

# CLAWS Newsletter



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## ➤ POLITICS

5 March 2025 | **'Two Sessions' 2025 Begins:** Premier Li Qiang tabled the annual government work report at the opening ceremony of China's top legislature, the National People's Congress. The report covered GDP growth targets, foreign investment, future industries, support for Hong Kong and Macau, and more. The annual meetings of the top legislature and the top advisory body are together referred to as the 'two sessions.'

13 March 2025 | **Chinese official lured into foreign spy agency's 'honey trap', says Ministry:** According to the Ministry of State Security, an overseas Chinese official, surnamed Zhang, was arrested for getting caught in a 'honey trap' and supplying classified information to a foreign spy agency.

14 March 2025 | **China calls for improving legal system to check against Taiwan independence and foreign influence:** At a symposium marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of China's Anti-Secession Law, Zhao Leji, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, called for "further improving" the legal system against Taiwan independence and to resolutely crackdown on the intervention of foreign forces in the issue.

## ➤ MILITARY

4 March 2025 | **Chinese drones attempt to look into Japan's defence:** The presence of two Chinese drones, a BZK-005 reconnaissance model and, for the first time, a Chengdu GJ-2 reconnaissance and attack drone, was tracked in the airspace between Okinawa and Miyako Island, before entering the Pacific. As the Japan Air Self-Defence Force rushed fighter jets to tail the drones, they flew south of Okinawa towards Amami Oshima before reversing towards the East China Sea. Although the drones never breached Japanese territorial airspace, their presence was enough to alarm Tokyo.

9 March 2025 | **China gears for joint naval exercises with Russia and Iran:** China is set to hold joint naval exercise Security Belt-2025 this month. Russia and Iran will participate, alongside China, in the drills to be held near the Iranian port of Chabahar on the coast of Gulf of Oman.

10 March 2025 | **China's arms imports fall signalling growth in military self-reliance:** According to the latest report released by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

(SIPRI), there was a 64 per cent fall in deliveries to China between 2020-2024, compared with the previous five years. This was likely driven by growth in China's domestic weapons industry, with indigenously manufactured systems replacing equipment that was, so far, mainly bought from Russia.

*10 March 2025* | At 'two sessions', PLA **urges** for more civilian tech inputs for military: At the annual 'two sessions' gathering, People's Liberation Army (PLA) officers called for more civilian resources to be allocated, especially in emerging technologies, to support the military's modernisation, according to PLA Daily, the official newspaper of the Chinese armed forces.

## ➤ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

*12 March 2025* | **China set to host Russia and Iran for nuclear talks**: China will host high-level talks with Russia and Iran about Tehran's nuclear programme and regional security issues. The trilateral meeting will be chaired by Chinese foreign vice-minister Ma Zhaoxu and joined by Russian deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov and Iranian deputy foreign minister Kazem Gharibabadi.

*14 March 2025* | **China calls for US to make "politically sincere" efforts to resolve Iranian nuclear issue**: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has urged the US to show "political sincerity" in trying to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue after China held talks that called for an end to "illegal sanctions" on Iran. According to China's foreign ministry, Wang said, "Initiating the rapid restoration of sanctions will destroy years of diplomatic efforts, so caution must be exercised."

*15 March 2025* | **Beijing counters "arrogant and malicious" G7 criticisms over South China Sea and Taiwan**: The Chinese embassy in Canada, host country for the meeting of G7 foreign ministers that wrapped up on 14 March 2025, critiqued G7 for its "arrogance, prejudice and malice" after G7's recent criticism of China's activities in South China Sea and Taiwan Strait.

## ➤ ECONOMY

*5 March 2025* | At ‘two sessions’, China hits out at economic malice – **‘neijuan’**: In a first of its kind move, while presenting his agenda-setting annual work report at National People’s Congress, Premier Li Qiang vowed to remove ‘neijuan’- which refers to extreme, cutthroat competition plaguing the economy. The concept describes the chronic overcapacity and vicious price wars affecting China’s industry.

*5 March 2025* | In a boost to its energy security, China **discovers** 2 major shale oilfields: Sinopec, China’s largest oil refiner, announced the discoveries of two major shale oilfields which are located in northeastern China’s Bohai Bay Basin and the Subei Basin in the eastern province of Jiangsu, respectively. The shale oilfields boast combined reserves of 180 million tonnes, and would facilitate China’s push to reduce its reliance on fossil fuel imports. According to Chinese state-run news agency Xinhua, early assessments indicate that the two shale oilfields have the capacity to maintain stable production over long term.

*6 March 2025* | At ‘two sessions’, China’s top economic officials lay out 2025 **economic priorities**: The heads of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC)- China’s main economic planning body, the ministries of finance and commerce, China’s central bank and its securities regulator were all in attendance at a joint press conference held during China’s annual ‘two sessions’ gathering. Zheng Shanjie, chairman of the NDRC, communicated confidence that China would meet its 5 per cent growth target for 2025. Central bank governor Pan Gongsheng said that China has room to make more cuts to its reserve requirement ratios, and also vowed to keep yuan’s exchange rate stable.

*10 March 2025* | **Beijing wants commercial applications of nuclear tech**: Li Song, China’s permanent representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) revealed an ambitious target involving commercial applications of nuclear technology in a variety of industries, projecting an annual economic output of 400 billion yuan (US\$55.25 billion) by 2026. China would focus on utilising the technology for medical treatment, agriculture, food processing and material modification, Li said at a meeting of the IAEA’s board of governors in Vienna, Austria.

*12 March 2025* | **China summons Walmart executives for talks**: Officials from Ministry of Commerce and other authorities met representatives of the US retailer Walmart for regulatory talks about its treatment of Chinese suppliers following the imposition of Trump’s increased tariffs.

## ➤ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

*5 March 2025* | **China dominates US in [semiconductor research](#), report finds:** The Emerging Technology Observatory (ETO) at Georgetown University has reported findings that show China's lead in quantity and quality of semiconductor research as Chinese scholars published a total of 160,852 chip-related papers from 2018 to 2023, more than the next three ranked countries combined. The ETO found that Chinese institutions accounted for eight spots in the top-10 category of highly cited publications. The Chinese Academy of Sciences, which leads the country's publication of all chip design and fabrication research, was the most cited in the research category.

*5 March 2025* | **Study reports unusually [high lithium](#) levels among Beijing's pregnant women and newborns:** According to research published in the Journal of Ecotoxicology and Public Health on 24 February, pregnant women and newborns in Beijing carry blood lithium levels up to 20 times higher than those in comparable industrial city of Changsha, far exceeding the typical safety threshold of 10mcg/l for unexposed populations. While diet explained most lithium exposure in Changsha, 96 per cent of maternal lithium intake in Beijing could not be traced to known sources like food, water or air, raising questions about an unidentified source of lithium pollution in Beijing.

*10 March 2025* | **Princeton [nuclear physicist](#) leaves US for China:** After spending more than a decade in the US, nuclear physicist Liu Chang, whose research has been crucial in the journey to achieve fusion energy, has left Princeton University to join as Assistant Professor at the Institute of Heavy Ion Physics at Peking University's School of Physics in Beijing.

*13 March 2025* | **China develops hacker-proof [quantum satellite communication link](#) with South Africa:** Yin Juan, a deputy from the National People's Congress (NPC), and a professor of experimental physics at the University of Science and Technology of China, announced during the NPC's annual plenary meeting that China has for the first time extended ultra-secure communication into the southern hemisphere using a quantum key distribution link with South Africa and it was made possible with the help of China's quantum communication satellites.

*15 March 2025* | **China launches [new satellites](#):** China's Long March -2D carrier rocket blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center and launched the Gaojing-3 02 and the Tianyan-23 satellites into space.



## About the Authors

Ashu Maan is an Associate Fellow at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies. He was awarded the VCOAS Commendation card on Army Day 2025. He is currently pursuing his PhD from Amity University, Noida in Defence and Strategic Studies. He has previously worked with Institute of Chinese Studies. He has also contributed a chapter on “Denuclearization of North Korea” in the book titled Drifts and Dynamics: Russia’s Ukraine War and Northeast Asia. His research includes India-China territorial dispute, the Great Power Rivalry between the United States and China, and China’s Foreign Policy.

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