



# **Nuclear, Missile & Space Digest**

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## **Contents**

### **India**

- **India achieves first quarter atomic energy generation target**
- **Ongoing work at 10 nuclear reactors totalling 8 GW: Govt**

### **China**

- **China, Russia must resolutely respond to arrogant US space goal: Global Times editorial**
- **Could China's molten salt nuclear reactor be a clean, safe source of power?**

### **USA**

- **U.S. senator: JCPOA is our only viable option**
- **Deputy Secretary of State Sherman renews calls for N. Korea to resume dialogue**
- **Seoul, Washington agree to induce Pyongyang back to nuclear talks**
- **US looks forward to 'reliable, predictable, constructive' way forward with N. Korea: Sherman**
- **US approach toward N. Korea leaves doors open to dialogue: Austin**
- **US and Russia hold arms control talks in Geneva**

### **Europe**

- **EU has just paid lip service to JCPOA, says Iranian envoy to Madrid**
- **Macron's Polynesia trip clouded in controversy over France's nuclear weapons tests**

### **Russia**

- **Russia successfully launches test hypersonic cruise missile**

### **West Asia**

- **Jordan king makes unfounded claims against Iran**

### **Iran**

- **Iran's JCPOA policies are fixed, says MP**
- **Rouhani urges South Korea to release Iranian assets**
- **Iran opens center for specialized nuclear industry**
- **Nuclear spokesman briefs MPs about nuclear steps**
- **Diplomat elaborates on the West's ulterior motives in nuclear talks**
- **Zarif lambasts UN for inaction in face of U.S.-E3 blackmail**

#### **East Asia**

##### **South Korea**

- **Doosan Heavy to invest more in US NuScale Power**
- **Vice FM Choi, Deputy Secretary Sherman to hold talks on N. Korea, global issues**

##### **North Korea**

- **N. Korea is one area US and China share 'aligned' interests: State Dept.**
- **NK leader makes no mention of nuclear deterrence at national conference of war veterans**

##### **World/Misc**

- **US, Japan, S. Korea hold talks on N. Korea's nuclear threat**
- **First concrete poured for Bolivian research reactor**

## India

### **India achieves first quarter atomic energy generation target**

Livemint, July 22, 2021

As against a target of 10,164 million units (MUs) during April-June 2021, the actual generation was 11,256 MUs. India has achieved its target of atomic energy generation for the first quarter of the current financial year. As against a target of 10164 million units (MUs) during April-June 2021, the actual generation was 11256 MUs. The overall target for 2021-22 is 41821 MUs. This comes in the backdrop of India's ambitious nuclear power plans that include constructing a dozen new nuclear power reactors totaling 9 gigawatt (GW).

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/ongoing-work-at-10-nuclear-reactors-totalling-8-gw-govt-11627474220884.html>

### **Ongoing work at 10 nuclear reactors totalling 8 GW: Govt**

Livemint, July 28, 2021

The union government has approved and granted financial sanction for the construction of 10 indigenous 700 megawatt (MW) Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) to be set up in fleet mode totaling 7 GW. In what will help boost India's energy security efforts, work is ongoing on 10 nuclear reactors totalling 8 gigawatt (GW). The union government has approved and granted financial sanction for the construction of 10 indigenous 700 megawatt (MW) Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) to be set up in fleet mode totaling 7 GW. This was said in a written reply in Lok Sabha on Wednesday by the minister of state in charge of Atomic Energy and Space Dr Jitendra Singh. India has 22 commercial nuclear power reactors with an installed capacity of 6.78 GW, which are run by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited.

The US was instrumental in getting India out of its nuclear isolation with the 2008 civil nuclear deal. "On progressive completion of the projects under construction and accorded sanction, the nuclear capacity is expected to reach 22,480 MW by 2031. More nuclear power plants are also planned in future," the statement said. This comes in the backdrop of India achieving its target of atomic energy generation for the first quarter of the current financial year. As against a target of 10164 million units (MUs) during April-June 2021, the actual generation was 11,256 MUs.

<https://www.livemint.com/industry/energy/india-achieves-first-quarter-atomic-energy-generation-target-11626959632672.html>

## China

**China, Russia must resolutely respond to arrogant US space goal: Global Times editorial** Global Times, July 18, 2021

According to US and UK media reports, the US is developing a Deep Space Advanced Radar Capability - or DARC - to locate a giant new radar system in Texas, the UK and Australia. The site in the UK would house 10 to 15 parabolic antennas (large satellite dishes) for tracking and four to six for

transmitting, and each radar dish will be 15 meters in diameter. The system is said to be able to identify potential targets up to 36,000 kilometers away.

US and UK military officials claimed that it is to make the outer space "safer and more secure." To make their claim reasonable, they accused China and Russia of posing "irresponsible and reckless" threats with their anti-satellite weapon experiments. They also asserted that they need to understand "what's going on in the dark corners of space." It is a significant escalation that has the potential to further change the direction of global military competition. The head of the Royal Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Wigston, has bluntly predicted the next war could be won or lost in space. The primary purpose of the US and its allies in developing DARC is obviously to prepare for winning a war and to deter China and Russia.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1228977.shtml>

### **Could China's molten salt nuclear reactor be a clean, safe source of power?**

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, July 19, 2021

A team of government researchers in China have unveiled the design for a commercial nuclear reactor that is expected to be the first in the world that does not need water for cooling, allowing the systems to be built in remote desert regions to provide power for more densely populated areas. The molten salt reactor, which is powered by liquid thorium rather than uranium, should also be safer than traditional ones because in the event of a leak, the molten thorium would cool and solidify quickly, dispersing less radiation into the environment. Construction work on the first commercial reactor should be completed by 2030 and the government plans to build several in the deserts and plains of central and western China.

[https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3141581/could-chinas-molten-salt-nuclear-reactor-be-clean-safe-source?module=lead\\_hero\\_story\\_2&pgtype=homepage](https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3141581/could-chinas-molten-salt-nuclear-reactor-be-clean-safe-source?module=lead_hero_story_2&pgtype=homepage)

### **USA**

#### **U.S. senator: JCPOA is our only viable option**

Tehran Times, July 17, 2021

A day after some Senate leaders emerged from a classified briefing with Secretary of State Tony Blinken offering a pessimistic outlook on the chances of re-entering the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT) said that the deal remains the U.S.'s only viable option for dealing with Iran. Murphy, who did not attend Wednesday's meeting and said he was not familiar with what was said, has been one of the most prominent voices in the Senate in favor of quick reentry into the 2015 deal, including urging Joe Biden to roll back sanctions imposed by the Trump administration in exchange for Iranian compliance with the deal.

"I don't accept the premise that we can't find a way back into this deal. It will require hard choices by the United States, difficult choices by the Iranians, but I don't see a path forward without being inside this deal," Murphy told Jewish Insider. "I still believe that our only course of action is to get back into the deal," he reiterated. Barring an agreement, the Iranians will continue to "ratchet up their provocation of their allies and their destabilizing activity, and they will speed towards a nuclear weapon," Murphy suggested, a situation he described as "a disaster."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/463181/U-S-senator-JCPOA-is-our-only-viable-option>

### **Deputy Secretary of State Sherman renews calls for N. Korea to resume dialogue**

Yonhap

Korea Herald, July 21, 2021

US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman renewed calls Wednesday for North Korea to return to dialogue, stressing Washington's willingness to take "some patience" and holding out prospects of a "brighter future" for Pyongyang. Sherman made the remarks following trilateral talks with her South Korean and Japanese counterparts, Choi Jong-kun and Takeo Mori, respectively, in Tokyo after North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Son-gwon rejected US' overtures for dialogue last month.

"The United States has made it clear that we are ready to engage with North Korea. They know that. We hope they'll respond positively," Sherman said during a joint press conference with Choi and Mori. "But as my colleagues have said, we must exercise some patience, perhaps not too much but some." The deputy secretary then recalled the memory of her accompanying former Defense Secretary William Perry to Pyongyang in the 1990s to show the US' interest in dialogue with the North, noting the North responded with a proposal several months later. "I hope it doesn't take that long this time, but we all have to understand that North Korea is also struggling with the pandemic, as is the entire world, has to live with the UN Security Council resolutions and the sanctions that come with it," Sherman said.

"But we do hope that they understand that a brighter future for their country comes from engaging in these discussions around denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," she added. Despite the US' offer to meet with the North "anywhere, anytime without preconditions," the North's top diplomat, Ri, said last month that his country was not considering "even the possibility of any contact" with the US. That dampened optimism that emerged after leader Kim Jong-un signaled openness to dialogue. Also at the press conference, Sherman underscored the "critical" importance of trilateral cooperation among South Korea, the US and Japan for the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210721000179&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210721000179&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **Seoul, Washington agree to induce Pyongyang back to nuclear talks**

Ahn Sung-mi

Korea Herald, July 22, 2021

US Deputy Secretary Wendy Sherman on Thursday held talks with key officials here, underscoring close coordination between the allies to induce North Korea back to the stalled denuclearization talks. As part of the Asia trip, Sherman arrived in Seoul on Wednesday after her stop in Tokyo, where she and her South Korean and Japanese counterparts, Choi Jong-kun and Takeo Mori, respectively, held trilateral talks and reiterated close coordination on North Korea policy. Sherman met with South Korean Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong in the morning, discussing bilateral, regional and global issues, as well as follow-up measures to the outcome of the summit between Presidents Moon Jae-in and Joe Biden in May.

During their talks, the two reaffirmed that their goal remained the "complete denuclearization and permanent peace" of the Korean Peninsula -- which was affirmed by the leaders of the two countries at the summit -- and diplomacy and dialogue remain the best way to achieve that objective. The officials

vowed to continue close cooperation at all levels to convince the North back to the negotiating table, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. Chung asked for Sherman's efforts to strengthen the South Korea-US alliance. In response, Sherman said she would do so, stressing the alliance is the linchpin to peace, security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and Northeast Asia.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210722000890&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210722000890&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **US looks forward to 'reliable, predictable, constructive' way forward with N. Korea: Sherman**

Yonhap

Korea Herald, July 23, 2021

The United States looks forward to a "reliable, predictable and constructive" way forward with North Korea, Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman said Friday, redoubling calls for Pyongyang to respond to Washington's overtures for dialogue. Sherman made the remarks after talks with First Vice Foreign Minister Choi Jong-kun in Seoul, amid uncertainty over the resumption of nuclear diplomacy following Pyongyang's rejection of dialogue last month.

"We are looking forward to a reliable, predictable, constructive way forward with the DPRK," Sherman told reporters, referring to the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "We have offered to sit in dialogue with the North Koreans, and we are waiting to hear from them." The deputy secretary also expressed concern over North Korean people facing multiple hardships. "We all feel for the people of the DPRK, who are indeed, facing all the most difficult circumstances given the pandemic, and what it means as well for their food security," she said. "We only hope for a better outcome for the people of the DPRK."

Despite the US' offer to meet with the North "anywhere, anytime without preconditions," North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Son-gwon has said that his country was not considering "even the possibility of any contact" with the US That dampened optimism that emerged after leader Kim Jong-un signaled openness to dialogue. Asked about China's role in addressing North Korea's nuclear issue, Sherman called it "certainly an area for cooperation." "Thinking together about bringing the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is certainly an area for cooperation," she said. "And so we look forward to having that discussion as part of the meetings that we will have." At the start of her talks with Choi, Sherman said the agenda includes regional challenges that "threaten to undermine the rules-based international order," while stressing Seoul and Washington are bound by "our common security interests" and "our common values of democracy and freedom."

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210723000528&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210723000528&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **US approach toward N. Korea leaves doors open to dialogue: Austin**

Yonhap

Korea Herald, July 28, 2021

The United States continues to take a practical approach toward North Korea that leaves open the door for dialogue, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Tuesday. The US defense chief made the remark as North Korea reopened its direct communication lines with South Korea in an apparent move to improve its relations with Seoul that many believe may also lead to a resumption of dialogue with the United States. "And we're taking a calibrated, practical approach that leaves the door open to diplomacy with North Korea ... even while we maintain our readiness to deter aggression and to uphold our treaty commitments and the will of the Security Council," Austin said at the International Institute for Strategic Studies Fullerton Lecture in Singapore, according to a transcript of his speech released by the



Pentagon. The defense secretary is on a three-nation Asia trip that will later take him to Vietnam and the Philippines.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210728000180&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210728000180&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **US and Russia hold arms control talks in Geneva**

DW, July 28, 2021

The meeting between senior US officials and their Russian counterparts follows a landmark summit between Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin last month. Model warheads on a grid representing attack surface. The US and Russia are at odds over arms control and malicious cyber activities. Senior US and Russian officials met at the US diplomatic mission in Geneva on Wednesday to initiate arms control talks dubbed "strategic stability" with a focus on risk reduction.

US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman and her counterpart, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov, led their respective delegations. The talks came after US President Joe Biden met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Geneva for a little over three hours last month. Wednesday's talks were the first demonstrable concrete outcome from that summit between the two leaders. While the exact scope of Wednesday's talks was not made public, analysts and both countries view them as the start of a process. The US and Russia possess roughly 90% of the world's nuclear weapons.

<https://www.dw.com/en/us-and-russia-hold-arms-control-talks-in-geneva/a-58671440>

### **Europe**

#### **EU has just paid lip service to JCPOA, says Iranian envoy to Madrid**

Tehran Times, July 25, 2021

Iran's ambassador to Spain has said although the European Union has always been supporting the 2015 nuclear deal it has done nothing tangible in the face of repressive U.S. sanctions, IRNA reported on Sunday. In line with his "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran, former President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the nuclear deal in May 2018 and slapped the harshest sanctions in history against Iran.

As a signatory to the nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Europe failed to resist U.S. sanctions against Iran. "Though from a political point of view the European Union has been always supporting the JCPOA, it has done no practical action in the face of the oppressive sanctions of the Trump administration," Hassan Qashqavi told a group of Spanish professors and students at the Foundation for Strategic and International Studies.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/463406/EU-has-just-paid-lip-service-to-JCPOA-says-Iranian-envoy-to>

#### **Macron's Polynesia trip clouded in controversy over France's nuclear weapons tests**

Tehran Times, July 27, 2021

French President, Emmanuel Macron, has kicked off his first official trip to French Polynesia where residents of the more than 100 Islands will be eager to confront him. Despite being welcomed by flowers upon landing at the French colony, Macron will certainly be met with anything but flowers by the victims of France's devastating impact of its decades-long testing of nuclear weapons in the

archipelago. Macron is under pressure from the locals to address the controversial tests that Paris conducted not in its homeland but far away in French Polynesia a program that began in 1966. More than 100,000 people on the Islands are believed to be suffering from radiation exposure since the nuclear arms tests finally ended in 1996. Many of those who have been contaminated are suffering from diseases such as leukemia, lymphoma as well as other types of cancer including thyroid, throat and lung cancer.

The residents of the Islands are demanding acknowledgment of the atomic program, an apology, and confirmation by Macron that all the victims will receive compensation. So far, only 63 civilians have reportedly been compensated by Paris since the French testing of 193 nukes to develop its nuclear weapons program. According to joint research by multiple institutions earlier this year, the damage to the Islands was far greater than France had publicly acknowledged. The study included 2,000 pages of recently declassified documents by the French Defense Ministry and one of the investigators told media outlets that “[France] has tried hard to bury the toxic heritage of these tests”. However, it’s not just the toxic nature of the path France took to acquire nuclear arms and the fact Paris denounces other countries over their peaceful nuclear program; there is another painful element to these tests for the residents of Polynesia. Locals say the fact that France conducted its nuclear weapons tests on the archipelago far away from home all the way in the South Pacific Ocean, midway between Australia and Mexico, is a symbol of racist French colonial attitudes that viewed the islanders as inferior to the residents of France.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/463440/Macron-s-Polynesia-trip-clouded-in-controversy-over-France-s>

## **Russia**

### **Russia successfully launches test hypersonic cruise missile**

DW, July 19, 2021

The military tested a new Zircon hypersonic cruise missile. Russian President Vladimir Putin has praised the weapon as part of a new generation of missile systems. The Russian defense ministry on Monday reported a successful test launch of its new Zircon hypersonic cruise missile. The missile had been fired from the Admiral Gorshkov, a warship in the White Sea. The missile successfully hit a target more than 350 kilometers (about 217 miles) away on the coast of the Barents Sea.

"The tactical and technical characteristics of the Tsirkon missile were confirmed during the tests," the ministry said. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said the Zircon missile would be capable of flying at nine times the speed of sound and have a range of 1,000 kilometers. The military had done a previous test launch in October last year on Putin's birthday. Putin at the time said "equipping our armed forces, the army, and the navy, with the latest, truly unparalleled weapon systems will certainly ensure the defense capability of our country in the long term."

<https://www.dw.com/en/russia-successfully-launches-test-hypersonic-cruise-missile/a-58316424>

## **West Asia**

### **Jordan king makes unfounded claims against Iran**

Tehran Times, July 26, 2021

In what can be called diplomatic malpractice that could harm relations between Iran and Jordan, King Abdullah II of Jordan made a litany of allegedly hostile claims against Tehran. In an interview with

CNN's Fareed Zakaria, the Jordanian king struck a note of warning about a range of alleged Iranian hostile activities in the region and hoped that these activities be addressed in the current nuclear talks between Iran and the remaining parties to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). "There are legitimate concerns in our part of the world on a lot of portfolios that the Americans are hopefully going to be able to discuss with the Iranians," King Abdullah said. "So, the nuclear program affects Israel as it does the [Persian] Gulf. The ballistic technology has improved dramatically, we've seen that unfortunately against American bases in Iraq. We've seen Saudi being a recipient of missiles out of Yemen. Israel from Syria and Lebanon to an extent and what misses Israel sometimes lands in Jordan."

The Jordanian king went so far as to claim that his country has been targeted by Iranian-made drones, a bizarre claim that was made for the first time by Abdullah. "And unfortunately, Jordan has been attacked by drones that have come out that are Iranian signature that we have had to deal with," he claimed. While the king claimed that these drone attacks took place in the "past year or so" and are "escalating", the Jordanian press has never reported any drone attacks by Iran against Jordan. Nor has it reported any Iranian missiles missing Israel and landing in Jordan. This may explain the confusion that emerged among regional observers after the king's remarks.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/463438/Jordan-king-makes-unfounded-claims-against-Iran>

## **Iran**

### **Iran's JCPOA policies are fixed, says MP**

Tehran Times, July 17, 2021

"Nullifying sanctions as our main approach is to deal with the problems raised by sanctions", Spokesman for Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission said in an interview with Mehr News Agency. He went on to say, "We must be able to strengthen national products by relying on our own domestic capacities." "We must first focus on relations with our neighbors and then strengthen our relations with Asian countries and emerging economies", he stressed. Principled policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward nuclear negotiations will never change by the change of governments, Abolfazl Amouei said.

Saying that the complete lifting of sanctions is a logical and fundamental demand, he added that Iran's economic benefit in the nuclear deal will be achieved only with the complete lifting of sanctions. It was the Americans who illegally withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018, Amouei said, adding that today, they acknowledge that their maximum pressure policy has failed and must return to the nuclear deal. In fact, with passing a law on Strategic Action Plan to Lift Sanctions and Protect Iranian Nation's Interests, Iran's nuclear program was strengthened and the other parties to JCPOA concluded that the policy of maximum pressure was a failed policy, he explained.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/463227/Iran-s-JCPOA-policies-are-fixed-says-MP>

### **Rouhani urges South Korea to release Iranian assets**

Tehran Times, July 21, 2021

President Hassan Rouhani of Iran on Tuesday urged Seoul to allow Tehran access to its assets frozen in South Korea due to the U.S. sanctions. "Iran's use of its financial reserves in South Korean banks is a clear and obvious right," Rouhani said while receiving the credentials of new South Korean

Ambassador to Tehran Yun Kanghyeon, according to Press TV. Before the Trump administration's illegal sanctions on Iran, South Korea was one of the main buyers of the Iranian oil and gas. Iran was also one of the main destinations of the Korean products. South Korea not only froze the Iranian oil assets, it also lost its big share of the Iranian market.

The move by South Korea has prompted some political and economic figures in Iran to propose a ban on the return of the Korean companies to Iran once the illegal sanctions are lifted. They say that Korea has left Iran alone in difficult days. Rouhani said mutual ties have deteriorated due to the "illegal" and "oppressive" sanctions, emphasizing that such issues should be resolved as soon as possible. Despite promises made by South Korea, the banking and financial problems between the two countries still remain unsolved, Rouhani said.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/463328/Rouhani-urges-South-Korea-to-release-Iranian-assets>

### **Iran opens center for specialized nuclear industry**

Tehran Times, July 26, 2021

Iran's first specialized nuclear industry innovation center was inaugurated in Tehran on Monday. The center was opened at the presence of Ali Akbar Salehi, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) chief, and Sorena Sattari, the vice president for science and technology. According to the Mehr news agency, the center was launched with the aim of commercializing the research achievements of Iranian nuclear scientists.

The establishment of the center is the first step in forming the innovation ecosystem in the nuclear industry and supporting the process of innovation development in the industry, the news agency said. Iran has made breakthrough in civilian nuclear technology applicable in medicine, agriculture, industry, etc. In nuclear medicine, doctors put small amounts of radioactive material into body so they can see organs and tissues, as well as how well they work. That can help them spot tumors and see if cancer has spread to other areas of the body.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/463445/Iran-opens-center-for-specialized-nuclear-industry>

### **Nuclear spokesman briefs MPs about nuclear steps**

Tehran Times, July 27, 2021

Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi has reported to the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee on the implementation of the nuclear law on strategic action to lift sanctions and protect Iran's national interests. Parliamentary committee spokesman Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini, in a flash interview on Tuesday afternoon, said that at the meeting the members of the committee asked questions about the fulfillment of the eight articles of the law and the questions were answered.

"In this meeting, it was decided that the nuclear sub-committee and the technical sub-committee of the Committee follow up on various matters related to the law and prepare a written and documented report to be presented to the public," he explained. Meshkini pointed out that Kamalvandi described the law passed by the parliament as a valuable opportunity to review and rebuild and update the technical and production capacities for the country's Atomic Energy Organization.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/463486/Nuclear-spokesman-briefs-MPs-about-nuclear-steps>

### **Diplomat elaborates on the West's ulterior motives in nuclear talks**

Tehran Times, July 30, 2021

An Iranian diplomat comments on a warning by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei about the West's intention to use the 2015 nuclear deal to enable interference in Iran's affairs. Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's permanent ambassador to the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), made the remarks in an interview published on Ayatollah Khamenei's official website, khamenei.ir, on Wednesday.

During a last meeting with the outgoing President Hassan Rouhani and his cabinet team on Wednesday, Ayatollah Khamenei reminded how the Western side had been trying during the recent nuclear talks to include a condition in the deal that would turn into an excuse for subsequent interference in Iran's affairs. The Leader cited the Rouhani administration's experience of dealing with the West on the issue of the nuclear agreement as an important case in point that had clearly shown "trust in the West does not work and will not work [in the future either]." Since April Iran has been negotiating with the remaining parties to the nuclear deal with an indirect involvement of the U.S. to revive the deal ditched in May 2018 by Donald Trump. Six rounds of talks were held until June 20. "Some of our diplomats really performed well, but the Americans stuck to their hostile position in an obstinate matter and they did not take a step forward. On paper and in words, they say that they will remove the sanctions, but they have not removed and are not going to remove them. The Americans have laid down a condition: they say that if we wish sanctions to be removed, we should include a clause in the agreement which signifies that we are willing to negotiate over certain matters in the future. They say that if we do not accept this clause, we will not have an agreement in the present time. What is this clause? This clause is actually a pretext for future interferences," Ayatollah Khamenei warned.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/463537/Diplomat-elaborates-on-the-West-s-ulterior-motives-in-nuclear>

### **Zarif lambasts UN for inaction in face of U.S.-E3 blackmail**

Tehran Times, July 30, 2021

Six days prior to the inauguration ceremony of Iranian President-elect Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs published a letter by Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to the secretary-general of the United Nations. In the letter, written on July 20, Zarif reminded the UN that Iran was fulfilling its obligations under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and it was the United States which ill-intentionally put economic pressure on Iran by abrogating the agreement.

In part of his letter, Zarif also said the U.S. and E3 (Britain, France and Germany) have been "transparent about their transgressions and have repeatedly stated their ill-intention to compel Iran to renegotiate" the provisions of the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the JCPOA.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/463538/Zarif-lambasts-UN-for-inaction-in-face-of-U-S-E3-blackmail>

### **East Asia**

#### **South Korea**

#### **Doosan Heavy to invest more in US NuScale Power**

Yonhap

Korea Herald, July 20, 2021

Doosan Heavy already invested \$44 million in the unlisted SMR maker in 2019, along with other local investors, and signed a deal to provide core parts to be used for the construction of SMRs, a new type of light water reactor for nuclear power plants. Doosan Heavy, however, did not reveal how much stake it will own in the US company. "More local investors than those in 2019 participated in the latest investment for the stake in NuScale Power," an official at Doosan Heavy Industries & Construction said but did not reveal the names of the investors, citing the confidentiality agreement.

As Doosan Heavy and others expand their investment in the US company, the local power plant builder will be able to win more contracts to supply parts for SMRs. The two companies also agreed to join forces for the hydrogen and fresh water production business using SMRs. NuScale Power plans to provide its SMRs to Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS), a US electricity provider that has been pushing ahead with a project to build a power plant in Idaho, with 2029 eyed for commercial operation.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210720000880&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210720000880&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **Vice FM Choi, Deputy Secretary Sherman to hold talks on N. Korea, global issues**

Yonhap

Korea Herald, July 23, 2021

First Vice Foreign Minister Choi Jong-kun and US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman held talks in Seoul on Friday over stalled nuclear diplomacy with North Korea and other bilateral and global issues. The strategic dialogue comes as Washington pushes to cement regional alliances and partnerships to confront shared challenges, including China's growing assertiveness. The agenda for the meeting included regional challenges that "threaten to undermine the rules-based international order," Sherman said, stressing Seoul and Washington are bound by "our common security interests" and "our common values of democracy and freedom."

"I expect we will continue to discuss regional challenges, including actions that run counter to the interests of the United States and the Republic of Korea and threaten to undermine the rules-based international order," Sherman said at the start of the talks. "I'm hoping to discuss how our two democracies can deepen our cooperation to address climate change, which is one of the biggest crises facing the world, and an area where action equals opportunity, including good jobs in clean energy," she added.

<https://apnews.com/article/seoul-south-korea-moon-jae-in-north-korea-d24d9fd2ddfb6ca201a760f3da00da6a>

### **North Korea**

#### **N. Korea is one area US and China share 'aligned' interests: State Dept.**

Yonhap

Korea Herald, July 23, 2021

The United States and China may share similar interests when it comes to the issue of denuclearizing North Korea despite their sometimes competitive and even adversarial relationship, a State Department spokesman said Thursday. Ned Price made the remarks as Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman



is set to visit China for discussions on issues that will include ways to rein in Pyongyang's nuclear and provocative ballistic missile programs.

"The DPRK is one of those areas where there is at least some alignment of interests, and so we think that there is room for, at the very least, discussion with the PRC when it comes to the challenge posed by the DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile programs and its other threatening activity," the spokesman said, referring to North Korea and China by their official names, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China. "A DPRK that poses a threat to its neighbors, to our allies, that is not in the interest of the ROK. It's not in the interest of Japan, it's not, certainly not, in the interest of the United States," he added.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210723000092&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210723000092&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **NK leader makes no mention of nuclear deterrence at national conference of war veterans**

Yonhap

Korea Herald, July 28, 2021

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said the country's armed forces are fully ready to deal with any outside threats as he addressed a conference of war veterans but unlike last year, made no mention of "nuclear deterrence," according to state media Wednesday. The annual conference, held Tuesday to mark the anniversary of the armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War, coincided with the surprise announcement that the North restored cross-border hotlines with South Korea that it had cut off more than a year ago. During the address, Kim said the North is facing challenges from the prolonged coronavirus lockdown but did not talk about strengthening the country's nuclear arsenal or relations with South Korea and the United States.

In last year's speech, Kim said the country has "reliable and effective self-defence nuclear deterrence." "We are faced with difficulties and hardship caused by the unprecedented global health crisis and prolonged lockdown no less challenging than how it was during the war," Kim said during this year's speech, according to the Korean Central News Agency. Kim said it was the "honorable mission for descendants of the generation who won the victory in the war to further consolidate and bring to prosperity forever the country." Top officials attending the conference included Choe Ryong-hae, president of the presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, and Jo Yong-won, secretary for Organizational Affairs of the party's Central Committee.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210728000301&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210728000301&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **World/Misc**

#### **US, Japan, S. Korea hold talks on N. Korea's nuclear threat**

DW, July 21, 2021

Officials discussed measures to curb North Korea's ballistic missile and nuclear program during talks in Tokyo. But tensions between Japan and South Korea continue to simmer. A news program at an electronics store in Seoul broadcasts a report on North Korea's suspected ballistic missile test. Despite strong international pressure, North Korea has refused to abandon its nuclear program. The United States, Japan and South Korea held three-way talks on Wednesday to discuss regional threats and their commitment to work together on curbing North Korea's nuclear program.

US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman told reporters after the meeting that close coordination among the countries "sends a very critical message to North Korea in that we are together and shoulder-to-shoulder in our approach to this policy." Sherman met her counterparts, Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Takeo Mori and South Korea's Choi Jong-Kum, in Tokyo.

<https://www.dw.com/en/us-japan-s-korea-hold-talks-on-n-koreas-nuclear-threat/a-58574499>

### **First concrete poured for Bolivian research reactor**

ANS, July 30, 2021

Key facilities at a multipurpose nuclear research center in the high plains of Bolivia are nearing operation, and a ceremonial first concrete pour for the nuclear research reactor that will serve as the centerpiece of the project was held on July 26. Bolivian president Luis Arce attended the ceremony at the Center for Nuclear Technology Research and Development (CNTRD). Also attending were Kirill Komarov, first deputy director general for corporate development and international business at Rosatom (Russia's state atomic energy agency), and authorities from the Ministry of Hydrocarbons and Energies and the Bolivian Nuclear Energy Agency (ABEN).

<https://www.ans.org/news/tag-rosatom/>



## **Contribute Articles**

Indian Pugwash Society welcomes research articles from students, researchers and faculties on Space, Missile, nuclear technology, WMD proliferation, arms control, disarmament, export controls and other related issues. Articles should be crisply written and should address contemporary debates in the policy arena. Manuscripts submitted for the consideration of the Indian Pugwash Society should be original contributions and should not have been submitted for consideration anywhere else. For further assistance, please contact us at: [indianpugwashsociety@gmail.com](mailto:indianpugwashsociety@gmail.com)

The Indian Pugwash Society aims to promote the study, discussion, and knowledge of and to stimulate general interest in, and to diffuse knowledge in regards to problems relating on WMD proliferation, arms control, disarmament, space security, export controls, nuclear technology and other related issues. This newsletter is part of the project "Emerging Nuclear Order in Asia: Implications for India" sanctioned to us by Department of Atomic Energy-Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (DAE-BRNS).

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