

September 30, 2023

# 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

## **China, Pakistan successfully wrap up joint air exercise**

China Military Online, September 21, 2023

With the return of participating Pakistani forces to their home country, China and Pakistan successfully wrapped up the Shaheen-X joint air exercise in Northwest China, with observers predicting more military interactions and exchanges that will further deepen pragmatic cooperation between the "Iron Brothers." The J-10C and JF-17 fighter aircraft of the Pakistan Air Force contingent landed back at an operational air base in Pakistan after successful participation in the joint air exercise in China, the Pakistan Air Force said in a press release.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA\\_209163/TopStories\\_209189/16253444.html](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA_209163/TopStories_209189/16253444.html)

## **Tech remains central in 'hot peace' between China and US**

John Thornhill

Financial Times, September 21, 2023

Overt US decoupling from China began in 2018, when then president Donald Trump slapped restrictions on US exports of critical components and tariffs on selective Chinese imports. In spite of the antagonism between the two presidents, Trump's successor Joe Biden has only doubled down on the approach. Yet according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the total accumulated stock of US direct investment in China on a historical cost basis has risen from \$108bn in 2018 to \$126bn last year.

<https://www.ft.com/content/4dda44db-1795-4c1c-8e77-bd7fcaba3a71>

## **Chinese astronauts deliver lecture from space station**

Xinhua, September 21, 2023

The fourth live class from China's space station was delivered by the Shenzhou-16 astronauts Jing Haipeng, Zhu Yangzhu and Gui Haichao to students on Earth. This was the first science lecture delivered from the Mengtian lab module of the Tiangong space station and the fourth in the "Tiangong Class" series. During the 48-minute lecture, the astronauts introduced scenes from their work and life in the Mengtian lab module. They also demonstrated various interesting experiments in the microgravity environment, such as spherical flame and metal gyroscope experiments, and those showing the law of momentum conservation. They also explained the scientific principles of these experiments.

<https://english.news.cn/20230921/89484d4e9ca4432bacc957fec8bf2120/c.html>

## **Top diplomat Wang Yi wraps up Russia visit after meeting with Putin**

Global Times, September 21, 2023

China's top diplomat's visit to Russia underscores the stability, sustainability and independence of China-Russia relations, Chinese experts said, after Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi wrapped up his four-day trip to Moscow, during which he met with Russian president and senior officials. Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, met with Russian President Vladimir Putin. He told Putin that China is willing to work together with Russia, based on the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, to enhance strategic mutual trust, deepen practical cooperation, and further consolidate the public and social foundation of the China-Russia friendship.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202309/1298650.shtml>

## **Chinese vice FM meets with IAEA chief over Japan's radioactive water release**

CGTN, September 21, 2023

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu met with Rafael Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in New York, U.S. Ma reiterated China's position on Japan's ocean discharge of nuclear-contaminated wastewater from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. IAEA should uphold an objective, scientific, impartial approach to performing its own responsibilities on Japan's ocean discharge of nuclear-contaminated wastewater and respond to the international community's legitimate and reasonable concerns, Ma told Grossi.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2023-09-21/Chinese-vice-FM-meets-with-IAEA-chief-over-Japan-s-radioactive-water-release-1nhozldfjC8/index.html>

## **China is developing new nuclear system to power moon base expected to be up and running by 2028**

Ling Xin

South China Morning Post, November 22, 2023

China's station at the moon's South Pole will be powered by nuclear energy, the chief of the lunar project said. "We are now developing a new system that uses nuclear energy to address the moon station's long-term, high-power energy demands," Wu Weiren, chief designer of the Chinese lunar exploration programme, told state broadcaster CCTV. He did not give technical details about the nuclear reactor being built, but previous reports said it could generate 1 megawatt of electricity, which is enough to power hundreds of homes for a year.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3200569/china-developing-new-nuclear-system-power-moon-base-expected-be-and-running-2028>

## **China's quest for human genetic data spurs fears of a DNA arms race**

Joby Warrick and Cate Brown

The Washington Post, September 22, 2023

Yet now, China's Fire-Eye labs — scores of which were donated or sold to foreign countries during the pandemic — are attracting the attention of Western intelligence agencies amid growing unease about China's intentions. Some analysts perceive China's largesse as part of a global attempt to tap into new sources of highly valuable human DNA data in countries around the world. That collection effort, underway for more than a decade, has included the acquisition of U.S. genetics companies as well as sophisticated hacking operations, U.S. and Western intelligence officials say.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/interactive/2023/china-dna-sequencing-bgi-covid/>

## **ROK should work to improve ties with China**

Chung Jae-hung

China Daily, September 22, 2023

The attempt of the troika to interfere in cross-Strait affairs is open provocation to Beijing. The Taiwan question is an internal matter of China, and any attempt to muddy the Strait's water is interference in China's internal affairs. The leaders of the US, the ROK and Japan also said they would monitor the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's activities, especially its nuclear and missile programs. The US has been trying to build anti-China alliances or cliques. The Quad (comprising the US, Japan, India and Australia) and AUKUS(a security alliance among Australia, the United Kingdom and the US) are two such US cliques.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202309/22/WS650ccff7a310d2dce4bb7193.html>

## **Do China's recent military purges spell trouble for Xi Jinping?**

Tessa Wong

BBC, September 22, 2023

In recent months, the disappearances of several high-ranking Chinese officials have sparked intense speculation over whether Mr Xi is embarking on a purge, particularly of those linked to the military. The latest person who appears to have fallen from grace is defence minister Li Shangfu, who has not been seen in public for some weeks now. While his absence was not seen as unusual at first, scrutiny intensified when a top US diplomat pointed it out. A Reuters report later said General Li, who used to oversee arms procurement for the People's Liberation Army (PLA), was being investigated over military equipment purchases.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-66875526>

## **China sends clear signal at UNGA, upholding true multilateralism**

Chen Qingqing

Global Times, September 22, 2023

While the US has been hijacking the ongoing United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and turning it into a platform for touting its so-called leadership and peddle its "multilateral approach," Chinese Vice President Han Zheng sent out a clear signal upholding true multilateralism and elaborated in a comprehensive way on how to work together in building an open and inclusive world with lasting peace and prosperity. The senior Chinese official also reiterated China's consistent position on the Taiwan question as some US-backed forces and the DPP authorities have been making some "trivial noises" at this annual gathering of world leaders, repeating their old trick of trying to turn the Taiwan question into a global topic.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202309/1298731.shtml>

## **Taiwan is developing another, more destructive suicide drone. It won't fit in a backpack**

Lawrence Chung

South China Morning Post, September 23, 2023

Taiwan is developing a suicide drone capable of manual and autonomous attacks as it seeks to bolster its asymmetric warfare capabilities in the face of growing pressure from the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The aerial weapon under development is a more powerful variant of the Loitering Unmanned Aircraft Type 1, which was inspired by the US-made Switchblade 300, a drone that has proven effective in destroying Russian tanks and ground targets in the war in Ukraine.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3235529/taiwan-developing-another-more-destructive-suicide-drone-it-wont-fit-backpack>

## **Satellite images show increased activity at nuclear test sites in Russia, China and US**

Eric Cheung, Brad Lendon and Ivan Watson

CNN, September 23, 2023

Russia, the United States and China have all built new facilities and dug new tunnels at their nuclear test sites in recent years, satellite images obtained exclusively by CNN show, at a time when tensions between the three major nuclear powers have risen to their highest in decades. One is operated by China in the far western region of Xinjiang, one by Russia in an Arctic Ocean

archipelago, and another in the US in the Nevada desert. “There are really a lot of hints that we’re seeing that suggest Russia, China and the United States might resume nuclear testing,” he said, something none of those countries have done since underground nuclear testing was banned by the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. “The Chinese test site is different than the Russian test site,” Lewis said. “The Chinese test site is vast, and there are many different parts of it.” “(It) looks really busy, and these things are easily seen in satellite imagery. If we can see them, I think the US government certainly can,” he added.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/09/22/asia/nuclear-testing-china-russia-us-exclusive-intl-hnk-ml/index.html>

## **PLA ground forces exercise deters Taiwan secessionists as long-range rockets, missiles, amphibious troops join 'unusual' drills around island**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, September 24, 2023

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) reportedly conducted a ground exercise on the mainland side of the Taiwan Straits, as the defence authority on the island of Taiwan became aware of the participation of long-range rockets, conventional missiles and amphibious troops in the PLA drills around the island in addition to previously detected aircraft and vessels. The intense PLA exercises over the past two weeks, which featured a record-breaking numbers of vessels and aircraft as well as new training methods that featured an aircraft carrier group, sends a stern warning to "Taiwan independence" secessionist forces and external interference forces, experts said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202309/1298817.shtml>

## **Philippines dismantles Chinese floating barrier at Scarborough Shoal**

Nikkei Asia, September 25, 2023

The Philippines said it executed a "special operation" to remove a floating barrier installed by China at a prime fishing patch in the South China Sea, a move that could stoke tension after a yearslong detente in Asia's most disputed waters. The Philippines expressed outrage and shared images of the Chinese Coast Guard policing a long, ball-buoy barrier near the Scarborough Shoal, a rocky outcrop 200 kilometers from the Philippines and the site of years of intermittent flare-ups over sovereignty and fishing rights. Hours after the national security adviser had vowed to take action, the Philippine Coast Guard said it had removed the floating cordon, at the behest of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and his special task force on the South China Sea.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/South-China-Sea/Philippines-dismantles-Chinese-floating-barrier-at-Scarborough-Shoal>

## **Why US and China compete for influence with Pacific island nations**

Ben Westcott

The Washington Post, September 25, 2023

The stakes rose in 2022 when the Solomon Islands signed a security accord with Beijing — a first for the region — raising fears in Australia and New Zealand, both US allies, about a possible Chinese military base in the neighborhood. That has prompted a flurry of regional diplomacy and pledges of aid and cooperation in areas including climate change, as well as the appointment of new envoys, the opening of new embassies and invitations to the White House.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2023/09/25/how-us-china-seek-influence-with-solomons-and-other-pacific-island-nations/b8e2b832-5b74-11ee-b961-94e18b27be28\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2023/09/25/how-us-china-seek-influence-with-solomons-and-other-pacific-island-nations/b8e2b832-5b74-11ee-b961-94e18b27be28_story.html)

## **A hidden US-China decoupling**

Kaye Wiggins

Financial Times, September 26, 2023

China's anti-espionage and data laws and raids on US consultancies have rattled investors, as might the accounts of a travel ban imposed on Hong Kong-based Nomura banker Charles Wang Zhonghe. The US House of Representatives' China committee last month accused BlackRock of profiting from investments that help the Chinese military, making other US groups wary of similar scrutiny. Investors are mindful, too, of future sanctions if China were to attack Taiwan.

<https://www.ft.com/content/990b0a95-283f-407b-83c0-2584ef5f5f0c>

## **Wang Yi: Decline of China-U.S. ties not in interests of two peoples**

CGTN, September 26, 2023

The decline of China-U.S. relations is not in the interests of the two peoples, or in the interests of the expectations of the international community, senior Chinese diplomat Wang Yi said. Wang, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, made the remarks when meeting with Henry Paulson, former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury and chairman of the Paulson Institute, in Beijing. Hailing Paulson's long-term commitment to promoting the development of China-U.S. relations, Wang said it is hoped that Paulson and his institute will continue to play a constructive role in improving bilateral relations.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2023-09-26/Wang-Yi-Decline-of-China-U-S-ties-not-in-interests-of-two-peoples-1nq2uFoPjmo/index.html>

## **China and Japan clash over Fukushima water at IAEA meeting**

The Japan Times, September 26, 2023

Japan and China have sparred over the release of treated water containing tritium from the meltdown-stricken Fukushima No. 1 nuclear plant into the sea at an annual meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency. In a general debate speech delivered at the meeting, the Chinese representative referred to the treated water from Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings's plant in Fukushima Prefecture as "nuclear-contaminated water," and reiterated the country's opposition to the discharge. "There is great uncertainty of the accumulated oceanic effects of the large amount of radionuclides discharged into the sea," the representative said, arguing that Japan was not providing sufficient information.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/09/26/japan/politics/japan-china-fukushima-water-iaea/>

## **Why Xi Jinping doesn't trust his own military**

Joel Wuthnow

Foreign Affairs, September 26, 2023

Over the last two months, a series of senior Chinese generals have disappeared from public view, including the defence minister and the leadership of the force responsible for China's intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). These disappearances are surprising given the perception that Chinese President Xi Jinping dominates the People's Liberation Army and his ruthless commitment to rooting out malfeasance earlier in his tenure. In fact, that such incidents have not only continued but also affected some of the most sensitive parts of the PLA showcases the limits of Xi's power.

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/china/why-xi-jinping-doesnt-trust-his-own-military>

## **China launches its latest remote sensing satellite**

China Military Online, September 27, 2023

China sent its latest remote sensing satellite into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. The satellite, Yaogan-33 04, was launched on a Long March-4C carrier rocket at 4:15 A.M. (Beijing Time), and has entered its planned orbit successfully. It will be used for scientific experiments, land resource surveys, crop yield estimates, and disaster prevention and relief work. The launch was the 489th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA\\_209163/TopStories\\_209189/16254831.html](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA_209163/TopStories_209189/16254831.html)



## **North Korea and China aren't the allies you think they are**

Bruce W. Bennett

RAND Corporation, September 27, 2023

Despite this history, however, there has been considerable friction between China and North Korea over the years. China did not provide North Korea the assistance Pyongyang wanted in developing nuclear weapons. Beijing feared that North Korean aggressiveness could lead to a war on the peninsula that would affect China. Beijing has restrained but nevertheless supported U.N. Security Council sanctions against North Korea's nuclear weapon tests for the same reason—but also because it fears potential North Korean nuclear weapon threats against China itself.

<https://www.rand.org/blog/2023/09/north-korea-and-china-arent-the-allies-you-think-they.html>

## **China has world's second largest number of nuclear power units**

CGTN, September 27, 2023

China has the second-largest number of nuclear power units in operation or under construction in the world, according to the China Nuclear Energy Association. The Chinese mainland has 55 nuclear power units in operation with a combined installed capacity of 57 gigawatts (GW) and 24 units under construction with a total installed capacity of 27.8 GW, Wang Binghua, an official at the association, told a meeting in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province. The Chinese mainland has approved 21 new nuclear power units since 2021, said Wang, adding that six to eight nuclear power units are expected to be greenlighted annually within the foreseeable future.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2023-09-27/China-has-world-s-second-largest-number-of-nuclear-power-units-1nrCMwXfPkA/index.html>

## **China expects to OK 6-8 nuclear power units per year in green energy drive**

Reuters, September 27, 2023

China expects to greenlight six to eight new nuclear power units a year within the foreseeable future, an official at the China Nuclear Energy Association (CNEA) said, according to a report in state media outlet Xinhua. China is looking to develop its nuclear power sector as part of a broader push on renewables and domestic energy security. Nuclear is expected to contribute about 10 percent of power generation in the country by 2035 and 18 percent by 2060, with a total generation capacity of 400 gigawatts (GW) by 2060, the CNEA said.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/china-expects-ok-6-8-nuclear-power-units-per-year-green-energy-drive-2023-09-27/>

## **Radiation monitoring, import ban reasonable steps to respond Japan's discharge of nuclear-contaminated water: FM**

Global Times, September 27, 2023

The Chinese government has the ability and resolve to do everything necessary to protect our national interests and people's health and protect the sound growth of the oceanic fishing sector, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at press briefing, in response to media reports that said China conducts radiation monitoring of the marine environment in waters under the country's jurisdiction. Monitoring of the level of radiation in the ocean, emergency measures on aquatic imports from Japan and risk monitoring of nuclear-contamination of aquatic products are all legitimate, reasonable steps to respond to Japan's discharge of nuclear-contaminated water and protect our national interests and public welfare, Wang said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202309/1299052.shtml>

## **US the real pacing challenge to cyberspace: Defence Spokesperson**

China Military Online, September 28, 2023

"It is the US that is a pacing challenge to the cyberspace," said Senior Colonel Wu Qian, spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defence, when asked to comment on the US's recent cyber strategy. It is reported that the US Department of Defence recently released the summary of its 2023 Cyber Strategy, which claims that China poses "a broad and pervasive cyber espionage threat" and is a "pacing challenge" to the US in cyberspace. Senior Colonel Wu Qian pointed out that it is known to all that the US is the world's biggest empire of hacking, surveillance and theft of secrets that flagrantly conduct large-scale, systematic and indiscriminate cyber-attacks against other countries. Even its allies are no exception.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA\\_209163/TopStories\\_209189/16255556.html](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA_209163/TopStories_209189/16255556.html)

## **Russia and China are running in a nuclear arms race**

Robert Peters

The Heritage Foundation, September 28, 2023

There have been significant changes in the nuclear landscape over the past several years. To begin with, Russia has expanded and diversified its nuclear arsenal since at least 2008, giving it a range of different warheads with a number of yields on a variety of systems. China is also expanding and diversifying its own strategic and non-strategic nuclear arsenals. Moreover, the Russian withdrawal from New START and China's repeated unwillingness to even discuss nuclear arms limitations measures mean there are no limitations on the Russian or Chinese nuclear arsenals.

<https://www.heritage.org/defense/commentary/russia-and-china-are-running-nuclear-arms-race>

## **China will host Xiangshan Forum, but no word on missing defence chief**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, September 28, 2023

Beijing will host the Xiangshan Forum in October, but it is not clear if defence Chief General Li Shangfu – who has not been seen in public for a month – will attend the regional security talks. Defence ministry spokesman Senior Colonel Wu Qian confirmed that the forum will be held from October 29 to 31. It is the first time that the event – China’s answer to the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore – will be held in person since 2019. “So far, more than 40 countries and international organisations have confirmed they will send delegates and renowned experts to the forum, while many scholars at home and overseas have also confirmed their attendance,” Wu told reporters in Beijing.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3236168/china-will-host-xiangshan-forum-no-word-missing-defence-chief>

## **US offers nuclear-test inspections to ease Russia, China tension**

Jonathan Tirone

Bloomberg, September 28, 2023

The US Department of Energy said it’s willing to prove its engineers aren’t breaking a three-decade moratorium against testing nuclear weapons, in a bid to encourage China and Russia to be more transparent and defuse military tensions. Pentagon officials are increasingly on edge about China’s expanding stockpile of fissile material. “We’ve even offered mutual and reciprocal actions” to Russia and China, Corey Hinderstein said. “We’ve not gotten a response.”

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-09-28/us-throws-nuclear-arms-control-a-life-preserver-at-iaea-meeting>

## **Taiwan's first homegrown submarine cannot stop the tide of reunification**

China Military Online, September 28, 2023

Taiwan's first home-grown submarine is nothing but "a broom attempting to hold back the tide" and would ultimately walk into a blind alley, a Chinese defence spokesman said. Senior Colonel Wu Qian, spokesman for the Ministry of National Defence, made the remarks in a news conference in response to the launch of the Taiwan's submarine. Earlier, Taiwan island unveiled its what it called first home-grown submarine. The island leader Tsai Ing-wen, said the submarine would play an important role in strengthening the island navy's "asymmetric warfare" capabilities, according to Reuters.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA\\_209163/TopStories\\_209189/16255399.html](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA_209163/TopStories_209189/16255399.html)

## **Submarines are Taiwan's best defence against a Chinese invasion. The island democracy is building eight new ones.**

David Axe

Forbes, September 28, 2023

Taiwan christened its first homemade submarine. It's the culmination of a crash effort that began in 2014, has cost potentially billions of dollars and reportedly has involved extensive—and largely secret—foreign assistance. The next boat in the class could launch in around four years. The 2,600-ton Hai Kun—named for a mythical giant fish—by far is the most important new weapon in Taiwan's arsenal. More than F-16 fighters, M-1 tanks or Patriot air-defense missiles, Hai Kun and her planned seven sisters could blunt a Chinese invasion. And fighting alongside submarines belonging to the United States—and potentially Japan—they even could defeat the invasion.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidaxe/2023/09/28/taiwans-new-submarines-could-save-it-from-chinese-takeover/?sh=49b236553c3b>

## **China picks former governor for finance ministry in Xi economic team shake-up**

Sun Yu

Financial Times, September 28, 2023

Lan Fo'an, a former provincial governor and veteran official, is expected to be named as China's new finance minister, according to people familiar with the matter, as a reshuffle of top officials continues. Beijing said that Lan, until this week the Communist party secretary of Shanxi and previously the northern province's governor, would become party chief at the Ministry of Finance. That role has been held by finance minister Liu Kun, who is expected to leave the ministry soon.

<https://www.ft.com/content/ab8363cf-452e-4c35-9c0b-cd3623a26c00>

## **Australia redeploys troops to north in bid to deter China**

Rurika Imahashi

Nikkei Asia, September 29, 2023

Australia will move hundreds of troops to the country's north and concentrate long-range strike capabilities in the south as part of changes to its Army deployment meant to better deter China's growing reach in the Indo-Pacific region. Under the plan, the Army will increase its presence in Townsville, a coastal city in Queensland with a population of about 200,000 that is home to a training area where joint drills with the U.S. and Japan under Exercise Southern Jackaroo were held in June.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Defense/Australia-redeploys-troops-to-north-in-bid-to-deter-China>

## **China and U.S. hold Asia-Pacific consultation in Washington**

CGTN, September 29, 2023

Senior Chinese and U.S. diplomats have had a candid, in-depth and constructive exchange of views on bilateral relations, the regional situation in the Asia-Pacific, respective regional policies and international and regional issues of mutual interest, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry. In a statement released, the ministry said Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong, according to common understandings between the two parties and at the invitation of the U.S. side, held the consultation on Asia-Pacific affairs with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Kritenbrink in Washington.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2023-09-29/China-and-U-S-hold-Asia-Pacific-consultation-in-Washington-1nuDWISJcGI/index.html>

## **Beijing has jets, missiles on man-made islands in South China Sea, says US official**

Ajay Banerjee

The Tribune, September 29, 2023

China has stationed fighter jets and latest war-fighting long-range missiles on man-made islands in the South China Sea, a senior US Department of Defence official has told a legislative oversight committee in US. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Lindsey W Ford on September 28 informed the Indo-Pacific Subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee, US House of Representatives, about the development. China has an increasing array of military capabilities, including advanced anti-ship cruise missiles, long-range surface-to-air missile systems, J-20 stealth fighter jets, laser and jamming equipment and military radar and signals intelligence capabilities — all on small islands created by dredging in the South China Sea, said Ford.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/india/beijing-has-jets-missiles-on-man-made-islands-in-south-china-sea-says-us-official-548928>

## **China's Chang'e-6 lunar farside sample return mission scheduled to launch around 2024: CNSA**

Global Times, September 29, 2023

China's Chang'e-6 lunar mission is currently undergoing research and development work as planned, with the launch scheduled for around 2024, China National Space Administration (CNSA) announced. The Chang'e-6 mission is tasked with bringing back samples from the far side of the moon. To date, all 10 lunar sampling missions conducted by humans have taken place on

the near side of the moon. The far side is generally older and contains the Aitken Basin, one of the three major lunar landforms, making it of significant scientific value, according to the CNSA.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202309/1299103.shtml>

## **Foreign Ministry Spokesperson's Remarks on the US State Department's Report Targeting China**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, September 30, 2023

Q: The US Department of State released a report on September 28, claiming that China has invested billions of dollars to spread disinformation globally. It says that China's "global information manipulation" is not simply a matter of public diplomacy – but a challenge to the integrity of the global information space, and if unchecked, Beijing's efforts could result in a sharp contraction of global freedom of expression in the future. What is China's response?

A: The US Department of State report is in itself disinformation as it misrepresents facts and truth.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/xwfw\\_665399/s2510\\_665401/2535\\_665405/202309/t20230930\\_11154141.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2535_665405/202309/t20230930_11154141.html)

## **China strategic rival to U.S., not threat: East Timor's Ramos-Horta**

Koya Jibiki

Nikkei Asia, September 30, 2023

As tensions between the U.S. and China escalate, both sides should seek opportunities for dialogue and, if possible, partnership, even as strategic rivals, said Jose Ramos-Horta, the president of East Timor. With regard to the conflict in the South China Sea, he stressed that respect for international law is essential for a small country like East Timor. He also expressed hope that Japan, China, India and South Korea would take a greater leadership role in promoting peace and stability in Asia.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Editor-s-Picks/Interview/China-strategic-rival-to-U.S.-not-threat-East-Timor-s-Ramos-Horta>

*Syloges on China is compiled by Mr. Niranjan C. Oak with inputs  
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**Nuclear and Arms Control Centre, MP-IDSA  
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