

# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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## India, China too powerful to defeat each other

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on Monday said India and China cannot defeat each other and both the countries will have to live together as neighbours. The spirit of “Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai” is the only way forward, he stressed. “In the current border situation, neither India nor China can defeat the other. Both countries are militarily powerful,” the Dalai Lama said. Both the countries will have to live together as neighbours, he said. “There may be some incidents of cross-border firing. It does not matter,” he said. The Dalai Lama was responding to questions by reporters at an event here. He said, “In 1951, a 17-point agreement was signed between the Local Government of Tibet and People’s Republic of China for peaceful liberation of Tibet. Today China is changing and has become a country with the highest Buddhist population.

They (India and China) should go back to ‘Hindi Chini Bhai Bhai’ again.” It is a Communist government but Buddhism is widely accepted, he said. “Earlier, the Dalai Lama used to be the head of spiritual and political movements in Tibet, but in 2011, I totally retired from politics. It was a way of democratising the institutions, because it had some feudal elements in it,” said the 14th Dalai Lama. He suggested that India should “develop pilgrimage for Chinese” people who are followers of Buddhism. “We must understand that the followers of Buddhism in China are actually following the line of Indian Buddhism that came from Nalanda (Indian seat of learning) and Sanskrit,” said the spiritual leader.

“India should develop a pilgrimage for Chinese people who follow Buddhism. These people can come to places like Bodh Gaya and can come closer to India emotionally as well,” he said. India and China have been locked in a standoff in the Doklam area since 16 June after Chinese troops began constructing a road near the Bhutan trijunction. Commenting on the definition of secularism in the Indian context, the Dalai Lama said, “Respect for all religions and even the nonbelievers too. This is the definition of secularism in Indian context.”



## Chinese soldiers may skip ceremonial border meet

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) is unlikely to attend the ceremonial border personnel meeting (BPM) for India's Independence Day celebrations, held along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh every year, in the backdrop of the ongoing troop stand-off at Doklam.

The invitation for the August 15 ceremonial meeting at the BPM points Daulat Beg Oldi and Chushul in Ladakh, Bum La and Kibithu in Arunachal, and Nathu La in Sikkim was sent to the PLA but there has been no response till now, said sources. The Army, however, refused to say anything on the matter.

Indian troops had also not crossed over to the Chinese side for the 90th anniversary celebrations of the PLA on August 1, with both sides having militarily reinforced their positions along the LAC after the Doklam crisis erupted in mid-June.

“There are seven-eight occasions in a year that the two armies hold the ceremonial meetings at the different BPM points, which include speeches, cultural performances, exchange of gifts and teasnacks. But it's unlikely to take place on Tuesday,” said a source.

China militarily strong, but India too is powerful with 1bn people: Dalai Lama

Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama has a cure for what could perhaps mend the strained ties between India and China, even as both countries remain locked in a tense standoff on the grassy plateau of Doklam at the trijunction of their border with Bhutan. “Neither India nor China has the ability to defeat each other. China is

strong militarily, but India is also powerful with its population of one billion. Eventually, both sides will have to reach Hindi-Chini-Bhai-Bhai not just on paper, but culturally...And for this, I have a suggestion," he told TOI on Monday when quizzed on how the conflict between the neighbouring countries could be resolved and their relations bettered. Mohua Das | TNN



Tue, 15 Aug, 2017

## Two months into Doklam standoff, assessing China's strength

*By Praveen Swami*

China's great strength is part steel and part illusion. The dragon may indeed breathe fire — but it has enough teeth and claws missing to not want to fight.

Loose-cannon special forces officer Leng Feng emerges from his seaside retreat, to the applause of a grateful nation, when a cartel of arms dealers and mercenaries begin to lay waste an impoverished African country. Fighting to save aid workers and innocent civilians, he fights his way past the enemy with underwater kung-fu, evades an armed drone and destroys battle tanks. The plot of China's highest-grossing blockbuster, *Wolf Warrior II*, seems familiar, because it is: this is Rambo with Chinese characteristics.

Few in the audience today would recall Li Cunbao's 1982 novel, *Gaoshan xia de huahuan* ('Wreaths of flowers at the foot of the mountains'), which tells the story of the soldiers who fought China's last real war. The brave company commander at the centre of the story leaves his wife and baby a frock, used uniforms, and a debt of \$ 380 — 10 times his pay.

Even fewer would have seen *Tamen zheng nianqing* ('In their prime'), banned in 1986, a gritty anti-war film on soldiers holed up in a limestone cave, and their desperate battle to survive.

The 12,192 soldiers killed in the China-Vietnam war, mainly the sons of poor peasant families, have no place in official Chinese history. The war revealed stark problems in China's military, though, many of which continue to haunt the People's Liberation Army.

For weeks now, China has been threatening India with terrible retribution for what it claims is trespass into its lair on the Doklam plateau. There are more than a few in India genuinely worried by the aggression — part of a pattern of intimidation that has forced Japan to scramble its fighters more often than at the height of the Cold War, and sent Vietnam into the arms of arch-enemy United States. Like so much to do with military power, China's great strength is part steel and part illusion. The dragon may indeed breathe fire — but it has enough teeth and claws missing to not want to fight.

When Beijing began to wake to modern warfare in the wake of the 1984-85 conflict, the PLA was a lumbering peasant army: its main tank was the 1950s-design T-55, the bloated 3.5 million-strong military lacked modern vehicles and arms, and the Air Force and Navy were barely capable of coastal defence.

The growth of the military budget — which, it bears mention, has consistently hovered around 2% of Gross Domestic Product, the global norm — has helped drag the PLA into the 20th century, but only just.

Paul Dibbs, an Australian defence expert, points out the country's state-of-the-art Type 95 submarines will only be as stealthy as the 1980s Soviet titanium-hulled Akula-class. China's Dong Feng 21D anti-ship ballistic missile has yet to hit a target moving at realistic speeds. Large parts of the Air Force and Navy are still made up of obsolescent types.

For years, the most critical challenge before the PLA has been transforming itself into a modern force. Impressive pay, promotion and education reforms have been made, though competition from China's private sector has meant military service is far from the first career choice for the country's brightest.

There are more than a few, moreover, who are sceptical of the combat qualities of this new cohort of PLA officers — products of China’s one-child policy, which spawned a generation derisively referred to as “Little Emperors”. PLA newspapers are replete with stories of new recruits using boarding-school tricks like spitting out red ink to avoid training.

“I’d hide under my blanket and cry every night,” former cadet Sun Youpeng, who joined the PLA after graduating from university at the age of 22, told Minnie Chan of the South China Morning Post in 2014.

Liu Mingfu, a scholar at China’s National Defence University, estimated in a 2012 report that 70% of the PLA’s troops were only sons — a number rising to 80% among combat troops. In a country with a growing cohort of aged people, with ancient cultural norms against sending only sons to war, the consequences could be significant, Liu noted.

President Xi Jinping, since he took office in 2013, has urged the PLA several times to “prepare for combat”. PLA journals themselves, though, a RAND Corporation study for the United States Congress recorded in 2015, are “replete with references to problems in such areas as personnel, training, education, organisation, logistics and maintenance”. Despite the battle against endemic corruption in the PLA, few believe it has been wiped out.

“Let our field armies touch the buttocks of a tiger,” China’s Paramount Leader Deng Xiaoping reportedly said as he ordered the military to action in 1984, hoping to blood his troops and demonstrate “our military is still good enough”. The truth, however, was that Deng’s own economic reforms had brought about a crisis in the PLA. Xiaoming Zhang’s magisterial history of the China-Vietnam war notes that fewer soldiers joined the army during that decade than at any previous time — and were less than willing to die.

In some cases, the crisis of morale bred low farce: elements of the 67th Army, on their way out of Laoshan, demanded \$ 1,500 from their 47th Army replacements for all intelligence on enemy positions and firepower. In another case, an armoured unit which did not receive care packages despatched its tanks to surround an infantry division headquarters and demand its share.

Like in India, there is no shortage of voices in China that appear not to see the distinction between strategic analysis and Wolf Warrior II: articles advocating short, sharp wars to settle the country’s border conflicts are commonplace in the media.

For serious Chinese thinkers, though, that line of action comes with serious risks: failure to achieve a decisive victory would not only embarrass the PLA, but also dent the credibility of the political leadership and encourage Beijing’s regional adversaries to engage in further acts of defiance. In the long term, China may indeed become a military adversary its regional adversaries will have to defer to — but that time is not now.

In 415 BC, Athenian hawks made the case for invading Sicily by insisting that “it has always been the law that the weaker should be subject to the stronger”, an argument that will be familiar in Beijing today. On the disaster that followed this hubris, the historian Thucydides wrote: “Sicily would fear us most if we never went there at all.” This, he explained, was because “that which is farthest off, and the reputation of which can least be tested, is the object of admiration”.

For China’s strategic community, these ought be words to ponder: in war, unlike films, the end of the story is impossible to script.



*Tue, 15 Aug, 2017*

## **Signs of trade war with China surface**

*By K J M Varma*

A trade war seems to be looming between India and China after New Delhi imposed anti-dumping duties on 93 Chinese products. An article in The Global Times, part of the ruling Communist Party's publication group,

urged Chinese firms on Monday to reconsider the risks of investing in India and warned New Delhi to be prepared for the possible consequences for its ill-considered action.

The article said that China could easily retaliate with restrictions on Indian products, but added that it doesn't make much economic sense for the country. It cited figures from the Indian embassy in China to show that Indian exports fell by 12.3 per cent year-on-year to USD 11.75 billion while India's imports from China rose by 2 per cent to USD 59 billion, resulting in a trade deficit of USD 47 billion.

According to the Indian Commerce Ministry, the trade deficit with China last year mounted to over USD 52 billion when the bilateral trade stood at USD 70 billion. A trade war between China and India seems to be looming after the latter moved last Wednesday to impose antidumping duties on 93 products from China, the report said. If India really starts a trade war with China, of course China's economic interests will be hurt, but there will also be consequences for India, it said.

The report on trade comes as India and China have been locked in a tense military standoff in Doklam in the Sikkim sector. India has protested the construction of a road by the Chinese military in the area claimed by its ally Bhutan, fearing it would allow Beijing to cut off India's access to its northeastern states. The Global Times

report warned that given the tense bilateral trade ties, China may consider temporarily suspending investment or economic cooperation projects in India to ensure the security of these investments.

Another article in China Daily said boycotting Chinese goods would harm India. Referring to the calls of boycott of Chinese products, it said the ongoing standoff in Doklam seems to have spilled over into bilateral exchanges. Suffice to say, calling for the boycotting of Chinese products and those related to Chinese investors is not just a fool's errand but also risks backfiring, it said. PT

## Regional meet slated in October

*TRADE ministers of 16 RCEP countries, including India and China are expected to meet next month in Philippines to review the progress of the trade agreement and resolve issues holding back the negotiations, an official said on Monday.*

*The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a mega trade deal among 16 countries which aims to cover goods, services, investments, and intellectual property rights. This meeting assumes significance as the 20th round of negotiations at the chief negotiators level is in South Korea in mid-October. This will be a crucial meeting. The 16-member bloc RCEP comprises 10 ASEAN members and their six FTA partners.*



Tue, 15 Aug, 2017

## China bans imports from N. Korea

*Iron ore, seafood, among the items targeted as part of new UN sanctions*

China will halt iron, iron ore and seafood imports from North Korea starting Tuesday, following through on new UN sanctions after U.S. pressure for Beijing to strong arm Pyongyang over its ally's nuclear programme.

The decision was announced on Monday after days of increasingly bellicose rhetoric between U.S. President Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un's regime, which has raised international alarm about where the crisis is headed.

Beijing had pledged to fully enforce the latest sanctions after the United States accused China of not doing enough to rein in its neighbour, which relies heavily on the Asian giant for its economic survival. The Chinese Commerce Ministry said on its website that all imports of coal, iron, iron ore and seafood will be "completely prohibited: from Tuesday. Beijing had already announced a suspension of coal imports in February.

The United Nations Security Council, including permanent member Beijing, approved tough sanctions against Pyongyang on August 6 that could cost the country \$1 billion a year.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi vowed after the UN sanctions were approved that his country "will for sure implement that new resolution 100 percent, fully and strictly".

China, which is suspected of failing to enforce past UN measures, accounts for 90% of North Korea's trade.

Among the latest banned products, China imported \$74.4 million worth of iron ore in the first five months of this year, almost equalling the figure for all of 2016.

Fish and seafood imports totalled \$46.7 million in June, up from \$13.6 million in May.

## THE ASIAN AGE

Tue, 15 Aug, 2017

# North Korea will face 'fire and fury,' warns US

**U**S President Donald Trump on Friday said a military option against North Korea was "locked and loaded," his latest salvo in an escalating war of words with Pyongyang's nuclear-armed regime.

"Military solutions are now fully in place, locked and loaded, should North Korea act unwisely. Hopefully Kim Jong Un will find another path!" Mr Trump tweeted.

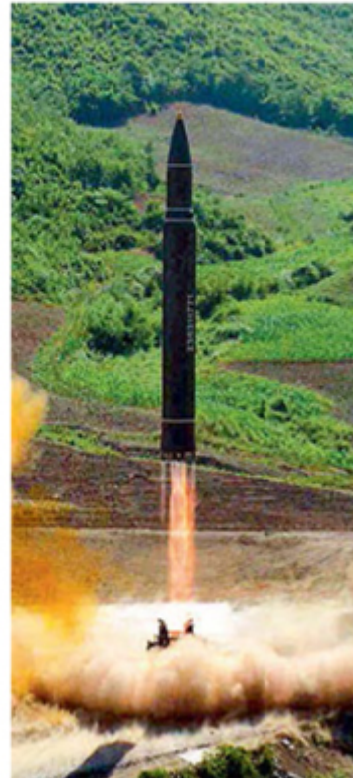
The US president's Twitter missive ratcheted up his already bellicose rhetoric with Kim over North Korea's weapons programme, as Beijing appealed to the two leaders to dampen their fiery exchange.

A day prior Mr Trump

had hardened his warning that Pyongyang would face "fire and fury" if it kept threatening the United States, saying maybe his tough talk "wasn't tough enough."

Mr Trump also warned North Korea it should be "very, very nervous" of the consequences if it even thinks of attacking US soil, after Pyongyang said it was readying plans to launch missiles towards the Pacific territory of Guam.

Pyongyang said the scheme to target the island, a key US military outpost in the western Pacific, was intended to "signal a crucial warning" as "only absolute force" would have an effect on a US leader "bereft of reason."



North Korea's ICBM, Hwasong-14.

**U.S. INTELLIGENCE BELIEVES N. KOREA HAS BUILT A NUCLEAR WEAPON SMALL ENOUGH TO FIT ONTO A BALLISTIC MISSILE**

## MAIL TODAY

Tue, 15 Aug, 2017

## US and Japan hold live-fire military drills

American Marines and their Japanese counterparts have staged a joint show of strength with live-fire military drills on the island of Hokkaido. A combined total of 3,500 soldiers are taking part in 18 days of live-fire military drills code-named Northern Viper which began last week. On Monday Marines and Japan's Self Defense Force were pictured firing mortars, maneuvering tanks and using armored personnel carriers. While the drills are a regular scheduled event, they come as a welcome display of unity between allied nations amid heightened regional tensions with North Korea.

South Korean and U.S. troops are also gearing up for an annual joint drill from August 21, called the Ulchi Freedom Guardian, in which up to 30,000 U.S. troops will take part. South Korea's national security adviser Chung Eui-yong and his U.S. counterpart H.R. McMaster spoke on the phone for 40 minutes early on Friday, a spokesman for the presidential Blue House in Seoul said. The two discussed responses to North Korean provocations and the security situation on the Korean peninsula, he said. U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Joseph Dunford said on Monday U.S. military options being prepared against North Korea would be for when diplomatic and economic sanctions failed, South Korea's president's office said on Monday. Dunford made the comments to South Korean President Moon Jae-in in a 50-minute meeting to discuss recent issues including North Korean provocation, office spokesman Park Su-hyun told a media briefing. Dunford was in Seoul speaking to South Korean military officials, including Defence Minister Song Young-moo.

He was due to leave South Korea later on Monday and will make stops in China and Japan this week. On the other hand, China will halt iron, iron ore and seafood imports from North Korea starting Monday, following through on new UN sanctions after US pressure for Beijing to strong arm Pyongyang over its ally's nuclear programme. The decision was announced today after days of increasingly bellicose rhetoric between US President Donald Trump and Kim Jong-Un's regime, which has raised international alarm about where the crisis is headed. Beijing had pledged to fully enforce the latest sanctions after the United States accused China of not doing enough to rein in its neighbour, which relies heavily on the Asian giant for its economic survival. The Chinese commerce ministry said on its website that all imports of coal, iron, iron ore and seafood will be completely prohibited. *Daily Mail*



*Tue, 15 Aug, 2017*

## **Largest volcanic region on earth lies in Antarctica**

*Remote survey discovers 91 volcanoes below ice*

The largest volcanic region on Earth — with nearly 100 volcanoes — has been discovered two km below the surface of the vast ice sheet in west Antarctica.

Researchers from the University of Edinburgh in Britain found a staggering 91 previously unknown volcanoes, adding to the 47 others that had been discovered over the previous century of exploring the region.

The height of these newly discovered volcanoes range from 100 to 3,850 metres, with the highest almost as tall as Switzerland's 3,970-metre Eiger mountain.

These active peaks are concentrated in a region known as the west Antarctic rift system — which stretches 3,500 km from Antarctica's Ross ice shelf to the Antarctic peninsula. Geologists say this huge region is likely to dwarf east Africa's volcanic ridge — currently rated as the densest concentration of volcanoes in the world.

**Eruption concerns** - However, the activity of this range could have worrying consequences, glacier expert Robert Bingham was quoted as saying to *The Guardian*. "If one of these volcanoes were to erupt it could further destabilise west Antarctica's ice sheets."

"Anything that causes the melting of ice, which an eruption certainly would, is likely to speed up the flow of ice into the sea," Mr. Bingham said, adding: "The big question is: how active are these volcanoes? That is something we need to determine as quickly as possible."

The Edinburgh volcano survey, reported in the Geological Society's special publications series, involved studying the underside of the west Antarctica ice sheet for hidden peaks of basalt rock similar to those produced by the region's other volcanoes.

*Tue, 15 Aug, 2017*

## **AI is riskier than nuclear war: Musk**

*By Aatif Sulleyman*

Elon Musk says artificial intelligence poses more of a “risk“ than a potential nuclear conflict between the US and North Korea.

The CEO of Tesla issued the warning after an AI built by OpenAI, a company founded by Musk, defeated the world's best Dota 2 (an online video game) players after just two weeks of training.

“If you're not concerned about AI safety , you should be.Vastly more risk than North Korea,“ he tweeted shortly after the bot's victory , along with a picture of a poster bearing the slogan: “In the end, the machines will win“.

“Nobody likes being regulated, but everything (cars, planes, food, drugs, etc) that's a danger to the public is regulated. AI should be too,“ he added later. Musk has spoken out about the dangers of AI on numerous occasions.