

# Nuclear, Missile & Space Digest

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## A. India

### Worldview with Suhasini Haidar | Have India-China talks at the LAC hit an impasse?

*Suhasini Haidar*

*The Hindu, October 16, 2021*

India China talks at the LAC took an acrimonious turn at the 13th round of talks between military commanders at Chushul-Moldo, a process that began in June 2020 to try and de-escalate tensions, disengage troops, dismantle infrastructure built close to the LAC and reduce the number of soldiers on both sides from the points of contention.

There is the increasing militarisation of the Indo-Pacific, where China is increasing bases, and sending its blue water navy to new ports in the Indian Ocean region. On the other side, the US has alliances, as its newly announced AUKUS grouping to ensure more nuclear propelled agile and hard to detect submarines at Australia's command. Any spark on India's continental front will make India's moves on the maritime front more strained.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/worldview-with-suhasini-haidar-have-india-china-talks-at-the-lac-hit-an-impasse/article37016672.ece>

### India introduces draft resolution in UNGA for granting Observer Status for International Solar Alliance

*The Hindu, October 16, 2021*

Underlining that the International Solar Alliance (ISA) will usher in a new era of "green energy diplomacy", India introduced a draft resolution in the UN General Assembly for granting Observer Status for the global initiative that would help provide for regular cooperation between ISA and the United Nations, benefiting global energy growth and development.

The ISA was jointly launched by India and France in 2015 at the 21st Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) held in Paris. The granting of Observer

Status to the ISA in the General Assembly would help provide for a regular and well-defined cooperation between the Alliance and the United Nations that would benefit global energy growth and development.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-introduces-draft-resolution-in-unga-for-granting-observer-status-for-international-solar-alliance/article37016157.ece>

### Afghanistan, Indo-Pacific on agenda of British Foreign Secretary, Chief of Defence Staff visit agenda

*Suhasini Haidar*

*The Hindu, October 17, 2021*

British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss and outgoing Chief of Defence Staff General Nick Carter will visit India this week even as the Indo-U.K. naval exercises involving the Carrier Strike Group (CSG) in the Bay of Bengal gets under way from October 21-27, and ahead of a pending visit by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, sources said here.

While the strategic purpose of the visits is to discuss the U.K.'s Indo-Pacific strategy and the newly announced Australia-U.K.-U.S. (AUKUS) alliance, both sides are also expected to focus on the situation in Afghanistan, amidst the perception in Delhi that the British government had played a major role in talks with the Taliban that led to them taking control of the country.

The visits, beginning October 22, are also being scheduled ahead of the upcoming Climate Change COP26 summit opening in Glasgow on October 31-November 1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is likely to visit Italy for the G-20 summit on October 30-31, is yet to decide on his plans for COP26, said officials. Gen. Carter is expected to meet CDS Gen. Bipin Rawat and the three service chiefs. He is also likely to call on NSA Ajit Doval.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/afghanistan-indo-pacific-on-agenda-of-british-foreign-secretary-chief-of-defence-staff-visit-agenda/article37040895.ece>

## UAVs, Aviation unit boost Army surveillance in eastern sector

*Dinakar Peri*

*The Hindu, October 17, 2021*

The Army Aviation has recently got control of the Heron-I Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) in the Eastern sector, which were earlier with the Artillery, bringing all aviation assets under one roof and augmenting its ability to keep an eye on Chinese activities across the border. The move comes just months after the raising of a new Aviation Brigade at Missamari, strengthening the Army's response as well as firepower.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/uavs-aviation-unit-boost-army-surveillance-in-eastern-sector/article37042275.ece>

## India deploys Pinaka, Smerch rocket system on China border

*The Economic Times, October 22, 2021*

Indian Army has deployed Pinaka and Smerch Multiple Rocket Launcher Systems (MRLS) at forward position near the China border to counter any threat arising across on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Pinaka weapon system is an autonomous rocket artillery system that can engage area targets up to 38km at mean sea level. At these altitudes, the ranges are enhanced significantly which further augments the deep strike capability of the weapon system. A battery of six launchers of Pinaka can fire a salvo of 72 rockets in 44 seconds thereby neutralising an area of 1000m by 800m.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-deploys-pinaka-smerch-rocket-system-on-china-border/deep-strike-capability/slideshow/87206796.cms>

## High-Speed Expendable Aerial Target ABHYAS successfully flight-tested by DRDO

*PIB, October 22, 2021*

ABHYAS - the High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) was successfully flight-tested today by Defence Research and

Development Organisation (DRDO) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Bay of Bengal in Odisha. The vehicle can be used as an aerial target for evaluation of various missile systems. The performance of the target aircraft was monitored through telemetry and various tracking sensors including Radars and Electro Optical Tracking System (EOTS).

Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO for the successful flight trial of Abhyas. The current flight test is carried out as a part of developmental flight trials. Expression of interest for production of the vehicle has already been floated to Indian industries. This indigenous target aircraft, once developed, will meet the requirements of High-speed Expendable Aerial Targets (HEAT) for Indian Armed Forces.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1765772>

## India among select few countries developing hypersonic missiles: U.S. Congressional report

*The Hindu, October 22, 2021*

India is among the select few countries which are developing hypersonic weapons, an independent Congressional report has said, amidst a media report which claimed that China recently tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile which circled the globe before missing its target, demonstrating an advanced space capability that caught U.S. intelligence by surprise.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/india-among-select-few-countries-developing-hypersonic-missiles-us-congressional-report/article37119764.ece>

## Agni-V successfully test-fired

*The Hindu, October 27, 2021*

India successfully test-fired its longest range surface-to-surface ballistic missile, Agni-V. "A successful launch of the surface-to-surface ballistic missile, Agni-5, was carried out on October 27, 2021 at



approximately 1950 hrs from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha,” the Defence Ministry said.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/agni-v-successfully-test-fired/article37197942.ece>

### **Coast Guard’s offshore patrol vessel Sarthak commissioned in Goa**

*The Economic Times, October 28, 2021*

The Indian Coast Guard’s new offshore patrol vessel (OPV) Sarthak was commissioned into service in Goa by its Director General K Natarajan on October 28. Sarthak is fourth in a series of five OPVs being built by the Goa Shipyard Limited for the Indian Coast Guard.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/coast-guards-offshore-patrol-vessel-sarthak-commissioned-in-go/aarticleshow/87343240.cms?from=mdr>

### **UNGA committee endorses India’s resolution for granting Observer Status to International Solar Alliance**

*The Hindu, October 29, 2021*

As world leaders gather for the climate change summit in Glasgow, a draft resolution introduced by India for granting the Observer Status to the International Solar Alliance has been adopted in a U.N. General Assembly committee. The draft resolution was adopted in the General Assembly’s Sixth Committee, that deals with legal issues, without a vote on October 28.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/unga-committee-endorses-indias-resolution-for-granting-observer-status-to-international-solar-alliance/article37225038.ece>

### **Indian Navy’s stealth frigate Tushil launched in Russia**

*Dinakar Peri*

*The Hindu, October 29, 2021*

The first of two additional Krivak or Talwar-class stealth frigates, Tushil, being built in

Russia for the Indian Navy, was formally launched into the waters, the Navy said on October 29. It is part of four follow-on frigates contracted by India from Russia, of which two are being built by Russia and two are under construction in India through technology transfer.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/first-of-two-stealth-frigates-tushil-for-indian-navy-launched-in-russia/article37225924.ece>

## **B. China**

### **US should stop eyeing too much on China’s hypersonic missiles and broaden its horizons**

*Global Times, October 17, 2021*

The Financial Times (FT) quoted on Saturday several sources saying that “the Chinese military launched a rocket that carried a hypersonic glide vehicle” in August and judged it to be a “nuclear capable hypersonic missile.” According to the FT article, the missile “flew through low-orbit space” and could help China “negate” US missile defense systems which are designed to target the fixed parabolic trajectory of a ballistic missile. The progress of the Chinese military has “caught US intelligence by surprise,” the report said. The US generally has the ability to monitor global missile launches. If the FT report is to be believed, it means that there is a key new member in China’s nuclear deterrence system, which is a new blow to the US’ mentality of strategic superiority over China. According to the FT, the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology announced the 77th and 79th launches of the Long March 2C rocket, but there was no announcement of a 78th launch. The report believes the 78th “secret launch” may be to test the above-mentioned hypersonic missile.

The FT also reported that China has tested a new space capability with a hypersonic missile, citing sources. It said the missile missed its target by about more than 30 kilometers, yet the test showed that “China had made astounding progress on

hypersonic weapons.” But if Chinese authorities do not voluntarily release such top defense secrets, others can only speculate based on technical monitoring methods.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202110/1236541.shtml>

### **US nuclear submarine accident sparks safety fears in South China Sea**

*South China Morning Post, October 16, 2021*

The damage to a US nuclear attack submarine which collided with a mystery object in the South China Sea earlier this month has raised concerns about their operational safety, as well as what happens to damaged and decommissioned nuclear reactors. Defence experts have warned that nuclear submarines – among the world’s deadliest weapons – are also vulnerable in the event of an underwater accident causing a nuclear leak, regardless of whether they are general-purpose attack subs (SSN) or platforms for the launch of ballistic missiles (SSBN).

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3152181/us-nuclear-submarine-accident-sparks-safety-fears-south-china>

### **Chinese, Saudi Arabian FM’s agree to push resumption of Iran nuclear deal**

*CGTN, October 18, 2021*

China will continue to play a constructive role in promoting the negotiations on resuming the implementation of the Iran nuclear deal, said Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday during a phone conversation with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud. The comprehensive agreement on the Iranian nuclear issue is an important achievement of multilateralism, he added. Faisal said that Saudi Arabia attaches great importance to China’s unique role on the Iranian nuclear issue and expects it to play an important role in promoting the resumption of the Iran nuclear deal and

the comprehensive and lasting settlement of the issue.

The two sides also agreed to make joint efforts in pushing bilateral relations to a higher and deeper level. In the face of a volatile international situation, China and Saudi Arabia need to maintain close strategic communication, which is an inherent part of the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries, said Wang. Noting that China always gives priority to its relations with Saudi Arabia in its diplomacy in the Middle East, he said that China is willing to be a long-term reliable and stable good friend and partner to Saudi Arabia. China will continue to support Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030, Green Saudi Arabia and Green Middle East initiatives, and actively participate in major development projects in Saudi Arabia, he said, adding that China is ready to work with Saudi Arabia to synergize the Belt and Road Initiative with Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030 and push for more results in bilateral cooperation in fields such as energy, infrastructure, investment and 5G.

China appreciates Saudi Arabia’s active preparations for the China-Arab summit and is willing to maintain communication with Saudi Arabia and start preparations for the summit in due course, he added. Faisal said the Saudi-China relationship is very important and is developing very well, adding that Saudi Arabia always regards China as a truly credible strategic partner and is willing to work with China to deepen all-round bilateral cooperation in various fields. Expressing gratitude to China for opposing external interference in Saudi Arabia’s internal affairs, he said that Saudi Arabia also firmly opposes any interference in China’s internal affairs, which is a principle Saudi Arabia has always defended.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-10-18/China-Saudi-Arabia-agree-to-push-resumption-of-Iran-nuclear-deal-14s0luzmQtG/index.html>

## China sends in 100 rocket launchers to fortify border with India

Minnie Chan

*South China Morning Post, October 19, 2021*

China has deployed more than 100 advanced long-range rocket launchers to its high-altitude borders with India, according to a source close to the Chinese military, as the two sides remain deadlocked over their protracted boundary disputes. The source said the People's Liberation Army was ramping up defences in preparation for the Himalayan winter and in response to the Indian Army's deployment of three regiments with M777 ultra-light howitzers along the contested Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. "The PLA has deployed more than 100 PCL-181 light, truck-mounted howitzers along borders with India. The firing range of this Chinese-developed launcher is double that of the M777," the source said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3152907/china-sends-100-rocket-launchers-fortify-border-india>

## China-Russia coordination helps break AUKUS encirclement

Wei Dongxu

*Global Times, October 19, 2021*

The China-Russia joint naval drill that kicked off in the Sea of Japan can counter AUKUS, the newly formed trilateral security partnership between the US, the UK and Australia. It will further help Beijing and Moscow break through the US-led security containment. China has a strong and reliable partner in the Western Pacific: Russia.

This time, China has sent its most advanced 10,000-ton-class Type 055 large destroyer, while Russia dispatched the main force of its Pacific Fleet. This demonstrates that China and Russia attach great importance to defence cooperation. In addition, the joint anti-submarine operations between China and Russia are also worth people's attention. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy

have sent multiple types of main battle equipment to the drills, including the fixed wing anti-submarine patrol aircraft.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202110/1236726.shtml>

## China warns against AUKUS, to make meetings routine with Pacific Island countries, enhancing ties to higher level

Deng Xiaoci

*Global Times, October 21, 2021*

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi warned of nuclear spill from the tripartite alliance AUKUS, during a meeting with foreign ministers of Pacific Island countries. Speaking at the first China-Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers' Meeting by video link, Wang pointed out that AUKUS will jeopardize the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, introduce an arms race and damage regional peace and stability. China is willing to work with the Pacific Island countries to safeguard the international nuclear non-proliferation system with the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty as the cornerstone and the nuclear free zone in South Pacific.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202110/1236961.shtml>

## Chinese scientists build anti-satellite weapon that can cause explosion inside exhaust Stephen Chen

*South China Morning Post, October 22, 2021*

A team of Chinese military researchers say they have built and tested an anti-satellite robotic device that can place a small pack of explosives into a probe's exhaust nozzle. Rather than blowing the satellite into pieces, the melt-cast explosive can produce a "time-controlled, steady explosion", Professor Sun Yunzhong and colleagues from the Hunan Defence Industry Polytechnic in Xiangtan wrote in a paper



published in the domestic journal Electronic Technology & Software Engineering last month. The device could stay inside the satellite for an extended period by using a locking mechanism driven by an electric motor. If needed, the process can be reversed to separate it from the target.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3153174/chinese-scientists-build-anti-satellite-weapon-can-cause>

### **Zhangzhou nuclear power plant, using Hualong One reactor, progresses in construction**

*Global Times, October 27, 2021*

China National Nuclear Corporation's (CNNC) power generator in Zhangzhou, East China's Fujian Province, which used China's self-developed Hualong One nuclear reactor, completed its dome installation on October 27, according to the official WeChat account of CNNC, and, the generator is entering its internal construction phase. CNNC said the installation of nuclear power plant's dome is a milestone for the overall construction process of Zhangzhou nuclear power plant. The dome will play an essential role in isolating nuclear radiation produced inside the reactor.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202110/1237433.shtml>

### **China steps up number of missile tests in drive to boost reliability**

*Stephen Chen*

*South China Morning Post, October 28, 2021*

China has increased the number of test flights its missiles must undergo before they enter mass production in an effort to improve reliability, according to a new study. New air-to-air missiles previously had to take eight tests where they hit a moving target to prove their worth, a requirement that has now risen to 15. When other tests – for example, checking its resilience against electromagnetic pulse attacks – are factored in, the new missile will

have to undertake around 20 tests. In recent years China has increased the frequency and scale of military exercises using live, cutting-edge weapons.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3154060/china-steps-number-missile-tests-drive-boost-reliability>

## **C. USA**

### ***Blinken meets IAEA director-general for talks on Iran, N. Korea***

*Yonhap*

*Korea Herald, October 19, 2021*

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Monday for talks on a wide range of issues that the chief of the nuclear watchdog said will include North Korea. The meeting between Blinken and IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi marked the first of its kind since the top US diplomat took office in January. "The United States strongly supports the work of the IAEA. It is critical to helping to maintain international peace and stability. It's obviously playing a vital role in monitoring Iran's nuclear activities, and it plays a critical role in helping to forge cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear power," Blinken said at the top of their meeting in Washington.

"So there's a lot to talk about today. Needless to say Iran is a big part of the focus," he added. Monday's meeting comes as the US is seeking to bring Iran back to joint compliance with a multilateral nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Iran left the nuclear deal soon after the US' own departure in 2018. Grossi said he and Blinken had many other issues, including North Korea, to discuss. "Like the secretary just said we have a vast agenda in front of us, ranging from important political issues like Iran or the situation (in) DPRK and the other parts of the world, and also how the United States is supporting as to our work, peaceful uses

of nuclear energy," he said, referring to North Korea by its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211019000106&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211019000106&ACE_SEARCH=1)

## US envoy for N. Korea to visit Seoul for talks on end-of-war declaration

*Yonhap*

*Korea Herald, October 19, 2021*

US Special Representative for North Korea Policy Sung Kim will visit Seoul this week for talks on ways to restart dialogue with the reclusive North, including an end-of-war declaration, the US diplomat said Monday. Kim's trip to Seoul will follow his meeting with his South Korean and Japanese counterparts, Noh Kyu-duk and Takehiro Funakoshi, respectively, here in Washington this week. "Special Representative Noh and I also discussed the end of war proposal, and I look forward to continuing those discussions and other issues of mutual concern when I'm in Seoul later this week," the US diplomat said of his meeting with Noh at the State Department.

"Special Representative Noh and I had an excellent meeting this afternoon in advance of tomorrow's trilateral meeting with Japanese Director-General Funakoshi," he added. South Korean President Moon Jae-in proposed declaring a formal end to the Korean War during the UN General Assembly in New York last month as a way of bringing North Korea back to the dialogue table and resuming its denuclearization process.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211019000137&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211019000137&ACE_SEARCH=1)

## US general confirms China's advances in hypersonic weapons race

*DW, October 22, 2021*

Top US General Mark Milley has expressed concern over an advanced hypersonic weapons test reportedly carried out by China. He compared it to the Soviet Union's

"Sputnik" breakthrough during the Cold War. The Pentagon's top general said on Wednesday that China is making significant advances in hypersonic weapons systems, which would be difficult for the US to defend against. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is the first top Pentagon official to confirm China's successful test. "What we saw was a very significant event of a test of a hypersonic weapon system. And it is very concerning," Milley told Bloomberg TV.

He also addressed comparisons that have been made to early wins by the Soviet Union in the Cold War space race. "I don't know if it's quite a Sputnik moment, but I think it's very close to that," the general said. The Soviet Union launched the Sputnik satellite in 1957, which caught the US by surprise and led to fears it was falling behind technologically in an accelerating arms race.

<https://www.dw.com/en/us-general-confirms-chinas-advances-in-hypersonic-weapons-race/a-59646750>

## US allies concerned about possible 'no first use' change to nuclear policy: report

*DW, October 29, 2021*

US allies hope US President Joe Biden will clarify his views on US nuclear policy at the G20 summit. There is concern the US could adopt a "no first use" policy, eliminating allies' nuclear umbrella. US allies including Britain, France and Germany in Europe and Japan and Australia in the Indo-Pacific region have been lobbying US President Joe Biden not to alter existing US nuclear policy to include a "no first use" declaration, The Financial Times reported Friday.

Allies share concerns that the Congressionally mandated nuclear policy posture review could undermine long-established deterrence efforts aimed at Russia and China. While some allies believe Biden will refrain from alterations to the existing policy, which has not changed

much since the end of the Cold War, many are concerned Biden could consider a policy referred to as “sole purpose.” Any changes that could inhibit the perception that the US would confine itself to the use of nuclear weapons in a prescribed set of circumstances triggers fears among allies that the “nuclear umbrella” of US allies would weaken and “be a huge gift to Russia and China,” in the words of one European official quoted by The Financial Times.

<https://www.dw.com/en/us-allies-concerned-about-possible-no-first-use-change-to-nuclear-policy-report/a-59669965>

### **US, European leaders call on Iran to change nuclear course**

*DW, October 30, 2021*

Leaders from the United States, Germany, France and the UK have said that Iran’s nuclear advances will jeopardize the possibility of a return to a deal regulating Tehran’s nuclear program. Various centrifuge machines line the hall damaged on Sunday, April 11, 2021, at the Natanz Uranium Enrichment Facility, some 200 miles (322 km) south of the capital Tehran, Iran

Western powers are determined not to allow Iran into the nuclear weapons club. The United States, Germany, France and the UK on Saturday said they have “grave and growing concern” about Iran’s nuclear program.

“We are convinced that it remains possible to quickly reach and implement an understanding on return to full compliance,” the countries’ leaders said in a joint statement after meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Rome. “This will only be possible if Iran changes course.” US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said they wanted “to ensure that Iran can never develop or acquire a nuclear weapon.”

<https://www.dw.com/en/us-european-leaders-call-on-iran-to-change-nuclear-course/a-59674693>

### **US sanctions 6 Iranian targets over drone activities**

*DW, October 30, 2021*

The US Treasury has blacklisted two individuals and four entities involved in Iran’s unmanned aerial vehicles program. Washington has said Iranian drones have been used to attack US forces and international shipping. Top officials of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (R) unveiling a new drone called ‘Gaza’. All six targets of the US sanctions are linked Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The United States on Friday imposed sanctions on two Iranian individuals and four entities allegedly involved in Tehran’s drone program, the Treasury and State departments said.

The latest sanctions come as Washington seeks to heighten pressure on Iran ahead of plans to reopen talks on the country’s nuclear program. Iran’s lethal unmanned aerial vehicles or UAVs “have been used in attacks on international shipping and on US forces,” the Treasury Department said in a statement. It also accused Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) of supplying drones to Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah, the Hamas movement and Yemen’s Houthi rebel forces. The Treasury added that the drones have also been seen in Ethiopia, “where the escalating crisis threatens to destabilize the broader region.” “Iran’s proliferation of UAVs across the region threatens international peace and stability,” Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo said in a statement.

<https://www.dw.com/en/us-sanctions-6-iranian-targets-over-drone-activities/a-59670356>

#### ***D. Europe***

### **German officer kept radioactive material, secret documents in weapons cache**

*DW, October 22, 2021*

Prosecutors confirmed reports that police found radioactive material and

intelligence documents on North Korea in a German officer's possession. Police searched his home after he tried to mail silencers to the US. The Frankfurt Public Prosecutor's Office confirmed on Friday that it is investigating a captain in Germany's Bundeswehr army for violating the military weapons control act as well as for the "unauthorized handling of radioactive material." The confirmation came after the publication on Friday of a report in the German weekly magazine Der Spiegel that was sourced from Defense Ministry documents.

A Bundeswehr munitions analyst specialized in improvised explosive devices (IEDs), the 32-year-old came to authorities' attention when customs agents at Frankfurt International Airport discovered a package of sound suppressors, or silencers, that the man had attempted to mail to an individual in the US – where it is illegal to possess silencers not properly registered as required by the National Firearms Act. That find prompted police to obtain a search warrant for the man's residence. He was arrested during an October 12 raid in Aldenhoven, a town of some 14,000 in the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia. The man remains in police custody.

During the raid, police found a cache of illegal weapons including AK-47 assault rifles, anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons, as well as grenades. Authorities confirmed that they also secured an "unspecified quantity" of Strontium-90, a radioactive isotope found that is used in both medical and industrial applications as well as in nuclear weapons. Germany's Defense Ministry said the weapons do not belong to the Bundeswehr. The Spiegel report cited sources saying the weapons likely came from former Soviet bloc depots. Further, the discovery of BND foreign intelligence agency documents on North Korea has prompted the Bundeswehr's Military Counterintelligence Service (MAD) to join the investigation.

<https://www.dw.com/en/german-officer-kept-radioactive-material-secret-documents-in-weapons-cache/a-59600162>

## Do France's plans for small nuclear reactors have hidden agenda?

*DW, October 22, 2021*

Although France plans to invest in small modular nuclear reactors, experts doubt that this is ecologically and economically sensible. Yet it may be more about geopolitical strategy than energy. No other country in the world relies so heavily on nuclear energy as France. In the wake of the disaster at nuclear power plant Fukushima Daiichi 10 years ago, numerous countries have reviewed their stance on nuclear energy. A tsunami had hit the coast of Japan and flooded the power station, triggering several nuclear meltdowns.

Germany, for example, subsequently decided to bring forward its planned nuclear phaseout to 2022. In Italy, 95% of the population voted in a referendum against a return to nuclear power. Meanwhile, countries such as Finland, the United States, Russia and France have kept their nuclear plants online, and even decided to expand in recent years. A French law says the country will have to reduce its share of nuclear energy from currently roughly 70% – the highest in the world – to 50% in 2035, a goal President Emmanuel Macron has in the past called unrealistic. But in pursuing small modular reactors (SMRs), some experts believe France may have a hidden agenda.

<https://www.dw.com/en/do-frances-plans-for-small-nuclear-reactors-have-hidden-agenda/a-59585614>

## Nuclear power: Are energy price hikes prompting a German rethink?

*DW, October 25, 2021*

Energy prices/ are soaring/ globally, and Germany's neighbors are building new nuclear reactors./ Some want to revisit the commitment to go nuclear-free./ / In



Germany, the stock market price for electricity has risen by around 140% since January. Experts believe energy prices are being driven up by the rocketing cost of natural gas, which has gone up 440% since the beginning of the year.

So far electricity and gas prices for households in Germany have increased only 4.7% in the first half of 2021, but many consumers fear the rise in market costs may soon be passed on to them. Germany already pays the most for electricity in Europe, with around half of the cost made up of taxes, levies, and surcharges, part of which is meant to facilitate the transition to renewable energy. Currently about a quarter of Germany's electricity comes from coal and about another quarter from renewables, 16% from natural gas and around 11% from nuclear energy.

This December, half of Germany's remaining nuclear reactors are scheduled to be taken offline. The other half are to/ cease operation next year as part of the government's plan to go nuclear-free. That shift could potentially drive energy prices even higher as Germany also moves away from coal and becomes more reliant on gas in the short term while planning to move to renewables in the long term. Three-quarters of Germans/ want/ their/ government to take tougher measures to combat price rises, and 31% said they would/ support/ keeping/ nuclear power if it would stabilize electricity/ prices, according to a poll by the price comparison service/ Verivox. The study surveyed 1,000 people aged 18 to 69 across Germany in September 2021 and was representative of the population in terms of age, gender and the German state of residence. That statistic represents an 11% increase in support for nuclear power since 2018./ /

<https://www.dw.com/en/nuclear-power-are-energy-price-hikes-prompting-a-german-rethink/a-59594913>

## *E. Russia*

### **Russia scrambles fighter jets to escort US strategic bombers over Black Sea**

*The Indian Express, October 20, 2021*

Russia scrambled two Sukhoi Su-30 fighter jets to escort a pair of US B-1B strategic bombers over the Black Sea, Russia's defence ministry said, an incident that coincided with a visit to the region by the US secretary of defence. The supersonic US Cold war-era planes were originally designed to carry nuclear bombs and missiles but now carry conventional payloads.

"Russian fighter crews identified the aerial targets as two US Air Force supersonic strategic B-1B bombers, accompanied by two KC-135 refuelling planes, and escorted them over the waters of the Black Sea," the defence ministry said in a statement accompanied by video footage of the US aircraft in flight.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/world/russia-scrambles-fighter-jets-to-escort-us-strategic-bombers-over-black-sea-7581460/>

### **US begins modernizing tactical nuclear weapons and storage sites in Europe – Shoigu**

*TASS Russian News Agency, October 20, 2021*

The US military has launched active work for modernizing tactical nuclear weapons and their storage sites in European countries, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said on October 20. As the Russian defense minister pointed out, "a cause for special concern is the engagement of pilots from the bloc's non-nuclear member states in the drills to practice employing tactical nuclear weapons." "We regard this as a direct violation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons," Russia's defense chief stressed.

<https://tass.com/defense/1351811>

## NATO to agree master plan to deter growing Russian threat

*The Indian Express, October 21, 2021*

NATO defence ministers are set to agree a new master plan on October 28 to defend against any potential Russian attack on multiple fronts, reaffirming the alliance's core goal of deterring Moscow despite a growing focus on China. The confidential strategy aims to prepare for any simultaneous attack in the Baltic and Black Sea regions that could include nuclear weapons, hacking of computer networks and assaults from space. "It recognises a more 21st century threat and how to deal with it," British defence minister Ben Wallace told reporters. Officials stress that they do not believe any Russian attack is imminent. Moscow denies any aggressive intentions and says it is NATO that risks destabilising Europe with such preparations.

With Russia upgrading or replacing Soviet military space systems to potentially attack satellites in orbit, developing artificial intelligence-based technologies to disrupt allied command systems, Moscow is also developing "super weapons". Unveiled in 2018, they include nuclear-capable hypersonic cruise missiles that could evade early-warning systems.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/world/nato-to-agree-master-plan-to-deter-growing-russian-threat-7583509/>

## Knyaz Oleg submarine test-fires Bulava ICBM from White Sea to Kamchatka's Kura range

*TASS Russian News Agency, October 21, 2021*

The ballistic missile submarine Knyaz Oleg has successfully launched a Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) from the White Sea to the Kura range in Kamchatka during state trials, the Russian Defense Ministry told journalists. The Defense Ministry reported that, according to confirmed data of the objective control, "the missile's warheads successfully reached the designated area at the estimated time." Knyaz Oleg is the first serial Project

955A Borei-A class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine.

<https://tass.com/defense/1352231>

## Welding defect uncovered at Rostov NPP unit's key pipe, says Rosenergoatom

*TASS, October 21, 2021*

Specialists have detected a welding defect on a pipe at Unit 2 of the Rostov nuclear power plant (NPP), the Rosenergoatom concern reported. Unit 2 has been taken offline for maintenance upon request and in line with the established procedure since carrying out upkeep work at the site of the heated equipment is impossible. No violation of the parameters and terms of safe exploitation has been registered, the report said.

Rosenergoatom said earlier that Unit 2 of the Rostov NPP had been taken offline for extensive repairs for 45 days from August 2 to September 19. The reactor system of the unit, as well as all safety systems, underwent maintenance, overhaul, and repairs, the concern said. Moreover, the low-pressure cylinder of the turbine generating unit, the turbine generator and the main equipment of the turbine house were repaired.

The Rostov nuclear power plant is a subsidiary of the Rosenergoatom concern (part of Rosatom). It was known as the Volgodonsk NPP in 2001-2010. The NPP is located on the banks of the Tsimlyansk reservoir, 13.5 kilometers to the northeast of Volgodonsk. Rostov-on-Don and Volgograd are situated 205 and 175 kilometers away from the NPP, respectively.

<https://tass.com/emergencies/1352291>

## Background radiation in Russia's Rostov Region in line with average value, says regulator

*TASS, October 21, 2021*

The level of background radiation in Russia's Rostov Region equals 0.10-0.12

mcSv/h, which is in line with the average values of long-term observations, Russia's Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing said in a statement.

The Rosenergoatom concern said earlier the specialists had detected a welding defect on a pipe at Unit 2 of the Rostov nuclear power plant (NPP). To remove it the unit was taken offline.

The system, in which the defect was found, is part of the second 'clear' circuit with clear, non-radioactive water circulating, the concern noted, adding that no violation of the parameters and terms of safe exploitation were registered.

<https://tass.com/emergencies/1352411>

### **US for dialogue with Russia on risks of escalation in cybersphere – Pentagon official**

*TASS Russian News Agency, October 22, 2021*

US Deputy Assistant Defence Secretary of Cyber Policy said there were certain problems with applying the traditional model of arms control to the cybersphere. The United States is for continuing the dialogue with Russia and China on the risks of an escalation in the cyberspace and for achieving mutual understanding on the issue, US Deputy Assistant Defense Secretary of Cyber Policy Mieke Eoyang said at a meeting with the Washington Defense Writers Group.

"One of the challenges of the nuclear deterrence and arms control model in the cyber domain is that it's not quite the same. In the nuclear arena you can do verification, we have physical weapons that you can count, you can locate, have physical targets that you can talk about. In the cyber domain it's much more difficult to do that kind of a verification regime."

<https://tass.com/world/1352057>

### **Nuclear powers bear huge responsibility for nuclear weapons, says Putin**

*TASS Russian News Agency, October 22, 2021*

Nuclear powers bear huge responsibility for nuclear weapons and a threat of complete mutual annihilation exists, Russian President Vladimir Putin said. "You spoke about nuclear weapons - this is the nuclear powers' huge responsibility. And you said that it is senseless to talk about World War III in these conditions. But a threat of complete mutual annihilation exists. Let us not forget about that," the Russian president said at a session of the Valdai International Discussion Club, responding to a question about the threat of a third world war.

<https://tass.com/politics/1352703>

### **Steam Leak Detected at Russian Nuclear Plant**

*The Moscow Times, October 22, 2021*

Russia said Thursday it had taken offline a reactor at a nuclear plant in the south of the country after detecting a steam leak, but said radiation levels were normal. The state nuclear agency operates 38 reactors – mostly built during the Soviet period at 11 nuclear power stations across the country. The operator of the country's nuclear power plants said the leak was due to a welding defect on an 18-millimetre pipe carrying non-radioactive water in the reactor's steam generator.

Radiation levels at the plant near the city of Volgodonsk were "in line with normal background levels," Rosenergoatom said. Russia is one of the world's largest producers of nuclear energy, and officials sporadically report operating faults. The Kremlin is aiming to position itself as a key exporter of nuclear energy services, and Rosatom is working on projects in countries including Egypt and India.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/10/21/steam-leak-detected-at-russian-nuclear-plant-a75366>

## **German attache in Moscow given a note over Germany's nuclear deterrence statements**

*TASS, October 25, 2021*

The German military attache in Moscow was summoned to Russia's Defense Ministry where he was handed a note and told that statements by German Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer on nuclear deterrence of Russia provoked tension in Europe, the Russian Defense Ministry reported.

During the meeting, the military attache was handed a note and the Russian Defense Ministry stated that pronouncements by German Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer on nuclear deterrence of Russia provoked further tension in Europe, the ministry said. On October 21, the German defense minister claimed in a live broadcast of the Deutschlandfunk radio station that NATO was ready, if necessary, to employ military capabilities, including nuclear weapons, to deter Russia.

<https://tass.com/defense/1353825>

## **Russia to discuss tactical nuclear weapons only after US removes them from Europe – envoy**

*TASS, October 26, 2021*

The withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons from Europe and the elimination of infrastructure for them are a precondition for a dialogue on such weapons between Russia and the US, Russian Ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov said, speaking at the International Advisory Council of James Martin Center for Non-proliferation Studies - CNS of Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (California).

"A prerequisite for discussing non-strategic nuclear weapons is the withdrawal of US warheads of this class from Europe to the national territory, the elimination of the infrastructure for their storage and maintenance and the termination of the

NATO practice of nuclear sharing missions," the diplomat said.

<https://tass.com/politics/1353987>

## **Seoul and Moscow agreed to cooperate closely on North Korean problem – Foreign Minister**

*TASS, October 27, 2021*

Seoul and Moscow have agreed upon close cooperation to settle the situation on the Korean Peninsula, South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs Chung Eui-yong reported on October 27 following negotiations with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov. "We agreed upon the urgency to settle the North Korean nuclear issue, and close cooperation at different levels for the swift restoration of peace on the Korean Peninsula. We exchanged opinions over different activities of interaction.

<https://tass.com/politics/1354721>

## **Russian scientists find a way to produce safe nuclear fuel for hydrogen synthesis**

*TASS, October 27, 2021*

Scientists at Tomsk Polytechnic University (TPU) have found a way to synthesize fuel oxide compositions for high-temperature gas-cooled reactors, making them safe in case of an accident and synthesizing hydrogen left in them, associate professor of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Department at TPU's Nuclear Engineering School Alexander Karengin told TASS on the sidelines of the "Hydrogen. Technologies. The Future" conference.

<https://tass.com/science/1354665>

## **Russia's Bulava ICBM invulnerable to any ABM systems – commander**

*TASS, October 27, 2021*

Russia's R-30 Bulava intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) are invulnerable to any anti-ballistic missile defense system, Chief of Staff of the Pacific Fleet's



Submarine Force Command Rear Admiral Arkady Navarsky stated.

“As its main advantages, the Bulava is easy in its maintenance and can maneuver at its boost stage, which makes the missile invulnerable to any ABM system,” the rear admiral stressed. Project 955 Borei-class strategic nuclear-powered underwater cruisers are the carriers of R-30 Bulava solid-propellant intercontinental ballistic missiles in the Russian Navy.

<https://tass.com/defense/1354531>

### **Taimyr nuclear-powered icebreaker ready for Northern Sea Route winter season**

*TASS, October 27, 2021*

The Taimyr nuclear-powered icebreaker (owned by Rosatom’s Atomflot) on Wednesday left the Kara Gates, separating Novaya Zemlya from the mainland, and entered the Northern Sea Route ready to escort vessels there, Atomflot stated. The Taimyr is a shallow-draft nuclear-powered icebreaker, which takes vessels into estuaries of Siberian rivers. The icebreaker can crash ice of up to 2 meters thick. If the ice is 1.77m, the icebreaker’s speed is 2 knots. The Taimyr works at air temperatures up to minus 50 degrees.

<https://tass.com/economy/1354747>

### **Tomsk develops a hydrogen energy materials research facility for Rosatom**

*TASS, October 27, 2021*

Scientists of Tomsk Polytechnic University (TPU) have developed a facility unparalleled in Russia for DV Efremov Institute of Electrophysical Apparatus (part of Rosatom), which allows to study new absorbing materials used to transport and store hydrogen.

This complex is needed to study materials created for hydrogen energy, the scientific leader of the project, Head of the Experimental Physics Department of TPU Engineering School of Nuclear Technologies

Andrey Lider told TASS. These are hydrogen storage and transportation materials that can easily absorb and give up hydrogen, and vice versa, materials that are resistant to the effects of hydrogen. It has already been handed over to the customer.

<https://tass.com/science/1354841>

### **Russia’s Pacific Fleet to receive four nuclear subs in coming years, says rear admiral**

*TASS, October 27, 2021*

The submarine forces of Russia’s Pacific Fleet will be bolstered with four new ships, including two improved Borei-A-class and two Yasen-M-class nuclear-powered submarines, Chief of Staff of the Pacific Fleet’s Submarine Force Command Rear Admiral Arkady Navarsky stated.

According to Rear Admiral Navarsky, the Pacific Fleet will receive upgraded Borei-A subs armed with R-30 Bulava SLBMs. The upgraded Borei-A submarines are an evolution of this submarine class, equipped with cutting-edge weaponry and surveillance systems. The Pacific Fleet is also slated to obtain Novosibirsk and Krasnoyarsk, two of the Yasen-class nuclear-powered submarines currently under construction, he added.

<https://tass.com/defense/1354851>

### **Press review: EU gas prices begin to fall and Putin calls to bolster ASEAN cooperation**

*TASS, October 29, 2021*

Russia is interested in boosting security cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), President Vladimir Putin said, addressing the fourth Russia-ASEAN summit that took place via video conference. Vladimir Putin highlighted the need to strengthen regional security during the East Asia Summit. According to the Russian leader, following the termination of the Russia-US Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, the Asia-Pacific was

confronted with the possible deployment of this kind of weapons to the region.

<https://tass.com/pressreview/1355527>

### **Russian, Iranian diplomats discuss int'l efforts toward restoring Iran nuclear deal**

*TASS, October 29, 2021*

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov and visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri discussed international efforts toward restoring the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear program, the Russian foreign ministry said on October 29. "Key attention was focused on the prospects of international efforts toward restoring the sustainable implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action around the Iranian nuclear program. We are convinced that this work should be continued," the ministry said.

<https://tass.com/world/1355745>

### **Akkuyu NPP new unit license increases Rosatom's chances for new orders in Turkey – expert**

*TASS, October 29, 2021*

Obtaining a license for the construction of the fourth power unit of the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) increases Rosatom's chances of receiving its next "nuclear" order in Turkey, editor-in-chief of Atominfo.ru Alexander Uvarov stated. It was reported earlier on Friday that Akkuyu Nuclear (part of Russian state nuclear corporation Rosatom) has received a license for the construction of the fourth unit of the Turkish nuclear power plant Akkuyu.

<https://tass.com/economy/1355809>

### **Share of low carbon sources in Russia's energy production stands at 40%, official says**

*TASS, October 30, 2021*

The share of low carbon sources in Russia's energy production stands at 40%, Russian

Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev stated. Patrushev specified that "the share of low carbon energy sources, which primarily include nuclear and hydroelectric power, stands at 40% in Russia's energy production."

<https://tass.com/economy/1356001>

### **Russian, French top diplomats discuss situation in southeast Ukraine**

*TASS, October 31, 2021*

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian discussed the situation in southeastern Ukraine, as well as Libya, Mali and the Iranian nuclear deal, during their meeting in Rome, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on October 30

<https://tass.com/politics/1356099>

## **West Asia**

### **F. Iran**

### **Iran unveils new negotiation strategy**

*Tehran Times, October 17, 2021*

While the West is pressuring Iran for a return to the Vienna nuclear talks, the top Iranian diplomat unveiled a new strategy on the talks that could reset the whole negotiation process. The Iranian parliament held a closed meeting on Sunday at which Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian briefed the lawmakers on a variety of pressing issues including the situation around the stalled nuclear talks between Iran and world powers over reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The Iranian foreign ministry didn't give any details about the session, but some lawmakers offered an important glimpse into the assessment Abdollahian gave to the parliament.

According to these lawmakers, the Iranian foreign ministry addressed many issues

ranging from tensions with Azerbaijan to the latest developments in Iranian-Western relations especially with regard to the JCPOA. On Azerbaijan, Abdollahian has warned Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev against falling into the trap set by Israel, according to Alireza Salimi, a member of the Iranian Parliament's presiding board who attended the meeting. Salimi also said that the Iranian foreign minister urged Aliyev to not implicate himself in the "Americans' complexed scheme." "Regarding the nuclear talks, the foreign minister explicitly stated that the policy of the Islamic Republic is action for action, and that the Americans must show goodwill and honesty," Salimi told Fars News on Sunday. The remarks were in line with Iran's oft-repeated stance on the JCPOA negotiations. What's new is that the foreign minister determined Iran's agenda for talks after they resume.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466132/Iran-unveils-new-negotiation-strategy>

### **Top Iranian diplomats discuss JCPOA with Austrian official**

*Tehran Times, October 17, 2021*

Secretary-General of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Peter Launsky, who was in Tehran for the fifth round of political talks with Iran, met with Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian as well as Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri. In his first meeting, Abdollahian called the ties between the Islamic Republic and Austria age-old and said, "We attach great importance to these relations." Abdollahian expressed hope for increased economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. He also appreciated the donation of vaccine by Austria and called for more cooperation with Vienna on the Covid pandemic and vaccine.

The Iranian foreign minister called on the European Union to adopt a more responsible approach to the rights of displaced Afghans and condemned the terrorist attacks in recent weeks in Afghanistan. The Iranian foreign minister also described the rise of ISIS and Takfiri terror groups in Afghanistan as "dangerous."

For his part, Launsky praised the friendly relations between his country and Iran and expressed hope that the Iran nuclear deal will be revived with the cooperation of all parties. He also condemned the recent terrorist acts in Afghanistan, noting that Iran and Austria share common concerns about ISIS terrorists. He also stressed Austria's support for meetings of Afghanistan's neighbors to resolve the country's problems.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466134/Top-Iranian-diplomats-discuss-JCPOA-with-Austrian-official>

### **Iran says ready to cooperate with Islamic states to develop nuclear technology**

*Tehran Times, October 26, 2021*

The spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) has said Tehran is ready to cooperate with Muslim nations to develop nuclear technology for civilian purposes to promote the welfare of Islamic Ummah. "We are ready to cooperate with the countries of the Islamic world for the development of nuclear technology for the welfare of the people and Islamic societies, so that we can all pave the way for a new Islamic civilization," Behrouz Kamalvandi said as a group of guests participating at the international Islamic unity conference in Tehran on Saturday paid a visit to the Martyr Fakhrizadeh Research Reactor, Radiopharmaceutical Production Center of Martyr Shahriari as well as an exhibition of the latest achievements in the nuclear industry. During the visit, the guests got acquainted with the scientific and research infrastructure, achievements and capabilities of Iran in the field of reactor and radiopharmaceutical production.

Iran hosted the annual Islamic unity meeting on the birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet of Islam (PBUH). The conference was held on Oct.19-24. At the beginning of the visit, Kamalvandi said: "I am fully convinced that the convergence, integration and cohesion of

the thinkers of Islamic lands under the banner of Islam will lead to the unity of the Muslim Ummah and the promotion of the Islamic nations against the ill-wishers, the wicked and the arrogant.”

He stated that the Islamic Ummah was in a crucial historical turning point. On the one hand, Kamalvandi said, the extraordinary growth of various sciences and technologies has led to welfare of nations and on the other this technology, which is mostly in the hands of the wrong people, has led to monopoly, exploitation and colonization of less privileged nations by the arrogant. “On the one hand, the establishment of international organizations has facilitated relations and more interaction between the nations of the world in order to solve problems and fill the gap of various shortcomings. And on the other hand, these ostensibly international organizations have become the toy in the hands of the arrogant and make every effort for humiliation and restriction of other nations” stated Kamalvandi, who is the deputy chief of the AEOI for international and legal affairs.

He added: “In this tense atmosphere, the Islamic world, with its renaissance, is not only obliged to develop and advance itself by appealing to new knowledge and technologies, but also by promoting Islamic thought and a monotheistic attitude and trusting in God to pave its progress with an Islamic model based on verses and hadiths and relying on itself and not on others, and this is the path that will eventually lead to a new Islamic civilization.” Referring to the unilateralism adopted by arrogant countries, the deputy head of the AEOI said: “The Islamic world now has precious assets. These assets are the result of the efforts of thinkers throughout history. Undoubtedly, what should emerge from the conference on Islamic unity is the structures and mechanisms of the new Islamic civilization and the explanation and delineation of the way to achieve it in this ambiguous period and in the face of various tensions in the international arena.”

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466346/Iran-says-ready-to-cooperate-with-Islamic-states-to-develop-nuclear>

## UN General Assembly First Committee approves Iran’s proposal for nuclear disarmament

*Tehran Times, October 29, 2021*

Iran’s proposed biennial resolution, entitled “Pursuing the Implementation of the Agreements Reached at the NPT Review Conferences in 1995, 2000 and 2010,” has ratified by the UN General Assembly First Committee. The proposed resolution was adopted with the support of a majority of the UN members, Fars News reported on Thursday. The resolution calls on the NPT signatories to accelerate the implementation of their commitments to the complete destruction of their nuclear arsenal in accordance with the principles of transparency, irreversibility and international oversight.

Under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, nuclear states have pledged to destroy all their nuclear weapons. In addition, they are legally obliged not only to refrain from any attempt to build nuclear weapons, but also to refrain from transferring such weapons to other countries, deploying them outside their territory, or cooperating with other governments to build nuclear weapons. After decades of non-compliance with these legal obligations, the nuclear armed states have reaffirmed their commitment to take effective practical steps to destroy nuclear weapons in the final documents of the NPT Review Conferences of 1995, 2000 and 2010.

Part of the resolution proposed by Iran also emphasizes the implementation of the decision of the NPT Review Conference in 1995 to establish a nuclear-weapon-free Middle East. The decision calls on the Zionist regime to join the NPT and accept the International Atomic Energy Agency’s oversight of its nuclear facilities. Iran’s proposed resolution also highlights the need to provide security assurances to non-nuclear states that they will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against them.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466473/UN-General-Assembly-First-Committee-approves-Iran-s-proposal>



## Iran shares views with Russia on the need for new nuclear talks: Bagheri

*Tehran Times, October 29, 2021*

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri visited Moscow late on Thursday after talks in Brussels with Enrique Mora, political director of the European External Action Service (EEAS). "We will share our views on the requirements of a new round of talks to lift sanctions with our Russian friends so that we can enter into talks with a common vision," Fars quoted Bagheri as saying. In the new Iranian government, Bagheri has replaced Abbas Araghchi in the nuclear talks with the remaining parties to the JCPOA. The talks are intended to force the United States to rejoin the JCPOA and lift sanctions on Iran that were imposed under the Trump administration.

Mora is the coordinator of the talks between Iran and the remaining parties to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal – JCPOA – and the United States. "As you are aware, Mr. Mora was in Tehran on Thursday, October 14 and we had talks, and then there were talks on Wednesday (October 27) which were constructive, serious and frank in order to form the framework of talks on the lifting of illegal and oppressive sanctions in the new era," Bagheri stated. The deputy foreign minister noted that Iranian diplomats presented their view and the requirements that Iran believes should be observed in these talks, and it was agreed that Mora would discuss these views with the remaining nuclear deal parties, namely France, Russia, China, the UK and Germany, known as the P4+1. Speaking to the IRIB correspondent, Bagheri said: "There is a view that we should talk to the P4+1 countries in the same framework, and accordingly, in the first step, according to the agreement reached with Mr. Ryabkov (Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia), I was invited to Moscow to share our views on the requirements of a new round of talks to lift illegal and oppressive sanctions with Russian friends."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466471/Iran-shares-views-with-Russia-on-the-need-for-new-nuclear-talks>

## Iran FM says Biden can issue 'executive order' if serious to return to nuclear deal

*Tehran Times, October 31, 2021*

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has said that if the United States was serious about rejoining the 2015 nuclear deal, President Joe Biden could just issue an "executive order", the Iran newspaper reported on Sunday. The accord, under which Iran put limits on its nuclear work in exchange for a lifting of economic and financial sanctions, unraveled in 2018 after then-President Donald Trump withdrew the United States, prompting Tehran to breach limits on uranium enrichment set by the pact one year later.

"It is enough for Biden to issue an executive order tomorrow and they (U.S.) announce they are rejoining the pact from the point where his predecessor left the deal," Amir-Abdollahian told the Iran newspaper. "If there is a serious will in Washington to return to the deal, there is no need for all these negotiations at all." Tehran has said its nuclear steps since Trump abandoned the accord, are reversible "if Washington lifts sanctions in a verifiable process".

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466549/Iran-FM-says-Biden-can-issue-executive-order-if-serious-to>

## G. South Korea

### S. Korea, US, Japan cooperation important to denuclearizing peninsula: State Dept.

*Yonhap*

*Korea Herald, October 16, 2021*

The United States is committed to working with its allies in denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula, a State Department spokesperson said Friday, also stressing the importance of key US allies, South Korea and Japan, working together to that end. Ned Price made the remark after Japan's newly inaugurated Prime Minister Fumio Kishida held his first call with South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Friday

(Seoul time), more than 10 days after his inauguration last Monday.

“As you know, part of our strategy, when it comes to the DPRK, is to work closely with our allies and partners, to work in lockstep with our allies and partners towards our ultimate objective and that is the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula,” Price said in a telephonic press briefing, referring to North Korea by its official name, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. “But we’re also committed to the trilateral relationship, knowing just how important it is,” he added when asked how important Japan-South Korea relationship was to the United States.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211016000022&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211016000022&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **S. Korea’s nuclear envoy pins hope on end-of-war declaration to resume talks with North**

*Yonhap*

*Korea Herald, October 17, 2021*

South Korea’s chief nuclear envoy said Saturday that a formal declaration of an end to the 1950-53 Korean War could pave the way for resuming the stalled denuclearization talks with North Korea. Noh Kyu-duk made the remark ahead of his meetings with his US and Japanese counterparts in Washington later this week to explore ways to bring Pyongyang back to the negotiating table. The upcoming talks will likely touch on President Moon Jae-in’s recent proposal to declare a formal end to the Korean War, which Noh has said is the most effective among confidence-building measures with North Korea.

“I expect more in-depth discussions on various issues at the working level, including the end-of-war declaration,” Noh said during a meeting with reporters upon his arrival at the Dulles international airport. “(The declaration) is meaningful as a gateway to talks for the complete denuclearization and lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.” South and North Korea technically remain at war as the Korean War

ended only with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211017000034&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211017000034&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **Seoul, Washington almost ready for humanitarian aid to Pyongyang: nuclear envoy**

*Ahn Sung-mi*

*Korea Herald, October 17, 2021*

South Korea and the US are almost ready in their preparation to provide humanitarian assistance to North Korea, Seoul’s top nuclear envoy said Saturday, amid the allies’ efforts to revive stalled diplomacy with the recalcitrant regime. Noh Kyu-duk, the special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs, made the remark upon arriving in Washington for talks with his US and Japanese counterparts on ways to bring the reclusive Pyongyang back to the table for the stalled negotiations.

Noh is scheduled to meet with Sung Kim, the US special representative for North Korea, on Monday, before they will be joined by their Japanese counterpart, Takehiro Funakoshi, for a trilateral session the following day. Noh and Funakoshi are also slated to hold separate bilateral talks Tuesday. The three held their last in-person talks in September in Tokyo. Noh said that South Korea and the US have been discussing “various and creative” ways to bring the North back to dialogue. “The preparation for South Korea and the US to jointly cooperate in providing humanitarian aid to North Korea is near completion,” Noh told reporters at Dulles International Airport.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211017000156&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211017000156&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **N. Korea fires what seems to be SLBM toward East Sea: S. Korea**

*Yonhap*

*Korea Herald, October 19, 2021*

North Korea fired what appears to be a submarine-launched ballistic missile

(SLBM) toward the East Sea on Tuesday, South Korea's military said. The missile was launched eastward from a site in the vicinity of Sinpo, South Hamgyong Province, according to the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). It said the launch was detected at 10:17 a.m. but gave no other details. "The intelligence authorities of South Korea and the United States are currently conducting a thorough analysis regarding additional details on the missile," the JCS said in a text message sent to reporters.

The North's latest missile test marks its eighth known projectile launch this year. It previously fired a new hypersonic missile, called the Hwasong-8, on Sept. 28. Sinpo is where North Korea has been pushing to build a 3,000-ton submarine capable of carrying a submarine-launched ballistic missile.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211019000368&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211019000368&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **N. Korean missile launch highlights need to engage in diplomacy: official**

*Yonhap*

*Korea Herald, October 20, 2021*

North Korea's latest missile launch highlights the urgent need to engage with the reclusive state in dialogue, a senior South Korean official said Tuesday. The official also said South Korea, Japan and the United States share concerns over the North's missile launch. "There were concerns since the North's continued missile launches may affect our efforts (to resume dialogue) to a certain extent as we discuss ways to bring North Korea back to dialogue," the official said while speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity.

"Still, there were views that the missile launch, on the other hand, demonstrates the need to quickly engage with North Korea in dialogue," the official said of a trilateral meeting between the top nuclear envoys of South Korea, Japan and the United States held earlier Tuesday in Washington. The official's remarks were soon echoed by White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki. "These

launches also underscore the urgent need for dialogue and diplomacy," she said in a daily press briefing at the White House. The White House official also reaffirmed US commitment to engage with North Korea. "Our offer remains to meet anywhere, anytime without preconditions," she said. "We call on the DPRK to refrain from further provocations and engage in sustained and substantive dialogue."

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211020000107&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211020000107&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **South Korea, Russia agree to cooperate on early resumption of talks with NK**

*Ahn Sung-mi*

*Korea Herald, October 28, 2021*

South Korea and Russia stressed the urgent need to resolve North Korea's nuclear problem and agreed to closely communicate to resume the stalled talks with Pyongyang, Seoul's top diplomat said Wednesday. The remarks came after talks between South Korean Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong and his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, took place in Moscow. "The two countries shared the view on the urgency of resolving North Korea's nuclear problem and agreed to closely communicate and cooperate at each level for an early resumption of the Korean Peninsula peace process," Chung said during a joint press conference after the meeting.

Chung said the two sides exchanged opinions on various ways to cooperate to revive talks with the North at the earliest, with both stressing the importance of the stable management of the situation on the Korean Peninsula. Lavrov also echoed a similar stance, underscoring the need to seek a "diplomatic solution" in dealing with the situation on the peninsula. "We believe that a diplomatic solution should be possible and talks should be resumed by all parties concerned," Lavrov said in Russian, which was translated into English. "We should understand that the

search for a long-term comprehensive solution should cover the whole range of issues of the Korean Peninsula, and we need to ensure no factors intervene (to) increase tensions.”

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211028000806&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211028000806&ACE_SEARCH=1)

## H. North Korea

### N. Korea tests missile amid South's efforts to resume talks

*Choi Si-young*

*Korea Herald, October 19, 2021*

North Korea test-fired what appeared to be a submarine-launched ballistic missile into the East Sea, the Joint Chiefs of Staff said Tuesday, as South Korea, the US and Japan step up efforts to bring Pyongyang back to nuclear talks. “We’re closely monitoring the situation and maintaining our readiness,” the JCS said, adding that South Korean and US intelligence were analyzing the launch, which took place at Sinpo, a port city along the east coast where North Korea runs a major shipyard to build submarines.

The military suspects Pyongyang used a small submarine to test the missile, dismissing speculation that the regime mobilized its latest 3,200-ton ship, which is believed to be under development. The missile, however, could be a new mini-SLBM shown at the North’s defense exhibition a week earlier, the military said, noting it flew about 590 kilometers at an altitude of 60 kilometers, demonstrating a much shorter flight range than that of the Pukguksong-5 series, Pyongyang’s latest SLBM lineup.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211019000854&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211019000854&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### NK confirms test of submarine-launched ballistic missile

*Ahn Sung-mi*

*Korea Herald, October 20, 2021*

North Korea on Wednesday confirmed it had test-fired a new submarine-launched ballistic missile the previous day, the first such weapons test in two years and

evidence of the regime’s ever-expanding weapons program. On Tuesday, South Korea’s military said the North had fired what appeared to have been a short-range SLBM from the port of Sinpo in the east of the country, home to the regime’s main shipyard that builds submarines.

The North’s state-run Korea Central News Agency said the missile it launched had “lots of advanced control guidance technologies including flank mobility and gliding skip mobility,” quoting its Academy of Defense Science. The test will “greatly contribute to putting the defense technology of the country on a high level and to enhancing the underwater operational capability of our navy,” it added.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211020000855&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211020000855&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### Doosan Heavy signs maintenance deal for UAE nuclear plant

*Yonhap*

*Korea Herald, October 21, 2021*

South Korean power plant builder Doosan Heavy Industries & Construction Co. said Thursday it has signed a maintenance service deal for a reactor at the Barakah nuclear power plant in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Under the deal with Nawah Energy Co., the operator of the nuclear power plant, Doosan Heavy will conduct maintenance services for turbines, generators and parts related to the nuclear reactor of the nuclear power plant for three months beginning in April 2022, it said in an emailed statement. But Doosan Heavy did not reveal the value of the deal.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211021000368&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211021000368&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### N. Korea’s SLBM in early development stage, likely can be intercepted: defense minister

*Yonhap*

*Korea Herald, October 21, 2021*

North Korea’s recently tested submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) appears



to be in an early stage of development and can be intercepted, South Korea's defense minister said Thursday. Suh Wook made the remarks during a parliamentary audit session, as his ministry vowed to deploy more missile detection assets and reinforce cooperation with the United States to deal with the North's continued missile research activities.

"North Korea appears to be making a lot of efforts (to develop SLBMs) as seen in its display of three SLBMs at a defense exhibition," Suh said, referring to the exhibition held in Pyongyang last week. "But (the missile) should be paired with the launch platform. Thus, we think it is at an early stage," he added. His remarks suggested there still appears to be room for improvement in the North's SLBM program, such as securing a reliable SLBM launch platform like a submarine capable of carrying and firing such seaborne weapons. "We are not analyzing just that single SLBM launch," the minister said. "We need to look at the issue of the launch platform and whether the submarine operates normally after a missile launch." Asked whether the SLBM can be intercepted, Suh said, "We judge that's possible." During the audit session, the minister characterized the latest SLBM launch as an "apparent North Korean threat" as conservatives have denounced the launch as a military provocation.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211021000774&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211021000774&ACE_SEARCH=1)

## **NK: SLBM test not aimed at US**

*Ahn Sung-mi*

*Korea Herald, October 21, 2021*

North Korea on Thursday defended its latest test-firing of a submarine-launched ballistic missile as necessary for its own defense and said the weapon does not target the US. A spokesperson for the North's Foreign Ministry said it is "truly concerned" that the US is showing "abnormal reactions" to the country's exercise of its right to self-defense and criticized the US for taking "provocative moves" by calling for an emergency UN Security Council meeting on the issue. The North said it successfully tested a new type

of SLBM on Tuesday, the latest in a series of recent weapon launches. The launch, which was the most significant show of force by the North since US President Joe Biden took office this year, drew sharp rebukes from the international community, with the US denouncing it as "provocation" and as a threat to the region.

"When doing the recent test-firing we did not have the US in mind nor aimed at it, but it is the work which had already been planned purely for the defense of the country. So there is no need for the US to worry or trouble itself over the test-firing," the spokesperson said in a statement carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency. It stressed that the North's deterrence "does not aim at a specified state or forces but is for preventing the war itself and defending the sovereign rights," saying both the US and South Korea have been excluded from its list of "arch-enemies." Pyongyang then accused the US of "double standards" for criticizing the North's development and test-firing of "the same weapon system" that the US possesses. "It only excites our suspicion" about the authenticity of Washington's insistence that it has no hostile intent toward the North, the spokesperson said.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211021000839&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211021000839&ACE_SEARCH=1)

## **I. Japan**

### **Japan's PM interrupts campaign as N.K. test fires missile**

*AP News, October 19, 2021 - 21:20*

Japan's new prime minister interrupted his first day of election campaigning on Tuesday, as he returned to the capital of Tokyo to deal with rising regional tensions following North Korea's test-firing of a missile earlier in the day. Fumio Kishida's campaign was already off to a rocky start, with media polls showing his support rating sliding. Tuesday was the first official day of campaigning for nationwide legislative elections scheduled for Oct. 31. "I will drastically strengthen our defense capabilities. The Kishida administration is

determined to protect our land, territorial sea and air space as well as the people's lives and assets no matter what," Kishida said, after he had returned to Tokyo.

Kishida was informed of the missile launch after his campaign's opening speech in Fukushima, whose nuclear plant suffered a triple meltdown after the town was hit by an earthquake and tsunami in 2011. After another speech in the nearby city of Sendai, he canceled the remainder of his itinerary in the region.

<https://apnews.com/article/elections-japan-tokyo-campaigns-north-korea-9bdae7e795b185b7bd91fd18c38336f6>

### J. World/Misc

#### **Israel's military provocations against Iran has reached alarming level: UN envoy**

*Tehran Times, October 20, 2021*

The Iranian ambassador to the United Nations, Majid Takht Ravanchi, on Tuesday urged the UN Security Council to take action against the Israeli regime's covert operations against Tehran's nuclear program. Takht Ravanchi reminded the international community about that the number of the Zionist regime's provocative acts against Iran's peaceful nuclear program, saying they have reached an "alarming level". Below is the text of Iranian ambassador' remarks:

"I am writing to inform you of yet another explicit threat made by the Israeli regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran and its peaceful nuclear program. During the past months, the number and intensity of such provocative and adventuristic threats have consistently grown and reached an alarming level. The latest of such threats has been made by the Chief of General Staff of the Israel Defense Forces, who has recently stated, 'The operational plans against Iran's nuclear program will continue to evolve and improve' and 'Operations to destroy Iranian capabilities will continue – in various arenas and at any time'. Such systematic explicit and public threats by the Israeli regime against a founding member of the

United Nations constitute flagrant violations of international law, particularly Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter.

The fact that the Israeli regime has admitted that it will continue "to destroy Iranian capabilities" proves beyond any doubt that it has been responsible for the terrorist attacks against our peaceful nuclear program in the past. Given the dark record of the destabilizing practices of the Israeli regime in the region as well as its covert operations against Iran's nuclear program, that regime must be confronted in order to stop all its continuous threats and disruptive conducts.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466246/Israel-s-military-provocations-against-Iran-has-reached-alarming>

#### **Grossi says has no credible evidence Iran is developing nuclear weapon**

*Tehran Times, October 20, 2021*

Rafael Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) who has expressed hope that he would travel to Tehran in the next few days, has said he has no "credible information" that Iran is seeking to build nuclear weapons. Grossi, who went to Washington to meet with U.S. officials, told Bloomberg news network about the current situation regarding the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and his intention to visit Iran in the next few days. The director general said that he hopes to "be back in Tehran within a few days."

Grossi told Bloomberg on Tuesday that there's a new government in Iran, a government coming from a group that expresses very strong views about the nuclear program cooperation with international organizations like the IAEA, "so we need to adjust to each other like in any relationship." According to Bloomberg, Grossi's visit will have two main goals. He wants to see whether the new Iranian government and its president,

Ebrahim Raisi, will follow through on a September agreement to allow IAEA inspectors to service surveillance equipment, and to try to push the Iranians back to the talks with European nations and the U.S. on rejoining the 2015 nuclear deal. Grossi said that despite the delays, he still believes Iran wants to get back into the deal, though he said that time is running out to do so as its nuclear program continues to advance.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466254/Grossi-says-has-no-credible-evidence-Iran-is-developing-nuclear>

## **N. Korea's nuclear activity spawning, a big challenge for safeguard efforts: IAEA chief**

*Yonhap*

*Korea Herald, October 22, 2021*

North Korea's nuclear activities has expanded over the years and continue to move ahead, creating a big challenge for verification and safeguard efforts, the head of the UN nuclear watchdog said Thursday. Rafael Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), also highlighted the need for a diplomatic process to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula. "What is relevant is to see that compared with 2009, this program has spawned in activity wise, geographically into the country," Grossi said, adding the North's nuclear program is no longer "compound."

"And it's a big challenge because I am persuaded we will go back (to North Korea) and the day that happens, which could happen quite suddenly, we need to be prepared because the effort, the verification and safeguards effort that we will confront will be huge," he added in a webinar hosted by the Stimson Center, a nonprofit think tank based in Washington. North Korea kicked out all IAEA inspectors in 2009 after it withdrew from a multilateral denuclearization deal. The country withdrew its IAEA membership in 1994. Grossi earlier said the North appeared to be moving ahead "full steam" with its nuclear program, citing what the IAEA called signs of activities at North Korean nuclear

facilities. He, however, declined to comment on North Korea's nuclear capacity when asked.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211022000136&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211022000136&ACE_SEARCH=1)

## **Korea's Yongbyon facility: NIS**

*Ji Da-gyum*

*Korea Herald, October 28, 2021*

The National Intelligence Service confirmed the activity in a closed-door briefing at the parliamentary audit, Rep. Kim Byung-kee of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea said during a press briefing. The spy agency said Pyongyang may have reprocessed spent fuel from its main 5MW(e) nuclear reactor in Yongbyon from February to July this year. By reprocessing spent fuel at the Yongbyon nuclear complex, which it shut down in early December 2018, the North can produce plutonium for weapons. The agency's assessment is consistent with the most recent annual report from the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In August, the IAEA said Pyongyang had restarted operations at Yongbyon in early July this year. The UN nuclear watchdog cited the discharge of cooling water as an indication the reactor was operating, and said it was the first sign of activity detected since December 2018. The IAEA also said North Korea's latest activity is likely to involve the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel rods.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211028001061&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211028001061&ACE_SEARCH=1)

## **UN committee approves draft resolutions calling for N. Korea to give up nukes**

*Yonhap*

*Korea Herald, October 29, 2021*

A UN General Assembly committee has approved three draft resolutions concerning North Korea, including one reaffirming the Assembly's commitment to the "complete, verifiable and irreversible"

abandonment of Pyongyang's nuclear program, its website showed Friday. On Wednesday, the First Committee in charge of disarmament and security affairs approved 25 resolutions and decisions, including those related to the North, amid reports that the recalcitrant regime has been doubling down on its nuclear and missile programs.

Among the three resolutions is one entitled "Joint courses of action and future-oriented dialogue towards a world without nuclear weapons." It includes provisions calling for the North to renounce nuclear arms. "Other provisions would have the Assembly reaffirm its commitment to the complete, verifiable and irreversible abandonment of all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions," a summary of the committee session reads. DPRK is the North's official name.

Another approved document, titled, "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty," carries the Assembly's call for the North to fully comply with UN Security Council resolutions. "The Assembly would reiterate its condemnation of the six nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in violation of relevant Security Council resolutions and urge that country's full compliance," the summary said. "It would welcome all efforts and dialogue to that end, including inter-Korean summits and summits between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea," it added.

*[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211029000512&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211029000512&ACE_SEARCH=1)*



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