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# 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



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## **China urges US, UK, Australia to correct wrong decision over nuclear submarine deal**

Global Times, November 30, 2021

The US, the UK and Australia have drawn lines based on ideology and created a new military bloc with their nuclear submarine cooperation, increasing the risk of military conflict and geopolitical tension, showing a typical "Cold War" mentality, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at a press briefing on Monday, when commenting on a new agenda meeting held by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on November 26.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202111/1240239.shtml>

## **China-India border: building boom in the Himalayas as Beijing shores up troops and weapons for winter**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, November 30, 2021

China has built underground shelters along its borders with India in the Himalayas to protect its troops and weapons as tensions between the two countries persist into the harsh winter. The People's Liberation Army Western Theatre Command, which oversees the border areas with India, has sped up construction of below-ground facilities to preserve most of its strategic bases and barracks, according to Chinese state media and a military observer. Posts appeared on Chinese social media showing the subterranean structures and quoted experts at a recent impact dynamics seminar organised by State Key Laboratory of Explosion Science and Technology in Beijing as saying they were designed for military assets of strategic value, such as an underground command centre, hangars or missile storage.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3157794/china-india-border-building-boom-himalayas-beijing-shores>

## **Chinese nuclear submarine spotted sailing on the surface in Taiwan Strait**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, November 30, 2021

A Chinese nuclear-powered submarine surfaced in the Taiwan Strait on Monday, a US defence analyst said, citing satellite imagery – a rare move that could be a message for Washington. US Naval Institute columnist H.I. Sutton posted the image – taken by the European Space Agency's Sentinel-2 satellite around 10am – which he said showed a ballistic missile submarine in the waterway, accompanied by another vessel. "Although Sentinel-2 is low resolution, the wake patterns are characteristic of a submarine with typical rounded bow. The length best fits the Type 094 and the context aligns," Sutton wrote on his personal website Covert Shores.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3157931/chinese-nuclear-submarine-spotted-sailing-surface-taiwan-strait>

### **Dutton's sabre rattling an election tactic to strike fear of China among swing voters**

Bruce Haigh

Global Times, November 30, 2021

Speaking at the National Press Club in Canberra on November 26, Australian Defence Minister Peter Dutton said Australia would join the US to "defend Taiwan" if the Chinese mainland attacked the island. Dutton claimed that every major city in Australia is within range of Chinese missiles. It was an alarmist and untrue claim designed to strike fear into the heart of every swing voter. That is what Dutton's sabre rattling was all about. It was electioneering at a time when the prospects for the LNP being re-elected are falling.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202111/1240261.shtml>

### **China-Russia govt heads stress strategic consensus to jointly deal with external pressure at regular meeting**

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, November 30, 2021

Chinese and Russian governments agreed to further deepen mutual trust and cooperation, as Chinese Premier Li Keqiang held the 26th regular meeting between Chinese and Russian heads of governments with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin. Major cooperation between the two countries includes units 7 and 8 of the Tianwan nuclear power plant in Lianyungang, East China's Jiangsu Province, and units 3 and 4 of the Xudapu Nuclear Plant in Huludao, Northeast China's Liaoning Province, the largest China-Russia nuclear energy cooperation project to date. As of Monday morning, the first batch of Russian-supplied large-scale equipment cleared Customs and is on their way to the construction site in Liaoning.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202111/1240311.shtml>

### **China urges US to lift illegal sanctions on Iran and third parties, as talks on nuke deal resume**

Zhang Han and Wan Hengyi

Global Times, November 30, 2021

Talks on the Iran nuclear deal resumed in Vienna on November 29 after a five-month hiatus, and a Chinese representative urged the US to lift illegal sanctions on Iran and third parties in order to help with the negotiations. Representatives of Iran, China, Russia, the UK, France and Germany convened in the Austrian capital on November 29 while messages were relayed to the US representatives as Iran refused to hold direct talks with the US since the US is no longer a member of the pact signed in 2015.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202111/1240337.shtml>

### **China's counter-deterrence best response to US threats from 2nd island chain: Global Times editorial**

Global Times, November 30, 2021

The US Department of Defense released on November 30 an unclassified version of the 2021 Global Posture Review (GPR). The report plans to improve airfields in Guam and Australia to "counter China's military buildup and more assertive use of power," according to a report by The Wall Street Journal, which also confirmed that the GPR "contains no major reshuffling of forces." The GPR highlights the Indo-Pacific region as a priority area for the US military, and improving airfield construction in Guam and Australia, including adding more facilities to store fuel and ammunition, could provide reinforcements of warplanes and military personnel in a short time. The US is building a deterrent against China.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202111/1240339.shtml>

### **China-Russia energy cooperation accelerating**

Chu Daye

Global Times, November 29, 2021

China-Russia energy cooperation is accelerating onto the fast track, with energy accounting for nearly one-third of bilateral trade in the first three quarters of 2021, as leaders from the two countries sent congratulatory letters to a key energy cooperation forum. Major energy projects herald this cooperation. Construction work on Units 7 and 8 of the Tianwan Nuclear Power Station and Units 3 and 4 of the Xudapu Nuclear Power Station started in May this year, with work progressing smoothly. The first batch of large-scale equipment for the Xudapu Nuclear Plant in Northeast China's Liaoning Province, a core catcher for the Xudapu Unit 3 reactor supplied by Russia, arrived in Huludao Port in Liaoning after a 90-day sea voyage from St. Petersburg, according to media reports on Monday. The component is a vital piece of safety equipment for the nuclear plant.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202111/1240225.shtml>

### **Beijing tests flying oil tanker near Taiwan, in show of extended air force range**

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, November 29, 2021

An oil tanker aircraft joined mainland China's air patrol near Taiwan for the first time on November 28, according to the island's defence ministry, a move an analyst said was to show the PLA's boosted attack ability. The Y-20 aerial refuelling aircraft was sent with 26 military planes – 18 fighter jets, five nuclear-capable H-6 bombers, two KJ-500 airborne early warning and control aircraft and a Y-9 transport aircraft – into Taiwan's air-defence identification zone (ADIZ), prompting Taipei to scramble fighter jets and deploy missile systems for monitoring.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3157750/beijing-tests-flying-oil-tanker-near-taiwan-show-extended-air>

### **Why wind tunnels are key in China's race for hypersonic weapon supremacy**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, November 27, 2021

Development of China's new-generation hypersonic weapons and aircraft is expected to get a boost with construction of a wind tunnel simulator to test vehicles and missiles at many times the speed of sound – with more such facilities in the pipeline. Recent announcements and tests involving vehicles and spacecraft suggest China has accelerated its hypersonic arms race with the United States as Beijing tries to gain a generation's edge, according to defence experts.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3157606/why-wind-tunnels-are-key-chinas-race-hypersonic-weapon>

### **How does China really view Aukus? This military assessment may offer a clue**

Amber Wang

South China Morning Post, November 27, 2021

A Chinese military researcher has downplayed the strength of the newly formed security alliance Aukus, arguing that lack of cohesiveness will prevent it becoming an Asian version of Nato. Neither Aukus nor the informal strategic alliance the Quad “could replicate Nato in the true sense of the word”, wrote Hu Fengsheng, an assistant researcher, this month in the foreign ministry-affiliated journal World Affairs. China has expressed anger over the Aukus pact, formed in September by Australia, the UK and the United States, describing it as an “extremely irresponsible” threat to stability in the Asia-Pacific region. The pact gave Australia access to US technology to build nuclear-powered submarines for the first time.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3157563/how-does-china-really-view-aukus-military-assessment-may-offer>

### **China, Russia, India FMs hold video conference, reaching broad consensus on global affairs**

Global Times, November 27, 2021

China, Russia and India released a joint communique on November 27 following the 18th meeting of the foreign ministers of the three countries on November 26 that took place in the format of digital video conference. According to the communique, the ministers exchanged views on further strengthening the Russia-India-China trilateral cooperation and also discussed various regional and international issues of importance. The ministers stressed the necessity of regular high-level meetings to foster closer cooperation among them.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202111/1240062.shtml>

### **China backs nuclear weapon-free zone in Southeast Asia in move to ‘contain AUKUS’**

Amber Wang

South China Morning Post, November 24, 2021

China has voiced support for a nuclear weapon-free zone in Southeast Asia as it seeks to strengthen regional alliances, pushed by concerns over the new AUKUS security pact, according to observers. While Beijing has yet to sign the protocol to the ASEAN treaty to keep nuclear weapons out of the region – despite indicating a willingness to do so for more than two decades – pressure from the new partnership between Australia, the UK and the US could speed up the process, they said. President Xi Jinping told Association of Southeast Asian Nations leaders on November 22 that China backed efforts to build a nuclear weapon-free zone and was willing to sign the protocol to the treaty “as early as possible”.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3157117/china-backs-nuclear-weapon-free-zone-southeast-asia-move>

### **China and Russia move closer to de facto military alliance amid US pressure**

Laura Zhou

South China Morning Post, November 24, 2021

China and Russia are edging closer to a de facto military alliance to counter growing pressure from the United States, with the Russian defence chief telling his Chinese counterpart that US aircraft activity near the country’s borders had increased. Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and Chinese Defence Minister General Wei Fenghe agreed to expand cooperation through strategic exercises and joint patrols in the Asia-Pacific, including the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea, according to Russia’s defence ministry. Shoigu said there had been a “significant intensification” in activities by US strategic bombers near Russia’s borders. “Over the past month, about 30 sorties have been made to the borders of the Russian Federation, which is 2.5 times more than in the corresponding period last year,” he said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3157225/china-and-russia-move-closer-de-facto-military-alliance-amid-us>

### **China tests high-altitude weapons performance near border with India**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, November 23, 2021

China’s live-fire drills near its Himalayan border with India, revealed on November 21 by state media, showed the PLA had set up comprehensive training standards specifically designed for high-altitude artillery operations, according to military analysts.

Footage broadcast by China Central Television showed infantry troops from the Xinjiang military district, part of the Western Theatre Command, conducting precision strike drills at an

elevation of 5,200 metres (17,000 feet) in the Karakoram mountains.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3156980/china-tests-high-altitude-weapons-performance-near-border-india>

### **Nuclear a key part of new energy future**

Liu Yang

Global Times, November 22, 2021

While the East Chinese city of Haiyang's adaptation of nuclear power plant residual steam - China's first city to do so to heat homes - has triggered certain safety concerns, experts and industry insiders have dispelled such concern in recent days, stressing that the heating process does not involve exchanging hot water or radioactive substances, and thus is ultra safe and reliable. In a latest editorial to address China's nuclear energy development, the People's Daily said on Monday that China will develop nuclear energy in a managed and secure way, in order to optimize the country's energy structure, as well as ensuring the security of energy supply, thus achieving its double targets of carbon peak and carbon neutrality in addressing climate change.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202111/1239611.shtml>

### **China's military: the huge civilian ships that could back up the PLA in a Taiwan invasion**

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, November 20, 2021

Civilian resources could provide valuable backup if Beijing were to launch an attack across the Taiwan Strait, analysts said. This came after a US government advisory agency concluded that the mainland Chinese military already had or would soon achieve the ability to invade Taiwan. Beijing considers the self-ruled island a breakaway province to be brought into its fold, by force if necessary, and rising cross-strait tensions have fuelled speculation over what such a conflict might look like.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3156678/chinas-military-huge-civilian-ships-could-back-pla-taiwan>

### **China's military looks to J-20 jet-drone match-up for combat edge**

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, November 20, 2021

China has again hinted at a potential pairing of its most advanced aircraft, the J-20, with drones in a tandem strategy that would expand Beijing's combat capabilities. "The future is a big era for drone development. Important questions are: what role should drones play in future battlefields, how to team up manned and unmanned vehicles, and what tactical goal can be achieved," Chinese air force pilot Liu Qihong was quoted as saying about the J-20 in an

interview. "If teamed with four drones during a mission, the manned vehicle can have a wider surveillance area and clearer sense of danger. What's more, drones can overcome long endurance periods, high temperature and a lot of noise, which might become unbearable for human pilots."

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3156742/chinas-military-looks-j-20-jet-drone-match-combat-edge>

### **Chinese FM asks Japan why it won't release Fukushima water into own lakes if it's really harmless**

Global Times, November 19, 2021

After the Nuclear Safety and Security Commission of South Korea expressed regrets over Japan's radiological impact assessment of the release of Fukushima wastewater into the ocean, the Chinese Foreign Ministry asked Japan why it would not release the nuclear-contaminated wastewater into its own lakes if it believes the water is harmless. "Is the discharge of contaminated water from the Fukushima nuclear plant really inevitable, or is Japan just going its own way for its selfish interests? If the nuclear-contaminated water is harmless, why wouldn't Japan release it into its own lakes? Japan, please answer the question," Zhao Lijian, spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, stated.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202111/1239421.shtml>

### **US cannot dictate to China on nuclear arms control talks: Global Times editorial**

Global Times, November 18, 2021

Discussions about China's nuclear power have again emerged in Washington in the past two days. US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan claimed that during the virtual summit between the Chinese and US heads of state, the two sides agreed to "look to begin to carry forward discussions on strategic stability." But he did not spell out what such discussions would be, and when they might be held. John Hyten, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also made a sensational remark in an interview, saying Chinese could one day have the capability to launch a surprise nuclear attack on the US. He was referring to China's ability brought by the reported test of a hypersonic weapon.

The US strongly wants to draw China into nuclear arms control negotiations. During Donald Trump's presidency, Washington wanted Beijing to join the US-Russian arms control talks, but China refused. The nuclear deterrence of China is not at the same level as that of the US and Russia. China's attitude has strong moral and reality bases, and the US cannot exert any coercive force.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202111/1239361.shtml>



## **With eye on China, US, Japan stage anti-submarine drills in S.China Sea**

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, November 17, 2021

Military observers said rarely-seen large-scale anti-submarine drills recently staged by the US and Japan in the South China Sea targeted China and the conventional submarines of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy. The Tuesday exercise included anti-submarine training, which involved tracking a sub underwater, the NHK reported. Putting together the fact that both the P-1 maritime patrol aircraft and the P-8A Sea King patrol aircraft have particular anti-submarine capabilities and the first deployment of an Oyashio-class submarine [other than a more advanced Soryu-class one], the message is clear, observers said, that the anti-warfare drills were targeting PLA conventional submarines.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202111/1239237.shtml>

## **China sends long-range bomber to border with India**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, November 16, 2021

The People's Liberation Army has deployed at least one long-range strategic H-6K bomber to its borders with India in a move meant as a warning to the Indian military not to escalate tensions over winter. The aircraft was armed with short-range KD-63 missiles – and not the long-range CJ-20 cruise missiles that it is also designed to carry.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3156258/china-sends-long-range-bomber-border-india>