

September 09, 2021

SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

An Initiative by Indian Pugwash Society and Centre for Nuclear Issues and Arms Control (MP - IDSA)



INDIAN PUGWASH SOCIETY



Prepared By:

Diya Deep Singh

Country's technological gains outpacing rest of the world, insiders say

Liang Kaiyan

China Daily, September 09, 2021

Artificial intelligence plays a leading role in driving social development, service innovation and industry upgrading, while also helping to foster new economic growth, officials and business insiders said. As a parallel forum of the China International Fair for Investment and Trade, the 20th World Business Leaders Roundtable was held on Tuesday. Titled "Artificial Intelligence Reshaping Industry", the event attracted officials and business representatives to share insights on how AI can empower industrial development.

"AI has become the core driving force for the new round of technological and industrial transformation," said Zhang Shenfeng, vice-chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade. "It has injected innovative impetus into socioeconomic development." Since the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the world, AI has played roles in areas incorporating the battle against the pandemic as well as work and production resumption. Its success in doing so has attracted more demand for AI from all aspects of society, Zhang said. According to a recent report on China's internet development by the Internet Society of China, the scale of the AI industry in the country reached 303.1 billion yuan (\$47 billion), up 15 percent year-on-year. Those statistics are also relatively higher than the average global growth. To date, China has 1,454 AI businesses, ranking second in the world behind the United States. It is one of the gathering bases for the global unicorn enterprises, the report said. Jiang Zhiguo, vice-president of AI giant iFlytek, said AI has developed into a new stage. It is at the "AI 2.0" stage, which means the technology should contribute to more future needs, Jiang said.

<https://epaper.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202109/09/WS61394099a3106abb319fd637.html>

Taiwan navy commissions stealth missile corvette to aid asymmetric war strategy against Beijing

Lawrence Chung

South China Morning Post, September 09, 2021

Taiwan's navy has commissioned its first stealth missile corvette to boost its deterrence capability and defend the island amid growing military threats from Beijing. The multi-mission corvette Ta Jiang (PGG-619), dubbed carrier killer, was commissioned at the same time the island's navy took delivery of a high-speed minelayer under the supervision of Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen at a shipyard in Suao in northeast Taiwan. Both vessels were produced by Lung Teh Shipbuilding Company as part of the government plan to boost the island's capability in building and developing its own weapons. Speaking at a ceremony in Suao, Tsai said the commissioning of the Ta Jiang and delivery of the Min Jiang-class high-speed minelayer were solid proof of the domestic ability to build advanced warships to safeguard the self-ruled island.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3148125/taiwan-navy-commissions-stealth-missile-corvette-aid-asymmetric>

Chinese military warns off US warship trespassing into China's territorial waters

China Military Online, September 08, 2021

The US guided-missile destroyer USS Benfold trespassed into waters off the Meiji Reef, China's Nansha Islands in the South China Sea on September 8 without the Chinese government's permission. The naval and air forces of the Southern Theater Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) conducted whole-process tracking and monitoring and warned off the US destroyer, a military spokesperson said in a written statement. Air Force Senior Colonel Tian Junli, spokesperson for the Chinese PLA Southern Theater Command, pointed out in the statement that the move of the US seriously violated China's sovereignty and security, it is another ironclad proof of its navigation hegemony and militarization of the South China Sea. Facts have repeatedly proved that the US is an out-and-out "security risk maker in the South China Sea" and the "biggest destroyer" of peace and stability in this region.

China has indisputable sovereignty over the islands in the South China Sea and their adjacent waters. Troops of the PLA Southern Theater Command maintain a high level of vigilance at all times and resolutely safeguard national sovereignty and security, as well as peace and stability in the South China Sea, said Tian.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-09/08/content_10087486.htm

PLA troops, jets, artillery 'send warning shot with Tibet drill'

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, September 08, 2021

Video posted to PLA Daily shows a joint operation and new weaponry in action at an altitude of 4,700 metres. 'India is a big trading partner of China, [which] needs the Indian market. So the drill is just a warning,' says military analyst. Chinese fighter jets dropped missiles, troops brought down drones and ground force howitzers made precision strikes during a high-altitude drill by the Tibet Military District intended as a warning to India, according to military observers.

In footage of the drill posted on the PLA Daily website on Monday, several units from the People's Liberation Army's Tibet Military District were shown occupying an enemy's key command centre at an altitude of 4,700 metres (15,400 feet). The drill involved infantry, artillery, army aviation, special operation forces, electronic warfare, engineers and chemical defence units, the video stated, without saying when it was conducted.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3147904/china-india-border-pla-troops-jets-artillery-send-warning-shot>

Chinese military gets youth injection with appointment of more generals

William Zheng

South China Morning Post, September 08, 2021

Latest promotions take the number of full generals appointed during the Xi era to 58. A number of senior members of the Central Military Commission are expected to retire next year, insiders say. Chinese President Xi Jinping has promoted five more military officers to the rank of general, expanding the pool of young professional soldiers in the armed forces' senior echelon. Xi presented the new generals with their orders at a ceremony at the Central Military Commission's Beijing headquarters on Monday, state news agency Xinhua reported. As part of the promotions, Wang Haijiang becomes commander of the Western Theatre Command; Lin Xiangyang heads the Central Theatre Command; Dong Jun becomes commander of the PLA Navy; Chang Dingqiu takes over as commander of the PLA Air Force; and Xu Xueqiang becomes president of the PLA National Defence University.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3147916/chinese-military-gets-shot-youth-appointment-more-generals>

Chinese air force may have cracked how to land a hypersonic drone

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, September 07, 2021

Flight control computers' inability to calculate a descent quickly enough at Mach 5 has been an obstacle to using hypersonic aircraft. But Chinese military researchers say they have rethought the software to work around the problem. Landing an unmanned aircraft flying at above five times the speed of sound on a standard air strip is not easy, but Chinese military researchers say they have found a way to make it safer, potentially bringing applications for hypersonic flight a step closer. The technology has progressed considerably, with China and Russia deploying various types of hypersonic missiles in recent years, and growing interest in applying the advances to drones. But bringing such aircraft back to ground safely has proved problematic – even more so with the added urgency and complexity of a military setting. A modern plane relies on software to find an optimal path of descent, and humans can intervene if anything goes wrong. At hypervelocity, however, even the fastest flight control computer struggles to calculate it in time.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3147769/chinese-air-force-may-have-cracked-how-land-hypersonic-drone>

Nato chief alarmed by construction of new Chinese nuclear missile silos

South China Morning Post, September 07, 2021

Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has expressed concern about the construction of new missile silos by China that could significantly step up the country's nuclear capabilities. China was also rapidly expanding its nuclear arsenal with more warheads and a more

sophisticated delivery system in an unrestricted manner, Stoltenberg said on Monday at a Nato conference on arms control issues organised in Copenhagen. “As a global power, China has global responsibilities in arms control,” Stoltenberg said in a message to the economic superpower, which has so far largely refused to engage in talks on the subject.

Beijing would also benefit from mutual limitations, more transparency and predictability, the former Norwegian prime minister said.

Nato says China presents ‘systemic challenges’. At the end of July, the Federation of American Scientists (FAS) published a study on new construction work. With the help of satellite images, FAS discovered a large area near Hami in the northwestern region of Xinjiang where silos for nuclear missiles were under construction. Just a few weeks earlier, The Washington Post reported about a similar new site with missile storage or launch facilities near Yumen in Gansu province. There could be more than 200 new missile silos in total, FAS experts estimated. That would be more than Russia and half as many as the United States has in operation for intercontinental missiles. According to FAS, China has around 350 nuclear warheads – the US and Russia each have 4,000 in their military stockpile.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/world/europe/article/3147789/nato-chief-alarmed-construction-new-chinese-nuclear-missile-silos>

Gaofen 5-02 satellite launched from Taiyuan

Zhao Lei

China Daily, September 07, 2021

China launched the Gaofen 5-02 Earth-observation satellite on Tuesday morning at the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Shanxi province, according to the China National Space Administration. Developed by the Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology based on its SAST3000 satellite platform, the Gaofen 5-02 is equipped with hyperspectral observational devices tasked with monitoring air, water and environments, according to China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp, the country's major space contractor and parent company of the academy.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202109/07/WS6136e50ba310efa1bd66de0f.html>

Xi extends congratulations on founding of Int'l Research Center of Big Data for SDGs

China Military online, September 06, 2021

Chinese President Xi Jinping Monday sent a congratulatory letter to the founding conference of the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In his letter, Xi noted that the founding of the center is an important move to implement his call at the 75th Session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly to support the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which sets clear goals for national development as well as global development and cooperation.

The world is reeling under the huge impact of COVID-19. The sci-tech innovation and application of big data will help the international community to overcome difficulties and implement the UN 2030 Agenda globally, Xi said in his letter. He expressed the hope that all sides can make full use of the platform provided by the International Research Center of Big Data for SDGs and the forum to explore ways of sustainable development supported by big data, strengthen international cooperation, and make joint efforts to contribute to the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda and the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-09/06/content_10086819.htm

Chinese military sends 19 aircraft into Taiwan's air defence zone

Reuters, September 05, 2021

Taiwan's air force scrambled on Sunday in response to renewed mainland Chinese military activity, with its defence ministry reporting that 19 aircraft including nuclear-capable bombers had flown into Taiwan's air defence identification zone. Taiwan has complained for a year or more of repeated missions by the People's Liberation Army Air Force near the self-ruled island, often in the southwestern part of its air defence zone near the Taiwan-controlled Pratas Island. The latest PLA mission involved 10 J-16 and four Su-30 fighters, as well as four H-6 bombers, which can carry nuclear weapons, and an anti-submarine aircraft, Taiwan's defence ministry said.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/taiwan-scrambles-jets-against-renewed-chinese-military-activity-2021-09-05/>

Chinese military says it has a strategic air force – experts disagree

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, September 03, 2021

The Chinese military has claimed that it now has a strategic air force following years of advances, but analysts say a lack of adequate transport aircraft and bombers is holding it back. Their assessment followed Chinese air force spokesman Shen Jinke's assertion on Tuesday that, with advanced warplanes such as the J-20 and Y-20 entering service, China passed the threshold for having a strategic air force. Shen's statement was an indication of the Chinese military's own assessment of its progress, having described itself only as "becoming more strategic" six years ago, but "strategic" status has various requirements.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3147362/chinese-military-says-it-has-strategic-air-force-experts>

China's advance team for SCO "Peace Mission 2021" exercise arrives in Russia

Liu Min

China Military Online, September 03, 2021

A 19-member Chinese advance team participating in Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) "Peace Mission 2021" joint anti-terrorism military exercise arrived in Orenburg Oblast, Russia, via a Y-20 transport aircraft on September 2, local time. The team will establish a mechanism with Russia to jointly survey the airports, transportation stations and exercise areas, carry out information docking, and coordinate the logistic support work. It is learned that the "Peace Mission2021" exercise will kick off at the Donguz training range in Orenburg Oblast, Russia, from September 11 to 25. Four echelons of the Chinese participating troops have departed by railway in succession from the Manzhouli Port of Inner Mongolia in northern China and have completed their transfers and reloads at the Zabaikalsk railway station in Russia.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-09/03/content_10086080.htm

China's AG600 amphibious aircraft to perform flights at Airshow China

China Military Online, September 03, 2021

China's independently developed AG600 large amphibious aircraft will perform its first airshow flight at the upcoming Airshow China, according to its developer, the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC). Among multiple key exhibits of China's self-developing aviation products, the AG600 will show its capacities of aerial water-dropping at Airshow China, or the 13th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, said the AVIC spokesperson Zhou Guoqiang. The water-dropping performance will fully display the firefighting capacities of this large amphibious aircraft model, Zhou said.

Code-named Kunlong, the AG600 is a key piece of aeronautical equipment in China's emergency rescue system. It is developed by the AVIC to meet the needs of firefighting and marine rescue missions, as well as other critical emergency rescue operations. This year's Airshow China will be held from Sept. 28 to Oct. 3 in Zhuhai, south China's Guangdong Province.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-09/03/content_10085757.htm

Mars mission to pause for about 50 days

Zhao Lei

China Daily, August 31, 2021

China's Tianwen 1 Mars mission will be inactivated for about 50 days from mid-September due to an expected disruption of its communications with Earth caused by solar electromagnetic radiation, the mission's chief designer said. During the period, which will end in early November, the Zhurong rover and the mission's orbiter will suspend their working mode, Zhang Rongqiao of the China National Space Administration told reporters on Monday. The rover had been operating on the Red Planet for 100 days as of Monday, while the orbiter has been circling Mars since February. "During that time, the Earth, Mars and the sun will almost be in a straight

line and the distance between Earth and Mars will be farthest," Zhang said. "The sun's electromagnetic radiation will greatly affect the communication between the rover, the orbiter and ground control."

After they resume operation, the rover will continue traveling southward toward an ancient coastal area on Utopia Planitia, a large plain within the largest known impact basin in the solar system, for scientific exploration while the orbiter will enter a new Mars orbit to carry out a remote-sensing global survey of the Red Planet and will continue relaying signals between Zhurong and Earth, Zhang said. As of Monday, Zhurong had traveled 1,064 meters on the Martian surface and was in good condition with sufficient energy, Zhang said.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202108/31/WS612d7e5ca310efa1bd66c305.html>

China demands foreign vessels report before entering 'its territorial waters'

South China Morning Post, August 30, 2021

The reporting system for foreign vessels entering and leaving China's territorial water was added to the Maritime Traffic Safety Law which was revised in April. From Wednesday foreign ships must report ship ID and cargo information to China's maritime administrations. Foreign vessels entering what Beijing deems its "territorial waters" must report to China under maritime regulations meant to strengthen its claims over disputed waters, including the South China Sea. China's Maritime Safety Administration said that under regulations taking effect on Wednesday, vessels of foreign nationality entering China's territorial seas must report ship and cargo information to China's maritime administrations. The reporting requirements applied to submersibles, nuclear vessels, ships carrying radioactive materials, ships carrying bulk oil, chemicals, liquefied gas and other toxic and harmful substances and other vessels that were considered a threat to the country's maritime traffic safety, the administration said in a notice.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3146931/south-china-sea-new-maritime-decree-demands-foreign-vessels>

China and US militaries resume high-level talks with Afghan crisis top of the agenda

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, August 28, 2021

A Chinese military source has confirmed that the Chinese and US militaries resumed high-level talks last week for the first time since US President Joe Biden took office in January. A source close to the People's Liberation Army told the South China Morning Post on Saturday that the Afghanistan crisis was the most urgent issue discussed in last week's video conference between Major General Huang Xueping, deputy director for the People's Liberation Army Office for International Military Cooperation, and his Pentagon counterpart, Michael Chase. Huang and Chase, the deputy assistant secretary of defence for China, also discussed ways to manage risk between the two countries, according to a report from Reuters that cited an anonymous US official.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3146739/china-and-us-militaries-resume-high-level-talks-afghan-crisis>

The better China is prepared for war, the more it can crush US-DPP collusion

Hu Xijin

Global Times, August 28, 2021

The USS Kidd guided missile destroyer and the USCGC Munro cutter made a transit in the Taiwan Straits on Friday, the eighth time the US has sent warships through the Taiwan Straits this year. On the same day, the PLA held multiple military exercises on both sides of the Straits. The two pieces of news, juxtaposed together, present a tit-for-tat picture. For quite some time in the future, there will be repeated demonstrations of military power from the US and China in the Taiwan Straits. Some netizens asked why don't just fight directly? But that's not how the big power game is played. Theoretically, anyone can pass through the Taiwan Straits, an international waterway. However, the warships passing through it carry strong geopolitical significance. It is the US' intention to embolden the DPP authorities and other Taiwan secessionist forces by sending warships through the Taiwan Straits: Don't be afraid! You got your Daddy America behind you! In the meantime, it also sends a signal to the mainland: Don't bet that the US will sit idle if the mainland liberates Taiwan by force.

But with the mainland's military capability growing at a "choking" pace, the signal sent by the US is losing its effect. Through conducting regular combat scenario drills in the cross-Straits region, and via close monitoring, expelling the US warships and warplanes that come near, the PLA is displaying its contempt against the tricks of the US military, as well as showing our determination that we will stick to our plan and principle to solve the Taiwan question, and if US military participates in a war, they will be annihilated. Major powers don't easily become involved in a war, instead, they usually make gestures this way, behind which is a comparison of the countries' comprehensive national strength. In the Taiwan-Straits and the South China Sea, the US is gradually losing its momentum and confidence to flex its military muscle in front of China. It now needs to rope in its allies to boost its stance. With time passing by, China's military readiness will further improve, which shows more deterrence against the US. In the end, it will be the US side which cannot sustain this trick, or it may want to continue to play its tricks, but the Taiwan DPP authorities will completely freak out, and surrender to the mainland.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202108/1232679.shtml>

CPC releases key publication on its mission, contributions

MOD, August 26, 2021

The Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee on Thursday released a key publication on the Party's mission and contributions. The document, titled "The CPC: Its Mission and Contributions," stressed that over the past hundred years, all the struggles, sacrifices and efforts made by the CPC and by the Chinese people under its

leadership have been directed to one goal -- the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. It added that "achieving national rejuvenation is the historic mission of the CPC," and the Party "has made an unbreakable commitment to bring the people a happy life." It also pointed out that the CPC is dedicated to the people and forever puts their interests first. It said the CPC follows the underlying trends of social development and respects the people's principal role in making history. The CPC pursues the lofty goal of working for the wellbeing of the Chinese people, and it does everything in the interests of the people, the document said.

The document said that Marxism is the single guiding ideology, the very soul of the CPC, and the banner under which it strives. According to the document, in order to achieve independence, development, and prosperity, the CPC must have robust and decisive leadership. "It is the CPC's solidarity and unity, its firm leadership, and its strong governance capability that have rallied and united hundreds of millions of the Chinese people and overcome a multitude of difficulties and crises," it said. Also, the document said the CPC has always been able to maintain vigor and vitality and stand at the forefront of the times despite the many hardships it has endured in the past hundred years. This is because the Party has constantly engaged in significant self-reform while leading the people in a great social revolution. To maintain its health and vigor, the CPC exercises effective self-supervision, practices strict self-discipline in every respect, consistently pursues improvement, and advances with the times, the document said.

Moreover, it stressed that the CPC is a political party that seeks happiness for the people and progress for humanity. The CPC has always pursued the shared human values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom. It has championed internationalism, stood on the right side of history and the progressive side of humanity, and contributed to world peace and development. At a press conference Thursday, Wang Xiaohui, deputy head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, said the document expounds the idea, practices and achievements of the CPC's governance in China, shedding light on the issue about where the CPC comes from and where it is heading. The document, which includes a preamble, a conclusion and five chapters, gives the answer about what kind of political party the CPC is, Wang said. Upholding the banner of socialism and adhering to the road of peaceful development, the CPC will deepen exchanges with political parties from all over the world, promote cooperation among countries to seek common development, and make constructive efforts in building a better world, he added.

http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2021-08/26/content_4893101_2.htm