chinese entities on an export blacklist in the Trump administration's first big effort to slow China's ability to develop advanced artificial intelligence chips, hypersonic weapons and military-related technology. The US commerce department added more than 70 Chinese groups to the "entity list", which requires any American company selling technology to them to have a licence. In most cases, the licence request is denied. Among the listed groups are

six Chinese subsidiaries of Inspur, a big cloud computing group that has worked with US chipmaker Intel, including one based in Taiwan.

<https://www.ft.com/content/91397064-74d3-466e-b122-00c2726859e0>

US issues intelligence report amid ‘anxiety,’ for own hegemony: expert

Global Times, March 26, 2025

The US intelligence community released another "biased" report hyping "China threat" rhetoric. The 31-page report of the Annual Threat Assessment by the intelligence community published encompasses almost all the "threat labels" created by the US in the political and security domains. China remains the US' top military and cyber threat, according to the report which claims Beijing was making "steady but uneven" progress on capabilities it could use to capture Taiwan, the Guardian reported. China has the ability to hit the US with conventional weapons, compromise US infrastructure through cyber-attacks, and target its assets in space, as well as seeking to displace the US as the top AI power by 2030, the report said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1330926.shtml>

US military presence near China documented

Zhao Lei

China Daily, March 26, 2025

Beijing-based think tank releases report describing activities targeting country. The United States maintained an active military presence in the South China Sea and frequently carried out provocative activities near China throughout last year, according to a new report. In 2024, the US military intensified its military deterrence against China by maintaining high-intensity operations in the South China Sea and surrounding areas, including close-in reconnaissance, transits through the Taiwan Strait, forward deployment, strategic patrols, combat exercises and battlefield preparations.

<https://epaper.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202503/26/WS67e33edda310358b44fde31e.html>

US is making excuses for maintaining own hegemony, says FM on US intelligence report hying ‘China threat’ rhetoric

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People’s Republic of China, March 26, 2025

The U.S. issues irresponsible and biased reports like this year after year, seeks to promote the false “China threat” narrative and fans up major-country rivalry, so that there could be an excuse to

suppress China and perpetuate U.S. supremacy. China is not a mirror image of the hegemonic U.S. The U.S. needs to stop viewing its ties with China from the outdated Cold War perspective, stop containing China in the name of “strategic competition”, and stop aiding or abetting “Taiwan independence” in any form. The U.S. should stop falsely picturing China as a threat and work with China for a steady, sound and sustainable China-U.S. relationship.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202503/t20250326_11582391.html

Wang Yi urges enhanced communication to manage China-US concerns

Zhao Jia

China Daily, March 26, 2025

At this critical juncture for bilateral relations, China is willing to engage in dialogue and consultations with the United States based on equality and mutual respect to address each other's legitimate concerns, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in a meeting with Evan Greenberg, executive vice-chair of the National Committee on United States-China Relations in Beijing. China and the US share extensive common interests and vast opportunities for cooperation, which can lead to mutual success and benefit the world, Wang said.

<https://www.chinadailyasia.com/hk/article/607937>

China's Rocket Force and the manifestation dilemma

Lieutenant Colonel Srikumar Bharathi P

The Week, March 27, 2025

Historically, Beijing always maintained a muted stance on nuclear vectors, even though its first nuclear test was conducted way back in 1964. Mao himself was assertive about nuclear weapons, calling it “paper tiger”, though immediately after the establishment of the People’s Republic of China (PRC), the country started its nuclear weapons and Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) programme. Though China’s official stance remains as ‘No First Use’, the present thought process among Chinese strategists have evolved and internal debates are raging in China about the maintenance of unconditional 'No First Use policy'.

<https://www.theweek.in/news/defence/2025/03/27/chinas-rocket-force-and-the-manifestation-dilemma.html>

Tiandu-2 captures and sends back latest moon images with clear lunar features

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, March 27, 2025

The Global Times learned from the China's Deep Space Exploration Lab (DSEL) that the Taindu-2 communication and navigation technology test satellite has transmitted back pair of latest images of moon, showing clear landscape features of the Earth's natural satellite. Taken by Tiandu-2 satellite camera from 2,379 kilometres above the lunar surface, the first far infrared photo showed visible lunar features include the Tsiolkovsky crater, Fermi crater, Gregory chain craters, and Levi-Civita crater. The center of the image is positioned in the Moon's far-side equatorial region, according to the lab.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1331042.shtml>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on CPC Central Committee and Vice Premier of the State Council Ding Xuexiang's keynote address at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2025

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

Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2025. He pointed out that China's firm commitment to an innovation-driven development strategy has led to a notable boost in our innovation capability, and a successful transition from old to new growth drivers. This has not only helped us tide over economic difficulties, but also lifted our medium- to long-term growth prospect and potential. You may have noticed the fruitful results of China's sci-tech progress in recent years, ranging from digital networks and AI to aerospace and deep-sea exploration, and to daily necessities and infrastructure. Chinese people can truly feel that "science and technology brings a better life."

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202503/t20250327_11583263.html

China aims to have Xinghuo, world's first fusion-fission power plant, running by 2030

Ling Xin

South China Morning Post, March 27, 2025

China is poised to start building the world's first fusion-fission hybrid power plant, with the goal of generating 100 megawatts of continuous electricity and connecting to the grid by the end of the decade. The 20 billion yuan (US\$2.76 billion) Xinghuo high-temperature superconducting reactor has entered its first phase with a public tender for an environmental impact assessment. The facility

will be built on Yaohu Science Island in the hi-tech zone of Nanchang, Jiangxi province, in central China.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3303923/china-aims-have-xinghuo-worlds-first-fusion-fission-power-plant-running-2030>

China launches new data relay satellite

Xinhua, March 27, 2025

China successfully sent a new data relay satellite into orbit from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province. The Tianlian II-04 satellite was launched at 2355 hrs (Beijing Time) aboard a Long March-3B carrier rocket and entered its planned orbit. Tianlian II-04 is China's second-generation geosynchronous orbit data-relay satellite. It will provide data relay and TT&C (telemetry, tracking and command) services for manned spacecraft such as spaceships and space stations, for medium and low-Earth-orbit resource satellites, and TT&C support for spacecraft launches. This was the 565th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

<https://english.news.cn/20250327/8cc8e3b8d7be42978e6d4d94e0e94ecb/c.html>

China's Xi Jinping tells top global CEOs to use their influence to defend trade

Joe Leahy and Nian Liu

Financial Times, March 28, 2025

Xi Jinping has urged global business leaders to work together to protect supply chains at a meeting with a group of executives including Rajesh Subramaniam of FedEx, Ola Källenius of Mercedes-Benz and Georges Elhedery of HSBC. Amid a deepening trade war with the US, the Chinese leader told the group of more than 40 business leaders, which also included Pascal Soriot of AstraZeneca, Miguel Ángel López Borrego of Thyssenkrupp and Amin Nasser of Saudi Aramco, that foreign business leaders should resist behaviours that “turn back the clock” on history.

<https://www.ft.com/content/63c1ca09-9505-4086-9bbe-1b3642838605>

ROK, Japan, China FMs vow to advance cooperation

Zhou Jin, Jiang Xueqing and Yang Han

China Daily, March 28, 2025

The latest meeting of the foreign ministers of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) has provided a timely and vital platform for the three neighbors to enhance mutual understanding and

maintain the good momentum of trilateral cooperation, observers said. The 11th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting, attended by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya, and ROK Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul on March 22 in Tokyo, was the highest-level communication since the resumption of the trilateral leaders' meeting in Seoul in May last year.

<https://www.chinadailyhk.com/hk/article/608164>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on U.S. defence chief Pete Hegseth's the Philippines' visit

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, March 28, 2025

Whatever cooperation the U.S. and the Philippines have, it should not target or harm any third party, still less spread accusations about phantom threats to incite confrontation and heighten tensions in the region. The freedom of navigation and overflight has never had any problem in the South China Sea. Throughout the years it's always been the U.S. who has abetted its allies' provocations, falsely called China a "threat" and claimed that there's an issue with "freedom of navigation in the South China Sea", and kept deploying more and more military resource to the region and undermining its peace and stability. We also call on the Philippines to stop creating instability with U.S. backing, still less seek military confrontation.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202503/t20250328_11583955.html

US defence chief Hegseth vows to counter 'China's aggression' on first Asia visit

Simone McCarthy

CNN, March 28, 2025

The United States will enhance its military alliance with the Philippines as it aims to "reestablish deterrence" to counter "China's aggression" in the Indo-Pacific region, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said. The efforts reflect the strength of the US-Philippines' "ironclad alliance, particularly in the face of Communist China's aggression in the region," Hegseth said during a joint press conference with his counterpart Gilbert Teodoro. The Trump administration, Hegseth pledged, would "truly prioritize a shift" to the Indo-Pacific with the "recognition that for the 21st century to be a free century, America needs to stand alongside our allies and partners shoulder to shoulder."

<https://edition.cnn.com/2025/03/27/asia/pete-hegseth-asia-tour-philippines-marcos-intl-hnk/index.html>

Boao forum 2025 concludes with consensus reached

China Daily, March 29, 2025

The Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2025 concluded in Boao, a coastal town in China's island province of Hainan, with a series of consensus reached. This year's meeting mainly reached consensus in five aspects, namely, to firmly uphold multilateralism, strengthen regional cooperation and promote regional economic integration, implement the United Nations' sustainable development goals, pursue innovation-driven growth, and advocate dialogue and exchanges to enhance understanding and trust and jointly address challenges, Zhang Jun, BFA secretary general, said at the closing press conference.

<https://www.chinadailyasia.com/hk/article/608193>

Comac C949: China unveils quiet supersonic jet with 50% longer range than Concorde

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, March 29, 2025

The first details of C949, a supersonic airliner project, have been quietly unveiled by Chinese state-owned aerospace giant Comac, signalling its ambitions to dominate the skies with the radical new jet that could redefine global air travel. In a recent academic paper, Comac engineers revealed the blueprint of a 1.6-Mach airliner designed to fly further and much more quietly than the retired Concorde – a feat that could position China at the forefront of a 21st century supersonic renaissance.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3304082/comac-c949-china-unveils-quiet-supersonic-jet-50-longer-range-concorde>

The U.S. ban on Chinese exports is a swing and miss

Anthony Moretti

CGTN, March 29, 2025

The White House placed dozens of Chinese entities on an export restrictions list. Those companies will no longer receive specific goods from U.S. entities unless the federal government approves such a request. You and I know that any American company making such a plea will immediately be told no. In making this move, the United States has once again demonstrated that it is desperate to rein in China's development.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2025-03-29/The-U-S-ban-on-Chinese-exports-is-a-swing-and-miss-1C8aCFxMIEc/index.html>

PLA warns the Philippines to cease provoking incidents

China Daily, March 29, 2025

The Chinese military conducted routine patrols in the South China Sea, said a spokesperson for the Chinese People's Liberation Army. The action took place amid ongoing efforts by the Philippines to enlist countries outside the region for so-called "joint patrols" and hype and spread its unlawful claims in the South China Sea, said Tian Junli, spokesperson for the PLA Southern Theater Command. The Philippine moves have sown destabilizing factors and undermined peace and stability in the region, Tian added.

<https://www.chinadailyasia.com/hk/article/608213>

Nuclear risk from military AI prompts calls for US, China and others to seek agreement

Sylvie Zhuang

South China Morning Post, March 30, 2025

Artificial intelligence (AI) specialists have warned that China, the United States and other leading players must seek common ground in regulating the military use of the technology to minimise the risk of nuclear escalation. China put forward a position paper in 2021 that called for a “prudent and responsible approach” and “self-restraint” in applying AI in the military. It warned against attempting to achieve “absolute military superiority”, without naming any specific countries.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3304471/nuclear-risk-military-ai-prompts-calls-us-china-and-others-seek-agreement>

China issues first operation certificates for autonomous passenger drones

Li Xuanmin and Zhang Yiyi

Global Times, March 30, 2025

Two Chinese companies have received the first-ever operation certificate (OC) for autonomous passenger drones issued by the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), the Global Times learned. It marks the first time that the regulator has issued these certificates for passenger-carrying civil unmanned aircraft, signaling the start of commercial operation in China's low-altitude aviation sector and representing a milestone in the development of the low-altitude economy and urban air mobility, industry insiders said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1331193.shtml>

China launches new communication technology test satellite

CGTN, March 30, 2025

China sent a new communication technology test satellite into the planned orbit from the Wenchang Space Launch Site on the coast of the southern island province of Hainan. The satellite was launched by a Long March-7A rocket at 1205 hrs. It will be used mainly for multi-band and high-speed communication technology validation. This launch was the 566th mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2025-03-30/China-launches-new-communication-technology-test-satellite-1Ca5EIVMmwo/index.html>

China discovers major oilfield in South China Sea

China Daily, March 31, 2025

The China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) announced that it has discovered a major oilfield in the eastern South China Sea, with proven reserves exceeding 100 million tonnes. The newly discovered Huizhou 19-6 oilfield marks a breakthrough in China's offshore oil exploration, as it is the country's first large-scale integrated clastic oilfield discovered in deep to ultra-deep layers, CNOOC said.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202503/31/WS67e9d229a3101d4e4dc2bb40.html>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on U.S. defence chief Pete Hegseth describing warrior country” Japan as “indispensable for tackling Chinese aggression”

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, March 31, 2025

China always believes that military and security cooperation between the U.S. and Japan should not target any third country, or endanger regional peace and development. By calling China a “threat” and using it as a pretext, the U.S. has been instigating ideological antagonism, stoking division and confrontation, and even inciting certain countries to be the cannon fodder of U.S. supremacy. Regional countries need to stay on high alert and guard against such practice. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-fascist War. Japan in particular needs to learn from history and be prudent in military and security areas.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202503/t20250331_11585144.html

US officially recognizes the Type 094 Jin-class submarine as China's first credible naval nuclear deterrent

Army Recognition Group, March 31, 2025

On March 26, 2025, the U.S. Strategic Command officially assessed that the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) operates six Jin-class (Type 094) ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs), constituting China's first credible sea-based nuclear deterrent, as each vessel is equipped with up to 12 submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs). This capability provides China with a naval second-strike option and is part of a broader expansion of its strategic forces, aligning with President Xi Jinping's directive for the military to be prepared for a potential operation against Taiwan by 2027, which has driven investments in land-based missiles, strategic bombers, and naval assets.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/navy-news/2025/us-officially-recognizes-the-type-094-jin-class-submarine-as-chinas-first-credible-naval-nuclear-deterrent>

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

Nuclear and Arms Control Centre, MP-IDSA