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# SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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(MP - IDSA)



INDIAN PUGWASH SOCIETY



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## **China, India hold 10th corps commander level meeting**

Xinhua, February 21, 2021

China's Ministry of National Defense on Sunday said the 10th Round of China-India Corps Commander Level Meeting was held on Feb. 20 on the Chinese side of the Moldo-Chushul border meeting point. The two sides positively appraised the smooth completion of disengagement of frontline troops in the Bangong Lake area, noting that it was a significant step forward that provided a good basis for resolution of other remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Western Sector of China-India border areas, according to a joint press release of the meeting.

The two sides had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on other issues along the LAC in the Western Sector of the China-India border, it said. Both sides agreed to follow the important consensus of their state leaders, continue communication and dialogue, stabilize and control the situation on the ground, push for a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues in a steady and orderly manner, so as to jointly maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas, said the document.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-02/21/c\\_139757097.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-02/21/c_139757097.htm)

## **China, India expected to further disengage border troops following latest talks**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, February 21, 2021

China and India reportedly held the 10th round of corps commander-level talks on Saturday, and Chinese analysts predicted on Sunday that the two countries' troops could further disengage at other previous hot spots after smooth disengagement at the northern and southern banks of Pangong Tso days earlier. China and India held the 10th round of China-India Corps Commander Level Meeting on Saturday on the Chinese side of the Moldo/Chushul border meeting point, reads a joint press release published by China's Ministry of National Defense on Sunday.

The two sides positively appraised the smooth completion of disengagement of frontline troops in the Pangong Tso area noting that it was a significant step forward that provided a good basis for resolution of other remaining issues along the LAC in Western Sector, the press release said. They also had candid and in-depth exchange of views on other issues along the LAC in the Western Sector, and agreed to follow the important consensus of their state leaders, continue their communication and dialogue, stabilize and control the situation on the ground, push for a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues in a steady and orderly manner, so as to jointly maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas, according to the release. The joint release came after Indian news agency the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported on Sunday, citing unnamed Indian official sources, that China and India held extensive talks on expanding the disengagement process at the meeting held on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202102/1216061.shtml>

## **India and China hold fresh round of border talks after 'smooth completion' of pullback from Pangong Tso**

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, February 21, 2021

A joint statement said commanders from both sides had held their tenth round of negotiations along their disputed frontier on Saturday. This month's withdrawal agreement follows months of tension that peaked in June with a deadly clash in the Galwan Valley. China and India have held their tenth round of border talks and said the two sides had "completed" the disengagement of forces from a lake that has become a key flashpoint in their months-long stand-off. A joint press release said the two sides had "positively appraised the smooth completion" of the withdrawal from Pangong Tso on Saturday, describing it as a "significant step forward that provided a good basis for the resolution of other remaining issues". "The two sides agreed to follow the important consensus of their state leaders, continue their communication and dialogue, stabilise and control the situation on the ground, push for a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues in a steady and orderly manner, so as to jointly maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas," the statement said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3122572/india-and-china-hold-fresh-round-border-talks-after-smooth>

### **Chinese military to build new-type training system amid external threats**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, February 21, 2021

The Chinese military announced on Saturday that it will build a new type of training system that would improve military training in all respects, strengthen the capability to win wars and build the Chinese military into a world-class one. The new military training system will focus on ensuring People's Liberation Army (PLA) exercises are the same as real wars to deal with rapidly changing global situations and external threats, Chinese military analysts said on Sunday. Approved by Chinese President Xi Jinping, also chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), the CMC has released a decision on fostering a new type of military training system, the Xinhua News Agency reported on Saturday.

The decision stressed efforts to speed up the establishment of the training system, to improve military training in all respects and to strengthen the capability to win wars to build the PLA into a world-class armed force, Xinhua said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202102/1216079.shtml>

### **Xi signs order promulgating regulations on int'l military cooperation**

Xinhua, February 19, 2021

Xi Jinping, chairman of the Central Military Commission, has signed an order promulgating regulations on international military cooperation. The regulations are of great significance for safeguarding China's sovereignty, security, and development interests, promoting global and regional peace and stability, as well as building a community with a shared future for humanity. With 48 articles in eight chapters, the regulations specify the major tasks and scopes of international military cooperation. The regulations also establish the planning, risk management, safeguard and assessment systems for international cooperation, as well as procedures and methods of organizing such projects. The regulations will go into effect on March 1.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-02/19/c\\_139752768.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-02/19/c_139752768.htm)

### **Revised regulation on military political work released**

Xinhua, February 18, 2021

The revised regulation on political work in the army has been released in China and came into effect recently. The regulation, approved by the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the Central Military Commission, is expected to enhance the Party's leadership of military political work. Serving as the backbone of military political work in the new era, the regulation is a major achievement of the reform of military policies and institutions. It also provides a solid political underpinning for building a world-class army in all respects

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-02/18/c\\_139750465.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-02/18/c_139750465.htm)

### **Chinese astronauts start intensive training for space station missions**

China Military Online, February 18, 2021

Recently, the first crew of Chinese astronauts to carry out manned flight missions during the construction process of China's space station has entered the intensive training phase, with focus on extravehicular activities. Based on the plan, China is to implement 11 missions from 2021 to 2022 and to complete the in-orbit construction of the space station around 2022, achieving the third-step goal of China's three-step strategic development plan for the manned space program.

At present, China's manned space program has entered the preparation phase for the construction of space station in an all-out manner. The development of the station's core module is progressing smoothly, with the assembly of combined sections and the deployment of ground equipment proceeding in order. The first crew of astronauts for manned flight mission have completed the arduous training for a year and entered the homestretch with intensive training.

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-02/18/content\\_9987117.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-02/18/content_9987117.htm)

### **Chinese naval fleet wraps up joint exercise "Peace-21" in Pakistan**

Xue Fei and Liang Lihu

China Military Online, February 21, 2021

Chinese sailors are manning the rails on board the guided-missile destroyer Guiyang (Hull 119) at the fleet review of the multinational naval exercise "Peace-21" in the waters off Karachi, Pakistan, on February 16, local time. A fleet of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy composed of the guided-missile destroyer Guiyang (Hull 119), the missile frigate Zaozhuang (Hull 542) and the comprehensive supply ship Dongpinghu (Hull 960), completed the maritime drill of the multinational naval exercise "Peace-21," in the waters off Karachi, Pakistan, running from February 15 to 16 local time.

The multinational naval exercise "Peace-21" kicked off on February 11, local time. From February 15 to 16, the PLA Navy fleet, together with participating vessels and aircraft from other countries, has carried out drills on training tasks including formation maneuver, maritime

search and rescue, helicopter formation flying, and live-firing at sea, and also participated in the fleet review at sea. At 10 am on February 15, the PLA Navy fleet rendezvoused with other counterparts in the designated waters, and conducted underway replenishment drill and anti-piracy drill afterward. From the afternoon of February 15 to early February 16, the PLA Navy fleet carried out drills on tasks such as formation maneuver and maritime search and rescue with vessels from Pakistan, Russia, the US, the UK, and other countries. In the subsequent naval fleet review, the participating vessels marched in a single file, among which, the warship involved from the PLA Navy was inspected with sailors manning the rails on deck. The fleet review marked the ending of this joint naval exercise.

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-02/18/content\\_9987129.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-02/18/content_9987129.htm)

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[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-02/18/content\\_9987129.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-02/18/content_9987129.htm)

### **China-India border tension: satellite images show PLA emptying military camps at Himalayan flashpoint**

South China Morning Post, February 17, 2021

Chinese troops are filmed dismantling bunkers and tents, and then tanks, soldiers and vehicles seen moving out as part of disengagement. Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told parliament both sides had agreed to pull back troops around Pangong Tso. China has dismantled dozens of structures and moved vehicles to empty entire camps along a disputed Himalayan border where Indian and Chinese troops have been locked in a face-off since last summer, satellite images released on Wednesday show. The nuclear-armed neighbours last week announced a plan to pull back troops, tanks and other equipment from the banks of Pangong

Tso, a glacial lake in the Ladakh region, that became a flashpoint in the prolonged border dispute.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3122057/china-india-border-tension-satellite-images-show-pla-emptying>

### **China advances development of AG600 large amphibious aircraft**

Xinhua, February 17, 2021

China's indigenously developed AG600 large amphibious aircraft has achieved continuous progress with multiple test planes entering the manufacturing phase, according to its developer. Major large parts of the No.3 AG600 test aircraft and some test parts for iron-bird tests have recently entered the manufacturing phase, said state-owned planemaker the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC).

These major large parts include the nose, middle fuselage and rear fuselage of the AG600 test aircraft, which will carry out the following tests for the large amphibious aircraft model. Iron bird tests are essential to the designer and the authorities to verify an aircraft model, major parts and airborne systems on the ground. The AG600 large amphibious aircraft successfully completed its maiden flight in 2017, its first takeoff from a water reservoir in 2018, and its maiden flight over sea in 2020.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-02/17/c\\_139748126.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-02/17/c_139748126.htm)

### **India-China border dispute: as both sides withdraw troops, did New Delhi get a poor deal?**

Kunal Purohit

South China Morning Post, February 16, 2021

As tanks and soldiers turn away from Pangong Tso, some analysts are questioning the 'piecemeal' disengagement that does not cover areas of friction such as Hot Springs and Gogra. Of particular concern is the Depsang Plains, a strategically located area that borders Pakistan and China and is close to a vital all-weather highway. After nine tense months, India and China's border stand-off might now be inching towards a resolution. Since last week, both sides have agreed to withdraw thousands of their troops from the Pangong Tso glacial lake high in the Himalayas.

Footage supplied by the Indian government shows Chinese tanks turning away from the lake's north bank and heading towards their base camps, followed by Indian tanks doing the same. These images have flooded television screens and social media timelines, with an Indian official on Monday telling local media the disengagement process is set to be complete as soon as the end of this week, although sources had earlier said it could take weeks or months. On Indian news channels, many are hailing this as a victory for the administration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3121927/india-china-border-dispute-both-sides-withdraw-troops-did-new>

## **PLA destroyer flotilla joins multinational drills in Pakistan with US, Russian navies**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, February 12, 2021

A Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy flotilla led by a Type 052D destroyer on Thursday started participating in a multinational exercise in Pakistan, a unique platform experts said that provides opportunities for Chinese and Russian navies to come together with their counterparts from the US and other Western countries. Invited by the Pakistan Navy, the PLA Navy 119 Flotilla arrived in waters close to Karachi, Pakistan on Thursday to participate in the multinational exercise AMAN-21, after the flotilla wrapped up its escort mission in the Gulf of Aden, the PLA Daily reported. The 119 Flotilla, led by the Type 052D guided missile destroyer Guiyang and consisted of also the Type 054A guided missile frigate Zaozhuang and the Type 903A comprehensive supplement ship Dongpinghu, was the 36th escort task force to the Gulf of Aden setting out from Qingdao, East China's Shandong Province on September 3, 2020, and completed a handover ceremony to the 37th escort task force on January 31 in the Gulf of Aden after completing 38 escort missions on 52 ships around the region, the PLA Navy announced in a statement released on February 1.

The Global Times learned from the Pakistan Navy on Friday that the AMAN-21 exercise is scheduled in two phases: the harbor phase and the sea phase. The harbor phase will comprise of the International Maritime Conference, seminars, table talks, cross ships visits, calls on and the International Band Display and Maritime Counter Terrorism Demonstration, while the sea phase includes practical execution of operational plans and activities finalized during the harbor phase. The exercise has been planned with focused objectives, which include enhancing interoperability with regional and extra-regional navies thereby acting as a bridge between the regions, and the display of united resolve against terrorism and crimes in the maritime domain, according to the Pakistan Navy. Naval forces from more than 40 countries, including those from Russia, and the US as well as some other NATO countries will also participate in the exercise, foreign media reported.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202102/1215559.shtml#:~:text=A%20Chinese%20People's%20Liberation%20Army,the%20US%20and%20other%20Western>

## **China's Tianwen-1 to perform orbital maneuvers ahead of Mars landing**

Xinhua, February 12, 2021

China's Tianwen-1 probe will make several orbital maneuvers to prepare for its landing attempt on Mars, which is due to take place in the coming months, Chinese scientists said in a recent interview with Science and Technology Daily. Experts from the China Academy of Space Technology said that the craft, which entered orbit around Mars on Wednesday, will brake to adjust the orbital inclination of the flight at the apoareion, the highest point of the orbit around Mars. Tianwen-1 will then brake at the periareion, the point in the orbit that is closest to Mars, and adjust its orbital period to ensure that the spacecraft's track passes the preset landing site.

When the Chinese probe reaches the periareion for the second time, it will brake again to perform an orbital maneuver and make sure the lander and rover of Tianwen-1 can complete the landing on Mars at the scheduled time and place. Finally, Tianwen-1 will decelerate again and take pictures of the landing area. It will select the optimal point in the orbit to make the lander-rover combination separate from the orbiter and enter the Martian atmosphere. China's

Tianwen-1 probe, including an orbiter, a lander and a rover, successfully entered the orbit around Mars on Wednesday after a nearly seven-month voyage from Earth. During the Earth-Mars transfer orbit, Tianwen-1's flight was mostly unpowered. The probe was affected by the deviation of orbit entry and other factors. It had four orbital corrections to make it stay in the preset orbit. It is expected to land on Mars in May or June. Chinese space engineers and scientists have chosen a relatively flat region in the southern part of the Utopia Planitia, a large plain, as the potential landing zone. A rover will be released after the landing to conduct scientific exploration. Enditem

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-02/12/c\\_139739416.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-02/12/c_139739416.htm)

### **Chinese naval fleet heads for joint exercise in Pakistan**

Xinhuanet, February 11, 2021

A fleet of the People's Liberation Army Navy on Thursday set off for Pakistan to attend a multilateral joint naval exercise at the invitation of the Pakistani navy, China's Ministry of National Defense said. The drill, code-named "Peace-21," is set to be conducted in waters near the city of Karachi, the ministry said in a statement. It is the eighth time for a Chinese naval fleet to participate in such exercises organized by the Pakistani navy, which are aimed at strengthening exchanges and friendly interactions with navies of relevant countries, said the statement.

[http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2021-02/11/content\\_4879056.htm](http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2021-02/11/content_4879056.htm)

### **China's Tianwen-1 Mars probe goes into red planet orbit**

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, February 10, 2021

China's unmanned spacecraft Tianwen-1 went into orbit around Mars on Wednesday night, state media reported, as international efforts to explore the red planet heat up. After a 15-minute deceleration, the unmanned spacecraft was captured by the Martian gravity and began to circle the red planet in a large elliptical orbit, according to state news agency Xinhua. It comes just hours after the Hope satellite launched by the United Arab Emirates did so. Nasa's Perseverance rover will join them next week.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3121316/countdown-chinas-tianwen-1-mars-probe-gets-ready-red-planet>

### **China, India start synchronized disengagement of frontline troops: Defense Spokesperson**

China Military Online, February 10, 2021

The Chinese and Indian frontline troops at the southern and northern bank of the Pangong Tso Lake start synchronized and organized disengagement from February 10, said Senior Colonel Wu Qian, spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of National Defense, in a written statement on Wednesday. This move is in accordance with the consensus reached by both sides at the 9th round of China-India Corps Commander Level Meeting, the statement said.



[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-02/10/content\\_9984785.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-02/10/content_9984785.htm)

**"Smart physical training system" promotes military training**

China Military Online, February 10, 2021

Recently, a smart system for physical fitness assessment came into service in a comprehensive fitness training center under the PLA Army. The soldiers wore the electronic wristband during the training assessment, and the whole process was monitored with real-time judgment and assessment results. The application of the smart system can facilitate both the physical fitness assessment and targeted training for soldiers in different services. During the training process, the system can fully display the training effects based on the collected data in real time. It is reported the smart physical training system have been applied in military camps nationwide, which can provide diverse training, effectively improving the physical fitness of Chinese military.

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-02/10/content\\_9984661.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-02/10/content_9984661.htm)