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Indian Pugwash Society

No.1, Development Enclave,
Rao Tula Ram Marg, Near USI, Delhi-110010
Email: indianpugwashsociety@gmail.com

Tel. No (91-11) 2671-7983

Fax No. (91-11)2615-4192

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A. India

DRDO conducts successful maiden flight of Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator

PIB, July 1, 2022

Maiden flight of the Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator was carried out successfully by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from the Aeronautical Test Range, Chitradurga, Karnataka on July 01, 2022. Operating in a fully autonomous mode, the aircraft exhibited a perfect flight, including take-off, way point navigation and a smooth touchdown. This flight marks a major milestone in terms of proving critical technologies towards the development of future unmanned aircraft and is significant step towards self-reliance in such strategic defence technologies. The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle is designed & developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru, a premier research laboratory of DRDO. It is powered by a small turbofan engine. The airframe, undercarriage and entire flight control and avionics systems used for the aircraft were developed indigenously.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1838507>

India's nuclear policy reflects its past ideology: NHRC chief

The Hindu, July 1, 2022

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) chairperson Justice Arun Kumar Mishra (retd.) on Friday said India's policy on nuclear weapons was a manifestation of its past ideology. He was addressing the last day of the conference 'Human Rights in Indian Culture and Philosophy', conducted by the NHRC and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA). "India's doctrine of nuclear policy is a manifestation of its past ideology that prohibits the use of weapons of mass destruction, which only harm humanity. It has been reflected both in the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata* when

the use of weapons of mass destruction was prohibited," Justice Mishra said, according to the statement.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indias-nuclear-policy-reflects-its-past-ideology-nhrc-chief/article65589670.ece>

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh dedicates to the nation new manufacturing facilities at Bharat Dynamics Limited, Bhanur

PIB, July 2, 2022

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh visited the Bhanur Unit of Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) in Telangana on July 02, 2022 and dedicated to the Nation a number of new manufacturing facilities set up by the Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU). These include a Warhead facility at the Bhanur Unit and a Radio Frequency (RF) Seeker facility at Kanchanbagh Unit.

Addressing the researchers, engineers, technicians and other personnel of BDL, the Raksha Mantri termed the inauguration of the manufacturing facilities as a testament to the commitment of the DPSU towards strengthening the defence sector and realising Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. He also lauded BDL for adopting a positive approach towards self-reliance by manufacturing products indigenously in collaboration with foreign companies, in line with 'Make in India, Make for the World' vision. He congratulated the company for preparing an indigenisation plan for the next five years and successfully achieving the target of the first two years.

The RF Seeker Facility, which was virtually inaugurated by the Raksha Mantri, is an integrated Centre for production & testing of RF seekers.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1838815>

Russia signs pact to supply state-of-the-art tech for Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant

Economic Times, July 5, 2022

LUCH Scientific Production Association (part of Science and Innovations JSC, R&D Unit of Rosatom State Corporation, Russian nuclear major) has signed an agreement to supply thermocouples for four power units of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP) in India. New sensors designed for thermal control of NPP process equipment will replace the old ones in the internal reactor control systems of the units 1 and 2 of KNPP. High-accuracy resistance thermocouples are a critical element of the in-reactor control system, their stable functioning ensures safe operation of nuclear reactor equipment. These thermocouples are primary temperature measuring transducers designed to measure the temperature of the coolant in the "hot" and "cold" string of the main circulation pipeline under conditions of external influencing factors.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/russia-signs-pact-to-supply-state-of-the-art-tech-for-kudankulam-nuclear-power-plant/articleshow/92683155.cms?from=mdr>

China's Nuclear Ambitions, the Implications for India, and the Future of Global Disarmament

ORF, July 7, 2022

China's nuclear weapons arsenal has grown and modernised over the recent years, and current estimates say the country has 350 operational warheads ready for delivery, over 248 land-based ballistic missiles, and 72 sea-based ballistic missiles. China also has 20 nuclear gravity bombs and additional warheads intended to be armed on land- and sea-based missiles. This brief outlines a history of China's nuclear weapons programme, scrutinises its current nuclear arsenal and modernisation plans—to the extent possible, given the paucity of credible Chinese-origin literature—and explores the

implications for India and the world nuclear order.

<https://www.orfonline.org/research/chinas-nuclear-ambitions/>

'India can become climate leader by excluding gas, nuclear from green taxonomy'

Economic Times, July 8, 2022

India has an opportunity to establish itself as a climate leader by excluding gas and nuclear as part of its green taxonomy on the lines of the Europe, experts said on Thursday. Their reaction came a day later after the European Parliament after months of intense debate came out in favour of labelling investments in gas and nuclear power plants as climate-friendly. Out of 639 lawmakers, 328 opposed a motion that sought to block the EU gas and nuclear proposals.

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/india-can-become-climate-leader-by-excluding-gas-nuclear-from-green-taxonomy/92736096>

Indigenous Aircraft Carrier Vikrant completion Of 4th phase Of sea trials

PIB, July 10, 2022

The fourth phase of Sea Trials for IAC has been successfully completed on 10 Jul 22, during which integrated trials of majority of equipment and systems onboard including some of the Aviation Facilities Complex equipment were undertaken. The ship's delivery is being targeted in end Jul 22, followed by commissioning of the ship in Aug 22 to commemorate 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The Indigenous design and construction of Aircraft Carrier by Indian Navy and Cochin Shipyard Ltd is a shining example in the Nation's quest for 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India Initiative' with more than 76% indigenous content.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1840608>

Around 60 StartUps have registered with ISRO since “unlocking” of the Indian Space sector recently by Prime Minister Narendra Modi; quite a few of them are dealing with projects related to Space debris management, says Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh

PIB, July 11, 2022

Around 60 Start-Ups have registered with ISRO since “unlocking” of the Indian Space sector recently by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and quite a few of them are dealing with projects related to Space debris management. The other Start-Up proposals vary from nano-satellite, launch vehicle, ground systems, research etc. This was stated by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Dr Jitendra Singh while speaking after inaugurating the “ISRO System for Safe & Sustainable Operation” (IS4OM) at ISRO Control Centre, in Bengaluru today. The Minister reiterated that the passion of private players and innovative Start-Ups will augment the role of the Department of Space in protecting India’s interests in Space by developing all-round capabilities in the domains of space transportation, debris management, infrastructure and applications.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1840795>

Raksha Mantri launches 75 Artificial Intelligence products/ technologies during first-ever ‘AI in Defence’ symposium & exhibition in New Delhi; Terms AI as a revolutionary step in the development of humanity

PIB, July 11, 2022

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launched 75 newly-developed Artificial Intelligence (AI) products/technologies during the first-ever ‘AI in Defence’ (AIDef) symposium and exhibition, organised by Ministry of Defence in New Delhi on July 11, 2022. The products, launched as part of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ celebrations, fall under various

domains. These include AI Platform Automation; Autonomous/Unmanned/Robotics systems; Block Chain-based Automation; Command, Control, Communication, Computer & Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance; Cyber Security; Human Behavioural Analysis; Intelligent Monitoring Systems; Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems; Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Operational Data Analytics; Manufacturing and Maintenance; Simulators/Test Equipment and speech/voice analysis using Natural Language Processing.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1840740>

Meet Sejal Shah, Indian scientist who is recreating Sun’s nuclear fusion on Earth

DNA, July 11, 2022

Today, we will talk about another accomplished scientist named Sejal Shah, who has an experiment aimed at creating a piece of the Sun here on Earth. Shah is a scientist with the Institute for Plasma Research (IPR), Gandhinagar, and has an interesting experiment in mind. Sejal Shah is set to put her imaginative brain to create a part of the Sun here on Earth, by using her expertise in physics and outer space concepts to use. The Indian scientist is planning to recreate the phenomena which occur at the core of the Sun, right here on Earth!

<https://www.dnaindia.com/science/report-meet-sejal-shah-indian-scientist-who-is-recreating-sun-s-nuclear-fusion-on-earth-2967562>

Amid Global Crises, Nuclear Power Provides Energy Security with Increased Electricity Generation in 2021

IAEA, July 14, 2022

Nuclear power provided secure and reliable low-emission electricity amid evolving global crises in 2021, notching its second highest annual output of the last

decade as the world emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, according to annual data released by the IAEA Power Reactor Information System (PRIS). The comprehensive data show nuclear power playing a key role in helping the world economy bounce back in 2021, providing a swift increase in electricity generation after its sharp fall during the pandemic lockdowns of 2020. Asia had the biggest increase, with nuclear power production rising 10% to the highest level in a decade.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/amid-global-crises-nuclear-power-provides-energy-security-with-increased-electricity-generation-in-2021>

B. Russia

Russian air defenses intercept three Ukrainian Tochka-U missiles, top brass reports

TASS, July 5, 2022

Russian air defense forces intercepted three Ukrainian Tochka-U ballistic missiles in the Kherson Region and the Lugansk People's Republic and eight rockets in the Kharkov Region, Defense Ministry Spokesman Lieutenant-General Igor Konashenkov reported on Tuesday. The Tochka-U is an upgraded version of the Soviet Tochka precision tactical missile system developed by the Kolomna Machine-Building Design Bureau and designated to strike selective small-size targets deep in the enemy defense.

<https://tass.com/defense/1475863>

Russia uses top-notch electromagnetic guns to 'stun' drones in Ukraine op – source

TASS, July 6, 2022

The Russian armed forces employed state-of-the-art electromagnetic weapons for the first time in the special military operation in Ukraine to stun enemy drones, a source in defense circles told TASS on Wednesday. "The Russian Stupor electromagnetic systems were employed against Ukrainian drones for the first time in the Ukraine special operation," the source said. The

electromagnetic weapons demonstrated fairly high efficiency of their use and are easy to operate, the source added.

<https://tass.com/defense/1476433>

Russia uses Stupor anti-drone guns in Ukraine for first time – source

TASS, July 6, 2022

Stupor, Russia's advanced electromagnetic weapon against unmanned aerial vehicles, has been used for the first time during the special military operation in Ukraine, a security source has told TASS. "Russia's Stupor electromagnetic systems were used for the first time during the special operation in Ukraine, against Ukrainian drones," the source said. In his words, the device has demonstrated its high efficiency and operability.

<https://tass.com/politics/1476173>

Shipbuilders deliver special-purpose sub with nuclear-powered drones to Russian Navy

TASS, July 8, 2022

The Sevmash Shipyard delivered the Project 09852 special-purpose submarine Belgorod that will carry Poseidon nuclear-powered underwater drones to the Russian Navy, the Shipyard's press office announced on Friday. The submarine is designed to address diverse research tasks, implement research and rescue operations and can carry deep-water rescue and autonomous unmanned submersible vehicles on its board.

<https://tass.com/defense/1477527>

Russian air defense systems capable of wiping out US Harpoon missiles, expert says

TASS, July 11, 2022

Advanced Russian naval radars and ground-based anti-aircraft missile systems can detect US Harpoon anti-ship cruise

missiles while air defense complexes operational in Russia's Army are capable of intercepting these weapons, Editor-in-Chief of the Military-Technical Cooperation magazine Dmitry Litovkin told TASS on Monday. The Harpoon is a rival of the Russian Kh-35 cruise missile and the Ukrainian Neptune weapon developed by the Kiev-based Luch Design Bureau as a derivative of the Kh-35.

<https://tass.com/defense/1478177>

Russia said to be using Krypton missiles on its Su-30SM fighters in Ukraine

TASS, July 11, 2022

Russia's Black Sea Fleet is using X-31 supersonic missiles on its Su-30SM fighter jets in the course of the special military operation in Ukraine, Crimean law enforcement officers told TASS. "The Black Sea Fleet is using X-31 guided missiles known in the West as Krypton on its Su-30SM jets," the sources said, describing these as highly effective.

<https://tass.com/defense/1478097>

Russia's latest Sarmat ICBM set for new stage of tests

TASS, July 12, 2022

Russia's new state-of-the-art Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) is set to undergo a new stage of tests, Head of the State Space Corporation Roscosmos Dmitry Rogozin said on Tuesday. "The world's most powerful global-range nuclear-tipped missile is being prepared for new tests and serial production," Rogozin wrote on his Telegram. The Roscosmos chief earlier visited the Krasnash enterprise in Krasnoyarsk in Eastern Siberia to inspect the process of producing the Sarmat ICBM for flight tests. He said that the enterprise was ready to ensure the stable serial production of Sarmat ICBMs.

<https://tass.com/defense/1478641>

Russian special forces use Arbalet-DM robotic weapon station in Ukraine - source

TASS, July 13, 2022

Russian special forces are successfully using the Arbalet-DM remote-controlled weapons stations (RCWS) during the special operation in Ukraine, a security source has told TASS. The Arbalet-DM remote-controlled weapons station (RCWS) can be installed on wheeled and tracked chassis, as well as on surface ships and stationary guard posts. Its main armament is either a 12.7-mm KORD heavy machine gun with 150 rounds of ammunition, or a 7.62-mm PKTM machine gun with 250 rounds of ammunition.

<https://tass.com/defense/1479219>

Europe Aborts Joint Mars Mission with Russia

The Moscow Times, July 13, 2022

The European Space Agency (ESA) pulled the plug Tuesday on a joint Russian-European rover mission to Mars in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. ESA chief Josef Aschbacher tweeted that the agency's council of ministers had determined the circumstances surrounding the March suspension of cooperation with Russia over ExoMars "continue to prevail" and that the official partnership was now over.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/07/13/europe-aborts-joint-mars-mission-with-russia-a78284>

Russia's Tigr nuclear sub to carry Kalibr missiles after modernization in 2023

TASS, July 15, 2022

Russia's Project 971 'Shchuka-B' (NATO reporting name: Akula) nuclear-powered submarine, the Tigr, will be armed with a Kalibr-PL cruise missile system when its

modernization is completed in 2023, defense industry sources have told TASS. "After modernization at the Nerpa plant, the Tigr nuclear sub will return to combat duty as part of the Northern Fleet, armed with the Kalibr system," the source said.

<https://tass.com/defense/1480289>

C. China

China urged to boost defence talks with US, Japan, South Korea as trio joins hands on Pyongyang nuclear threat

South China Morning Post, July 1, 2022

China should step up defence dialogue with Japan, South Korea and the United States, defence experts have advised, after the two US allies and Washington agreed to boost security ties over North Korean missile and nuclear threats. While the tripartite move, announced on the sidelines of a Nato summit in Madrid, was unlikely to pose an immediate, serious challenge to Beijing, plans for joint exercises might push the North into more provocative acts, the analysts warned. The three-way meeting came amid a push towards improving Tokyo-Seoul ties following a change of guard in South Korea, and fears of North Korea carrying out its first nuclear test since 2017.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3183710/china-urged-boost-defence-talks-us-japan-south-korea-trio>

PLA missile interceptor test seen as response to warning from Taipei

South China Morning Post, July 2, 2022

The People's Liberation Army's latest test of a ground-based system designed to intercept ballistic missiles indicates China has narrowed the gap in midcourse interceptor technology with the United States and enhanced its strategic deterrence ability, analysts said. China's defence ministry announced that the PLA had successfully conducted the sixth test of its land-based anti-ballistic-missile system on June 19

within the country's borders, said Zhou Chenming, a researcher at the Beijing-based Yuan Wang military science and technology institute. He said the move indicated Beijing was willing to invest more on missile defence technology similar to the US Ground-based Midcourse Defence (GMD) system, rather than increasing its nuclear arsenal. "Developing GMD is the most complicated, difficult and costly way to raise the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons, and so far just the US and China are capable of doing that," Zhou said, adding that China's ground-based interceptor technology was based on mature US technology and used an intercontinental ballistic missile fitted with a kinetic kill vehicle as the interceptor.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3183898/pla-missile-interceptor-test-seen-response-warning-taipei>

NASA chief urged to drop Cold War mentality after his lashing out at China's space progress

Global Times, July 3, 2022

NASA chief Bill Nelson has freshly warned of a new "space race" with China, claiming that China wants to "occupy the moon" citing the lunar research base that China and Russia are co-building, which he is "very concerned about." Experts noted that Nelson's remarks, following a series of similar accusations, does not represent the majority of the space community in the US, as they still want to seek cooperation with China in the field, an attempt that has been sadly limited by the US' own laws. In an interview with BILD published, Nelson said that he is not comfortable with the moon base that China and Russia are setting up. "We have to be very concerned about China landing on the moon and saying: It's ours now, and you stay out." The senior US official is pointing at an International Lunar Research Station that China and Russia are jointly developing, which is expected to become operational by 2035, enabling

experimental and research facilities for a wide range of scientific work to operate in lunar orbit.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202207/1269666.shtml>

China's new wind tunnel for hypersonic testing is too powerful for the electricity grid: scientists

South China Morning Post, July 5, 2022

A wind tunnel built recently by China to test hypersonic flight requires so much power it cannot be connected to the local electricity grid, according to scientists involved in the project. To simulate extreme flight conditions at Mach 5 or faster at high altitude, the wind tunnel runs a 13-megawatt vacuum pump to create an extreme environment from thin air. But the power needed for the pump to operate continuously was greater than “the upper limit allowed by the local electric power distribution network”, said research engineer Li Yanliang, of the Beijing Institute of Space Long March Vehicle, in a paper published in the domestic peer-reviewed Measurement & Control Technology journal.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3184194/chinas-new-wind-tunnel-hypersonic-testing-too-powerful>

Chinese university sanctioned by US declares success of hypersonic test flight

South China Morning Post, July 5, 2022

A Chinese university sanctioned by the US said it had successfully carried out a test flight of a new hypersonic aircraft. Feitian 1, which was developed by a research team at Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU) in Xian, Shaanxi province, used a combination of rocket and air-breathing engines and could generate a thrust faster than Mach 5, according to a statement posted on the university's social media account. The rocket and scramjet engines burned kerosene, a low-cost fuel. The university said the test flight was a “complete success” and was world-first

proof of the feasibility of critical new technologies. The launch was conducted in an unspecified test facility in China's north-western region.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3184229/chinese-university-sanctioned-us-declares-success-hypersonic>

Chinese scientists try to reduce space junk by using drag sail on rocket

South China Morning Post, July 6, 2022

Chinese scientists have successfully unfurled a drag sail to deorbit one of its recently launched Long March 2 rockets in a bid to reduce space junk – the first time this was done with a rocket. The drag sail is 25 sq metres (269 sq feet) when fully unfurled and extremely thin – just one-tenth the diameter of a human hair, according to the official Science and Technology Daily. This kite-like membrane was designed to increase atmospheric drag and accelerate the orbital decay of the 300kg (661 pounds) rocket's final stage. The rocket was used to send remote sensing satellites into orbit last month and has since become space junk.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3184224/chinese-scientists-try-reduce-space-junk-using-drag-sail-rocket>

China's first spaceport for commercial launches starts construction in Wenchang, Hainan

Global Times, July 6, 2022

China's first spaceport for commercial launches started construction in Wenchang, South China's Hainan Province. As another major aerospace project of the Hainan Free Trade Port (FTP), the Hainan Commercial Space Launch Site will help build Wenchang into a world-class space city, an official said during the ground-breaking ceremony. Industry insiders said that the Hainan Commercial Launch Site will further improve the launching capability of

domestic commercial carrier rockets. "Hainan will make full use of the synergistic advantage of the launch site and policies of the FTP, striving to build Wenchang into a top- ranking international space city, and to accelerate the construction of industrial chains of rocket launch, satellite and data," Feng Fei, governor of the Hainan provincial government, said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202207/1269922.shtml>

New US Space Force spy agency points to earthly rivalries being played out in orbit

South China Morning Post, July 9, 2022

The US Space Force has launched a new space intelligence unit as competition heats up in space and nations take action to protect their orbiting interests. The unit, called Space Delta 18 or the National Space Intelligence Centre (NSIC), was officially launched late last month with a mission to "deliver unparalleled technical expertise and game-changing intelligence ... to outwit, outreach and win in the space domain". The new unit is tasked with monitoring and identifying threats to US space assets in orbit, those either causing physical damage or operational disruption, after the US military defined outer space as an "operational frontier" while becoming increasingly alert to any development of anti-satellite capabilities by China and Russia. China's active progress in anti-satellite abilities have been repeatedly mentioned by US officials.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3184660/new-us-space-force-spy-agency-points-earthly-rivalries-being>

China begins construction on world's most far-reaching radar system, to boost defence against near-Earth asteroid impact

Global Times, July 10, 2022

In a move to play increasingly role in global efforts to safeguard Planet Earth, China has recently begun constructing a new high-definition deep-space active observation

facility in the country's Southwest Chongqing municipality, with goals including boosting its defence capability against near-Earth asteroid as well as sensing capability for the Earth-Moon system. The new observation facility, codenamed China Fuyan [faceted eye], will be consisted of distributed radars with more than 20 antennas, and each antenna will have a diameter of 25 to 30 meters. Working together, they are expected to carry out high-definition observation of asteroids within 150 million kilometers, the Global Times learned from the project lead, the Beijing Institute of Technology. The Beijing Institute of Technology Chongqing innovation center, China's National Astronomical Observatories under the China Academy of Sciences, Tsinghua University and Peking University will also join the Fuyan construction process, which will become the world's most far- reaching radar system.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202207/1270185.shtml>

Hypersonic arms race set to change power dynamics between countries and the tempo of modern combat

South China Morning Post, July 10, 2022

Experts warn that an emerging hypersonic arms race raises the danger of miscalculation and retaliatory strikes. The assessment comes as several countries, including the United States, China and Russia, are developing the highly destructive weapon whose high speed and greater range make them difficult to intercept. In an anti-ship or land-attack role, hypersonic weapons – which can travel at more than five times the speed of sound – could be a significant threat and give a decisive advantage to one side if its opponent lacks a similar capability or the means to defend itself against hypersonic weapons.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3184617/hypersonic-arms-race-set-change-power-dynamics-between>

China to build world's most far-reaching radar, better safeguard Earth

CGTN, July 11, 2022

China has started construction of a new radar system equipped with high-definition deep-space active observation facility in a move to better safeguard Earth. The new system will also boost the country's defense capabilities against near-Earth asteroids as well as its sensing capability for the Earth-moon system. Located in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, the new observation facility is codenamed "China Fuyan," which means "facetted eye" in English. According to Long Teng, president of the Beijing Institute of Technology (BIT), the research team gave it that vivid name because the radar system comprises multiple antennas, just like facetted eyes of insects.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2022-07-11/China-to-build-world-s-most-far-reaching-radar-better-safeguard-Earth-1bzKE2SvESA/index.html>

Rearmament trend sounds alarm to global security

Global Times, July 12, 2022

A US military test rocket, the Minotaur II+, which will be used for the LGM-35 Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) and its nuclear warhead, the Mk21A, exploded about 11 seconds after launch earlier this month. The debut ended in failure, but it shows that the US is accelerating the replacement of its land-based ICBMs and nuclear weapon delivery vehicles. A report published in June by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute noted, "A key finding is that despite a marginal decrease in the number of nuclear warheads in 2021, nuclear arsenals are expected to grow over the coming decade," and the "post-cold war decline in nuclear arsenals is ending." This will be an important turning point in the process of global nuclear disarmament and nuclear weapons are set to stage a comeback from the fringes of global politics. There are three main reasons for the rearmament trend.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202207/1270331.shtml>

China to launch its first solar probe in October

CGTN, July 13, 2022

China will launch its first solar probe, the Advanced Space-based Solar Observatory (ASO-S), in October. The 888-kilogram satellite, scheduled to depart from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, has undergone more than five years of research and development. Designed to operate at an altitude of 720 km, the satellite will complete one sun-synchronous orbit every 90 minutes. During its projected four-year lifespan, the satellite will support catastrophic space weather forecasting by observing the solar magnetic field, solar flares and coronal mass ejections. After entering its orbit, the satellite will generate about 500GB of data daily, all of which will be shared worldwide.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2022-07-13/China-to-launch-its-first-solar-probe-in-October-1bD6PRzcf04/index.html>

Scientists test AI for an orbital carrier to defend China's space assets

South China Morning Post, July 13, 2022

An orbital carrier controlled by artificial intelligence could be used to patrol and counter attacks in space, according to a new study by Chinese scientists. They say a large orbital platform carrying hundreds of cubesats - tiny satellites that weigh about 1kg (2.2lbs) - could defend China's space assets with speed and efficiency. But they say it would need help from AI to determine exactly when and where to release the cubesats so they could fend off enemy satellites. According to the researchers, the complexity of a large and fast space battle would be beyond the human brain - and even beyond some powerful AI algorithms. Studying the best strategy for AI to control an orbital carrier would have "strong economic and military value", the team said in a paper published in Chinese Space Science and Technology,

a peer-reviewed journal run by the China Academy of Space Technology, on June 25.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3185176/scientists-test-ai-orbital-carrier-defend-chinas-space-assets>

US successfully tests hypersonic missile, amid fears of lagging behind China, Russia

South China Morning Post, July 14, 2022

The United States successfully tested two Lockheed Martin Corp hypersonic missiles recently, the Pentagon said on Wednesday, amid growing concerns Russia and China have had more success developing their own hypersonic weapons. The US Air Force confirmed it successfully tested its Air-Launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW) booster on Tuesday off the California coast. Reuters reported the ARRW test earlier on Wednesday in which the booster was carried aloft under the wing of a B-52H before it was launched. In previous tests, the weapon did not detach from the plane. "This second successful test demonstrates ARRW's ability to reach and withstand operational hypersonic speeds, collect crucial data for use in further flight tests, and validate safe separation from the aircraft," Lockheed said in a statement.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/world/united-states-canada/article/3185198/us-successfully-tests-hypersonic-missile-amid-fears>

China urges Japan to attend to concern of various parties over nuclear-contaminated water dump after Pacific FMs declaration

Global Times, July 14, 2022

China urged Japan to attend to the reasonable concerns of various parties about the plan on dumping nuclear-contaminated water from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant into the sea and abort the plan. The Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin made the remarks at a routine press conference, when asked for comments on Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting's recent declaration on the issue. Wang said that China had taken note of the

Pacific Ministers' declaration and felt the same way about the issue. It showed that the international community has serious concerns over the disposal of the nuclear-contaminated water from the Fukushima nuclear plant. The issue does not only involve Japan, but it concerns the global marine environment and the health of residents in nearby countries, Wang noted.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202207/1270530.shtml>

D. Pakistan

US Must Battle Extremism With Public Diplomacy In 'nuclear-armed' Pakistan, Say Lawmakers

Republic World, July 14, 2022

US lawmakers on Wednesday asserted that Washington must battle extremism with public diplomacy in Pakistan. Speaking at an interview with Voice of America (VOA), US Representatives Brad Sherman and Carolyn Maloney called Pakistan a nuclear-armed state with significant security challenges. There is perhaps nowhere in the world more important for the United States to battle extremism with public diplomacy than in Pakistan, a nuclear-armed state with significant security challenges. VOA outreach in Pakistan will be far more effective with VOA communicating in the Sindhi language," Sherman and Maloney said in a joint statement, as quoted by the American broadcaster.

<https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/us-news/us-must-battle-extremism-with-public-diplomacy-in-nuclear-armed-pakistan-say-lawmakers-articleshow.html>

Gauging Pakistan's Nuclear Weapons And Deterrence

Eurasia Review, July 15, 2022

Nuclear weapons mark a hallmark of military power and a manifestation of strength of a state in the international political system. Simultaneous and successful testing of five nuclear weapons rendered Pakistan the seventh nuclear

power at the international level. Pakistan first tested its nuclear weapons on May 28, 1998, a scientific and strategic achievement, which was a direct response to India's overt nuclear test. The aspiration to stockpile nuclear weapons renders Pakistan as one of the significant countries among Asian powers. Pakistan's nuclear weapons are merely Indian-centric and aimed at seeking regional deterrence capability. The nuclearization and making of nuclear weapons was Pakistan's rational choice to uphold strategic stability in the South Asian region.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/15072022-gauging-pakistans-nuclear-weapons-and-deterrence-oped/>

Europe

E. Ukraine

Effectiveness of Ukraine's HIMARS Fuels Concern in Russia

The Moscow Times, July 12, 2022

Pro-Kremlin figures have expressed rare public concern after Western-supplied weapons allowed Ukraine to carry out a series of successful attacks on Russian targets far behind the frontlines. The M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS), which the United States started sending to Ukraine last month, appear to have been most effective at damaging Russian military positions. "The Russian air defense systems... turned out to be ineffective against massive strikes by HIMARS missiles," Girkin, who also goes by the alias Strelkov, wrote on messaging app Telegram on Sunday.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/07/11/effectiveness-of-ukraines-himars-fuels-concern-in-russia-a78257>

Update 86 - IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine

IAEA, July 14, 2022

Ukraine has received a large batch of vital radiation protection and monitoring equipment offered by Australia and France and delivered by the International Atomic

Energy Agency (IAEA) this week, Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said today. The Director General said the shipment of personal protective equipment, radiation dosimeters and radiation and contamination monitors marked a milestone in IAEA-led efforts to ensure nuclear safety and security during the current military conflict in Ukraine, which has four operational nuclear power plants (NPPs) with 15 reactors, as well as many other radiation-related facilities.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/update-86-iaea-director-general-statement-on-situation-in-ukraine>

F. European Union

'Time to decide': MEPs call for Serbia to change its stance on Russia

Euro News, July 7, 2022

MEPs want Serbia to reconsider its position toward Russia. Since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Belgrade has maintained close ties with Vladimir Putin's country despite the EU's stance. On Wednesday, members of the European Parliament approved an annual assessment report regretting that Serbia has not aligned with EU sanctions on Russia. The text was adopted with 523 votes in favour, 78 against and 34 abstentions. MEPs are asking the newly elected government – following elections in April – to "urgently align" with the EU's stance.

<https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2022/07/06/eu-parliament-calls-for-serbia-to-change-its-stance-on-russia>

G. Belarus

S-400 air defense teams hold combat readiness drills in Belarus

TASS, July 15, 2022

Alert air defense forces involving teams of S-400 anti-aircraft missile systems held drills in Belarus, the republic's Defense Ministry reported on Friday. "The commander of the Air Force and Air

Defense Troops highly commended the operations of the teams of S-400 air defense systems that participated in the exercise," the statement reads.

<https://tass.com/defense/1480727>

H. Estonia

'iMUGS II' to be larger and better funded, but delay confirmed

Janes, July 8, 2022

The successor project to the Integrated Modular Unmanned Ground System (iMUGS) programme, the European Defence Fund's (EDF) project for a common unmanned ground vehicle, has been pushed back by one year, Janes can confirm. "It's [going to be] in EDF [Work Programme] 2024," Martin Jõesaar, chief of project office – iMUGS with the Estonian Centre for Defence Investment, told Janes. "The call text for the projects will be announced in [20]24, and the consortium will be put together, and whoever wins will start in [20]25. It's a little bit later than we hoped, but it's still ok," he added. The project is expected to conclude between 2028 and 2029.

<https://www.janes.com/defence-news/industry-headlines/latest/imugs-ii-to-be-larger-and-better-funded-but-delay-confirmed>

I. Germany

Ukraine war: Germany slams 'inhumane and cynical' Russia over Odesa region missile strike

Euro News, July 1, 2022

Ukrainian authorities say Russian missiles have struck a multi-storey block of flats and nearby holiday resorts in Ukraine's southern Odesa region, killing at least 21 people and wounding dozens. The Ukrainian president's office said three X-22 missiles fired by Russian bombers struck an apartment building and two campsites. Ukraine's Security Service said two children were among the dead. In Berlin, the government condemned the attack and fresh denials of responsibility from the

Kremlin. "The Russian side, which is once again talking about collateral damage, is inhumane and cynical," said German government spokesman Steffen Hebestreit.

<https://www.euronews.com/2022/07/01/ukraine-war-17-dead-as-russian-missiles-hit-flats-in-odesa-region-say-ukrainian-officials>

J. Hungary

IAEA Reviews Hungary's Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response Framework

IAEA, July 8, 2022

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team of experts has concluded a five-day follow-up mission to review the emergency preparedness and response framework for nuclear and radiological emergencies in Hungary. The Emergency Preparedness Review (EPREV) was carried out at the request of the Hungarian Government. The mission focused on assessing emergency preparedness and response (EPR) arrangements in the country in light of recommendations made in an initial EPREV mission in 2016.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-reviews-hungarys-nuclear-emergency-preparedness-and-response-framework>

K. NATO

NATO signs accession protocols with Finland and Sweden, ratification process starts

Euractiv, July 5, 2022

NATO ambassadors on Tuesday (5 July) signed the accession protocols for Finland and Sweden, opening the ratification process in the 30-member alliance. But the Turkish parliament approval could still pose a hurdle for the countries' official membership. "This is truly a historic moment," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said alongside the foreign ministers of the two countries. "With 32 nations around the table, we will be even stronger." Both countries submitted their applications in May, breaking long-

standing non-aligned stances in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/defence-and-security/news/nato-signs-accession-protocols-with-finland-and-sweden-ratification-process-starts/>

L. Portugal

Portugal develops armed USV

Janes, July 4, 2022

The Portuguese Navy's Unmanned Vehicles Experimentation Cell (CEOV) is developing a multimission armed unmanned surface vehicle (USV) for operational experimentation, CEOV Commander Marco Pinto Guimarães told Janes. The USV, called X-2701, is being developed with the support of the Portuguese Navy Ships Support Service for training missions in conditions up to Sea State 4. It will be used to replicate asymmetric threat attacks from small vessels, for surface live-fire training, protection and combat training against asymmetric threats, or for towing an inflatable target. It can also be used to conduct patrol and surveillance missions.

<https://www.janes.com/defence-news/industry-headlines/latest/portugal-develops-armed-usv>

M. United States of America

US Army interested in enhanced M-SHORAD capability for ground threats

Janes, July 1, 2022

The US Army wants soldiers using the Stryker-based Maneuver-Short Range Air Defense (M-SHORAD) weapon to also be able to target ground threats and is seeking information about "state-of-the art" ammunition cartridges to help make that a reality. On 27 June the service issued a source sought notice for a potential 30×113 mm Multi-Mode Proximity Airburst (MMPA) requirement that calls for more accurate, lethal, and reliable cartridges than the currently fielded XM1198 High Explosive Dual Purpose with Self Destruct design.

<https://www.janes.com/defence-news/air-plat-forms/latest/us-army-interested-in-enhanced-m-shorad-capability-for-ground-threats>

Northrop Grumman, Airbus developing prototype satcom capability

Janes, July 7, 2022

US defence company Northrop Grumman is teaming up with Airbus US Space & Defense to develop prototype satellite communication (satcom) platforms, in support of the US Department of Defense's National Defense Space Architecture (NDSA), according to company officials. Under the terms of the deal announced on 5 July, Airbus will provide 42 satellites "as well as assembly, integration, and test (AIT); launch; and space vehicle commissioning support services" to Northrop Grumman. The satellites and associated services will support Northrop Grumman's efforts to develop prototype space vehicles and datalink capabilities for NDSA's Transport Layer Tranche 1 (TLT1) variant.

<https://www.janes.com/defence-news/c4isr-command-tech/latest/northrop-grumman-airbus-developing-prototype-satcom-capability>

US, Israel push Arab allies for joint defence pact amid Iran tensions

Euractiv, July 7, 2022

The United States and Israel are seeking to lay the groundwork for a security alliance with Arab states that would connect air defence systems to combat Iranian drone and missile attacks in the Middle East, four sources familiar with the plan said. The idea, which would use Israeli technology, could gain momentum during President Joe Biden's stops in Israel, the Palestinian territories and Saudi Arabia on a 13-16 July trip, said two of the sources who were briefed on the plans. As regional tensions have grown over Tehran's disputed nuclear programme, Israel, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and parts of Iraq have come under UAV or missile strikes claimed by or blamed on Iranian-backed militias.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/us-israel-push-arab-allies-for-joint-defence-pact-amid-iran-tensions/>

Blinken Says 'No Signs' at G20 of Russia Engaging on Ukraine

The Moscow Times, July 9, 2022

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Saturday that Washington saw “no signs” of Russia engaging with G20 diplomats over its invasion of Ukraine after Moscow faced a barrage of criticism at talks in Indonesia. Russia’s top diplomat Sergei Lavrov stormed out of a meeting with G20 foreign ministers on the resort island of Bali on Friday after Washington and its allies condemned Moscow’s assault on its neighbor during the closed-door talks.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/07/09/blinken-says-no-signs-at-g20-of-russia-engaging-on-ukraine-a78251>

Iran to Supply Russians With Drones for Ukraine – White House

The Moscow Times, July 12, 2022

Iran is planning to supply hundreds of drones with combat weapon capabilities to Russia for use in Ukraine, a top U.S. official said Monday. Jake Sullivan, the White House national security adviser, said the information received by the United States supported views that the Russian military is facing challenges sustaining its weaponry after significant losses in Ukraine.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/07/12/iran-to-supply-russians-with-drones-for-ukraine-white-house-a78266>

ARRW hypersonic weapon completes booster test programme

Janes, July 14, 2022

The US Air Force (USAF) conducted another test flight of its Lockheed Martin AGM-183A Air-Launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW) booster on 12 July, completing the booster test programme. The service said on 13 July that it was “ready” to start all-up-round testing later in 2022. ARRW was launched off a Boeing B-52H Stratofortress and “reached hypersonic speeds and primary and secondary objectives were met”, according to the air force. However, the USAF declined to provide Janes with

additional information on what objectives were met.

<https://www.janes.com/defence-news/air-platforms/latest/arrw-hypersonic-weapon-completes-booster-test-programme>

West Asia

N. Iran

Amir Abdollahian says Iran seeks to reap full economic benefits of JCPOA

Tehran Times, July 2, 2022

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has noted that the negotiations to resurrect the 2015 agreement can bear fruit if Washington behaves realistically and gives Tehran strong assurances that it would be able to fully enjoy the deal’s economic provisions. Two days after the completion of the most recent round of negotiations to lift Washington’s sanctions against Iran, Amir Abdollahian stated in a tweet that the Islamic Republic will continue its diplomatic efforts with power and rationality. “A realistic approach by the U.S. and attainment of a long-term guarantee over Iran’s full economic benefits from the agreement can bring about a fruitful outcome at the negotiations,” the top diplomat remarked. In addition, he asserted that Iran’s top negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani will continue to work in close cooperation with him to lift the sanctions that were reinstated against Tehran following Washington’s unilateral withdrawal from the multilateral agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/474297/Amir-Abdollahian-says-Iran-seeks-to-reap-full-economic-benefits>

President: No Place for Nukes in Iran’s Defense Doctrine

Fars News Agency, July 5, 2022

Iranian President Seyed Ebrahim Rayeesi said his country is not in pursuit of

developing a military nuclear capability to defend itself, and further reiterated that nuclear weapons have no room in Tehran's military doctrine. Nuclear weapons have no place in Iran's defense doctrine, Rayeesi said, addressing a ceremony to laud the high-achieving professors and students at Iran University of Science and Technology on Monday. "We have announced this many times," he added. Rayeesi also vowed "no retreat" and "no pause" in the country's scientific progress under his administration, saying, "Once some believed in this country that we should not unveil satellites built by (Iranian) experts to avoid giving the enemy any excuses." "But the situation has changed today, and we will not tie the country's scientific progress to others' frowns or smiles," he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010414000430/Presiden-N-Place-fr-Nkes-in-Iran's-Defense-Dcrine>

Raisi calls anti-Iran IAEA resolution 'irresponsible'

Tehran Times, July 5, 2022

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has once again lambasted the U.S. and the European trio (Britain, France and Germany) for supporting a resolution against Iran at the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, calling the move "irresponsible". Raisi made the remarks while receiving the credentials of Switzerland's new ambassador to Tehran Nadin Olivier Rey. The U.S. and three European countries' attempts in drafting the resolution against during the course of negotiations to revive the 2015 nuclear deal were irresponsible, contravened the terms of the deal, and reflected their hypocritical behavior. The U.S. and European governments' coercive tactics, according to President Raisi, have been futile. He urged them to adhere by the spirit and terms of the internationally-endorsed agreement, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or JCPOA.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/474419/Raisi-calls-anti-Iran-IAEA-resolution-irresponsible>

Iran continues consultations with India

Tehran Times, July 5, 2022

Following up on the consultations between Iran and India, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani and Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra held a phone call on Tuesday. Pointing to the cultural and civilizational commonalities and the long history of political and economic interactions coupled with frequent visits of high-ranking officials of the two countries, Bagheri Kani and Mohan Kwatra shared the view that the relations between the two countries is unique. During the conversation, the two senior diplomats also discussed the ways to promote cooperation between the two countries, including in the fields of trade, investment, port and transportation. The two also exchanged views on regional cooperation and helping the people of Afghanistan.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/474415/Iran-continues-consultations-with-India>

US unveils fresh sanctions on Iranian oil trade network

Al-Monitor, July 6, 2022

The Biden administration on Wednesday issued a new round of sanctions targeting an international network it says facilitated the sale of hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of Iranian oil and petrochemical products to East Asia. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement that the State and Treasury departments designated 15 individuals and entities located in Iran, Vietnam, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong for supporting "Iranian energy trade generating millions of dollars' worth of illicit revenue." The sanctions imposed Wednesday are the administration's latest to target the illicit trade of Iranian oil. Last month, the US blacklisted a network of Iranian petrochemical producers as well as front companies in China and the UAE.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/07/us-unveils-fresh-sanctions-iranian-oil-trade-network#ixzz7ZWPzOHgH>

British navy reveals Iranian missiles seized in Gulf of Oman

Al-Monitor, July 8, 2022

A British warship seized shipments of Iranian cruise and surface-to-air missiles in the Gulf of Oman for the first time earlier this year, the UK Defense Ministry revealed today. The HMS Montrose seized one shipment from smugglers on Jan. 28 and a second on Feb. 25, both in international waters off the coast of Iran. The operations were carried out in the early morning hours after the crew of a Wildcat helicopter assigned to the Montrose spotted speedboats departing the Iranian coast with “suspicious cargo on deck,” according to the UK Defense Ministry. During the February seizure, the Montrose had support from the USS Gridley, an accompanying US Navy destroyer and its MH-60 Seahawk helicopter crew. In both incidents, UK Royal Marines approached and boarded the smugglers’ boats and uncovered “dozens of packages containing advanced weaponry” that were later determined to be rocket engines for Iranian-made 351 land-attack cruise missiles and a cache of 358 surface-to-air missiles.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/07/british-navy-reveals-iranian-missiles-seized-gulf-oman#ixzz7ZWW335Bb>

Iran Holds Naval Drill in Caspian Sea for Second Day

Fars News Agency, July 9, 2022

The Iranian naval forces held their annual drills dubbed “Sustainable Security” for the second day in the Caspian Sea on Saturday. “The Damavand vessel (destroyer) was built with the most up-to-date technology through the efforts of local experts in order to preserve the territorial integrity of the country in the Caspian region,” Commander of Iranian Army’s Navy Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said on the sidelines of the 1401 (2022) Sustainable Security naval drills in the Caspian Sea. Regarding the naval drill, he said the

level of security will definitely increase significantly if the drill is conducted in cooperation with friendly, neighboring and brotherly countries.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010418000656/Iran-Hlds-Naval-Drill-in-Caspian-Sea-fr-Secnd-Day>

Iran: IAEA Notified of Gas Injection into New Cascade of IR-6 Centrifuges

Fars News Agency, July 10, 2022

Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi responded to media reports about his organization’s increased uranium enrichment activities, and stressed that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had been notified of gas injection into a new cascade of IR-6 centrifuge machines. Kamalvandi made the remarks on Sunday after Reuters said the IAEA has reported that Iran has escalated its uranium enrichment further with the use of advanced machines at Fordow plant in a setup that can more easily change between enrichment levels. “The IAEA was informed of injection of gas into a new cascade of IR-6 centrifuges at least two weeks ago. The agency earlier announced this news and international media immediately published hyped reports with specific objectives in mind,” the spokesperson said. “Yesterday’s move by Iran to harvest 20 percent enriched product [uranium] from the cascade was the final technical part of the previously-announced move that was earlier made public by the IAEA and was recently verified,” he noted. Kamalvandi added that the step taken by the AEOI is part of its legal obligations as part of internal planning to launch 1,000 IR-6 centrifuges in six cascades and inject gas into them.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010419000239/Iran-IAEA-Nified-f-Gas-Injecin-in-New-Cascade-f-IR-6-Cenrifges>

DM Cites Boosting Combat Capability As Iranian Army's Top Priority

Fars News Agency, July 11, 2022

Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani on Monday described improving the combat capability of the country's armed forces as the most important priority for his ministry. Ashtiani said enhancing the Iranian armed forces' combat power is of utmost significance as the rivals and enemies are constantly flexing their military muscles. "The battle scene and the requirements of the armed forces units are constantly changing due to the type of threats, which makes progress in all-out defense, implementing the capacity of scientific and knowledge-based centers, as well as updating defense knowledge within the defense industry doubly significant," the minister added. His remarks come as the United States and Israel plan to build a security alliance with some regional Arab states that would connect their air defense systems to allegedly fight off what they call "threat from Iran".

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010420000562/DM-Cies-Bsing-Cmba-Capabiliy-As-Iranian-Army's-Tp-Pririy>

US: Iran aims to send drones to Russia for use in Ukraine

Al-Monitor, July 11, 2022

Iran is preparing to send armed drones to Russia for use in the Kremlin's war against Ukraine, according to declassified US intelligence revealed by the White House on Monday. "Our information indicates that the Iranian government is preparing to provide Russia with up to several hundred UAVs [drones], including weapons-capable UAVs, on an expedited timeline," US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan told reporters today. Sullivan also said Iran's government has planned to begin training Russian troops as soon as "early July" on how to deploy the weapons. It remains unclear whether Tehran has sent any drones to Russia yet, he noted.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/07/us-iran-aims-send-drones-russia-use-ukraine#ixzz7ZWQL8Jy3>

IRGC General: Arab NATO to Fail

Fars News Agency, July 12, 2022

Deputy Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) for Political Affairs Brigadier General Yadollah Javani said the US plan to form an Israeli-Arab coalition against Iran will prove to be another failed effort similar to past experience. "When the United States and the Zionist regime and Saudi Arabia were at the peak of their power, the coalitions that they built to counter the resistance front and the Islamic Republic had no other result, but failure," Javani said on Monday. "An example is the coalition that the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia formed along with many other countries against the oppressed nation of Yemen. However, they got nothing, but humiliating defeat," the IRGC commander added. General Javani made the remarks in reference to US President Joe Biden's forthcoming visit to Middle East and Washington's plan to build a regional security alliance to fight off what it calls the "threat from Iran".

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010421000115/IRGC-General-Arab-NATO-Fail>

Iran issues stark warning as Biden visits region

Tehran Times, July 12, 2022

As the U.S. president prepares to visit the West Asia region, Iran ramps up warnings of a U.S.-led plan to build a regional air defense system widely seen as being directed against Iran. President Biden's visit will take place on July 13-16. Ahead of the visit, there is a wave of media speculations about a U.S. plan to create a regional air defense system that includes Israel and its onetime archrival Arab states. The U.S. has officially acknowledged that it is making efforts in that regard. John Kirby, the coordinator for strategic communications at the U.S. National Security Council, has said that the U.S. is in talks with countries in the West Asia region to integrate their air defenses. "Bilaterally we're talking with nations across the region about air defense capabilities specifically and what we can

do to assist with their defense and then, exploring the idea of being able to kind of integrate all those air defenses together," Kirby told reporters. With U.S. officials formally talking of a defense structure in the region, Iran moved to warn against this effort because it believes that the U.S.-led defense system will be a threat to its interests.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/474626/Iran-issues-stark-warning-as-Biden-visits-region>

Iran, Russia Seeking Further Increase Cooperation in Nuclear Industry

Fars News Agency, July 13, 2022

During the meeting between Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Chief Mohammad Eslami and Deputy Rosatom State Corporation for Atomic Energy of Russian Federation Nikolai Spassky in Tehran on Tuesday, the two sides discussed ways to expand bilateral peaceful nuclear cooperation. In the meeting, Eslami invited his Russian counterpart Alexey Likhachev to visit Tehran in the current year. During the talks, Iranian and Russian delegations, headed by AEOI Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi and Spassky, discussed the development of bilateral relations in various nuclear fields. Rosatom had participated in the construction of the first nuclear power plant in Bushehr and now is also participating in construction of second and third units of the nuclear power plants.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010422000199/Iran-Russia-Seeking-Further-Increase-Cooperation-in-Nuclear-Industry>

Iran won't back down on JCPOA positions: president

Tehran Times, July 13, 2022

President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi has underlined that Iran will not step back from its rightful position regarding the 2015 nuclear deal. Speaking in the cabinet meeting on Wednesday in response to the recent claims of the Americans regarding the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), President Raisi said, "The

Americans have said that Iran should return to the JCPOA, while the Islamic Republic of Iran has never withdrawn from the JCPOA and it was America who violated the JCPOA." He added, "Today, it is a question not only for the Europeans, who are allies of the Americans in the negotiations, but also for all the nations around the world that why the United States did not adhere to its commitments under the JCPOA and withdrew from it." Referring to the unjust U.S. sanctions against the Iranian nation, Ayatollah Raisi said, "Americans have repeatedly said that the pressure they imposed on the Iranian nation was unprecedented and maximum, but the spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State officially announced that these pressures did not work at all and failed miserably."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/474669/Iran-won-t-back-down-on-JCPOA-positions-president>

O. Israel

Israel: Military had advance intelligence on Hezbollah drone launch

I24, July 3, 2022

The Israel Defense Forces had advance intelligence on Saturday's launch by Hezbollah of three unarmed drones over the Karish gas field off the Mediterranean coast, it was learned on Sunday. The spokesman said that Israel's sovereignty was not violated during the incident, stressing that the drones were shot down over Lebanese territorial waters recognized by the United Nations.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1656855996-israel-military-had-advance-intelligence-on-hezbollah-drone-launch>

Israel has given up on harming Iran's uranium enrichment – report

The Times of Israel, July 9, 2022

Israel has largely given up on further harming Iran's uranium enrichment

capabilities, Channel 12 news reported Saturday. "Iran already has enough enriched uranium [for one or more bombs]," the network said without citing a source. The network assessed that this was the reason for alleged Israeli attacks against other factors related to Iran's nuclear programs, such as assassinations of scientists and strikes on missile development bases, and a focus on Iran's weaponization program – the capacity to mount a bomb onto a missile.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-has-given-up-on-harming-irans-uranium-enrichment-report/>

In Israel, Biden to Commit 'Iran Will Never Get Nuclear Weapons'

Haaretz, July 12, 2022

In a joint statement with PM Lapid, Biden will also pledge to ensure Israel's security and 'maintain and strengthen its ability to deter its enemies'. Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid and U.S. President Joe Biden will release a joint statement on Thursday describing the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel and the U.S. commitment to prevent Iran from achieving nuclear weapons.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2022-07-12/ty-article/.premium/in-israel-biden-to-commit-iran-will-never-get-nuclear-weapons/00000181-f364-dae-f7f688a20000>

US President Biden holds security briefing, tours missile defense system

The Jerusalem post, July 13, 2022

US President Joe Biden was presented with Israel's latest missile defense system, the "Iron Beam" laser system during the start of his visit in Israel and Saudi Arabia this week. During the briefing, Biden was shown a video of the capabilities of Israel's air defense systems.

<https://www.jpost.com/israeli-news/article-712036>

Lapid to Biden: Global coalition needed to stop Iran's nuclear program

The Jerusalem post, July 13, 2022

The United States needs to help unite the world into a global coalition to stop Iran's continued pursuit of a nuclear weapon, Prime Minister Yair Lapid told US President Joe Biden after his arrival in Israel on Wednesday. "This is a historic visit and a deeply personal one," said Lapid. "[It] expresses unbreakable bond between our countries commitment to shared values democracy freedom right of Jewish people to a state.

<https://www.jpost.com/israeli-news/article-712000>

Israel Offers to Provide UAE Air Defense Aid, Report Says

Haaretz, July 13, 2022

Israel has offered to provide direct air defense assistance to the UAE after the country faced a series of missile strikes by Iran-backed Houthi militants in Yemen, the Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday. Israel has also agreed to provide Bahrain with drones and anti-drone systems, the WSJ cited a senior Bahraini official as saying

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/2022-07-13/ty-article/.premium/israel-offers-to-provide-uae-air-defense-aid-report-says/00000181-f3e8-d005-a385-fbfb335b0000>

US would use force against Iran 'as last resort,' Biden tells Israeli TV

The Times of Israel, July 13, 2022

US President Joe Biden told Israel's Channel 12 news that he would use force against Iran as a "last resort" to prevent it from obtaining nuclear weapons, but stressed his preference to negotiate with the Iranians instead. Asked if the US

would use force to stop Iran's nuclear program, Biden replied "as a last resort, yes."

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-would-use-force-against-iran-as-last-resort-biden-tells-israeli-tv/>

Israel to laser in on Iranian drone threat as Biden visits

I24, July 13, 2022

As concerns mount over drone warfare, Israel hopes the new 'Iron Beam' system will secure its skies. Moments after US President Joe Biden touches down in Tel Aviv on Wednesday, the Israeli military will show him new hardware it says is essential to confronting Iran: anti-drone lasers. While Israel has long been known for its efforts to thwart Tehran's nuclear ambitions, Israeli officials have increasingly been sounding the alarm over Iran's fleet of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1657685751-israel-to-laser-in-on-iranian-drone-threat-as-biden-visits>

P. Saudi Arabia

Saudi foreign minister, EU's Borrell discuss Iran nuclear program

Saudi Gazette, July 8, 2022

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan has met on Friday with High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell, on the sidelines of the G20 foreign ministers meeting in Bali. During the meeting, they reviewed relations between Saudi Arabia and the European Union and ways to enhance and support them in all areas of cooperation and joint coordination. The two sides also exchanged views about the Iranian nuclear program and the international negotiations in this regard.

<https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/622736/SAUDI-ARABIA/Saudi-foreign-minister-EUs-Borrell-discuss-Iran-nuclear-program>

Q. Syria

Attia: What Syria has been exposed to within OPCW raises questions about the latter's ability to carry out its tasks

Syrian Arab News Agency, July 6, 2022

Ambassador Milad Attia, Permanent representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), has affirmed that what Syria has been subjected to during the past years within the organization raises serious questions about the organization's ability to carry out its mandate under the Chemical Weapons Convention, as it is being used as a tool to implement the political agendas of some Western states against state parties to the convention. Attia's remarks came in a statement delivered during the opening of the 100th session of the Executive OPCW Council The Hague yesterday. He added "Unfortunately, since 2018, the OPCW, the body charged with implementing the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention, has been used as a tool to implement the political agendas of some Western countries against states parties to the Convention, as those well-known countries have exploited it to make false accusations and take unjust decisions that clearly violate the provisions of the convention."

<https://sana.sy/en/?p=277193>

R. Turkey

US' F-16 sales to Türkiye, NATO enlargement separate issues: Diplomat

Yenisafak, July 2, 2022

A senior Turkish diplomat has responded to allegations that the US' sales of F-16 jets to Türkiye was a subject of bargaining for the signing of a memorandum that paved the way for Sweden and Finland's

accession into NATO. The US' sale of F-16 fighter jets to Ankara and NATO's enlargement are two separate issues, and those claims are "baseless," said the diplomat, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/us-f-16-sales-to-turkiye-nato-enlargement-separate-issues-diplomat-3648049>

Turkish combat drone Akýncý undergoes 1st laser-guided firing test

The Daily Sabah, July 3, 2022

Turkey's landmark combat drone has undergone a successful firing test with a laser-guided missile, achieving yet another milestone in the integration process of domestically manufactured ammunition. The Akýncý unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) on Friday precisely struck a target that was laser-marked by a Bayraktar TB2 unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flying sub-cloud, its developer Baykar said in a statement.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-combat-drone-akinci-undergoes-1st-laser-guided-firing-test>

Turkey's anti-ship missile tested from mobile launcher for 1st time

The Daily Sabah, July 3, 2022

Turkey has conducted another successful test-firing of its locally made maritime missile, the country's Defense Ministry said Saturday. Atmaca successfully hit a target in the Black Sea after being fired from land in a test that marked the first time the anti-ship missile was tested with a mobile guided missile system, a video shared by the Defense Ministry showed.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkeys-anti-ship-missile-tested-from-mobile-launcher-for-1st-time>

Lithuania gets Turkish drone after crowdfunding campaign for Ukraine

The Daily Sabah, July 4, 2022

Lithuania has received delivery of a Bayraktar combat drone from Turkey after hundreds of Lithuanians clubbed together to buy it for Ukraine, the Defense Ministry said Monday. The Turkish drone magnate Baykar said in June it would donate the unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) for free, with Lithuania's government committing to spend 1.5 million euros (\$1.56 million) of the crowdfunded money to arm it...

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/lithuania-gets-turkish-drone-after-crowdfunding-campaign-for-ukraine>

Turkey's air-to-air missile Gökdođan test-fired with radar-seeker

The Daily Sabah, July 10, 2022

Turkey has successfully test-fired its domestically developed beyond visual range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM), Gökdođan, the head of the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB), Ismail Demir, said Sunday. Turkey has become one of the few countries to own air-to-air missile technology with Gökdođan and within visual range air-to-air missiles (WVRAAM) with Bozdođan.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkeys-air-to-air-missile-gokdogan-test-fired-with-radar-seeker>

S. United Arab Emirates

Turkey, UAE continue to mend ties with space agreement

Al-Monitor, July 12, 2022

Turkey and the United Arab Emirates plan to work together on space. The two

countries will sign a memorandum of understanding tomorrow to share expertise on space research and technology. They will also carry out joint studies on suborbital flights, launches, rockets and satellite systems, Turkey's official Anadolu Agency reported today. The signing will take place at an investment workshop in Istanbul sponsored by Turkey's Industry and Technology Ministry. Officials and companies from both countries will also be in attendance, according to Anadolu. Both countries have strong space exploration programs. The UAE launched the Hope Probe to Mars in 2020. The Emirates is the first country in the Arab world to conduct a Mars mission. Turkey has launched several satellites into space and most recently worked with SpaceX on a telecommunications satellite.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/07/turkey-uae-continue-mend-ties-space-agreement#ixzz7ZVUWVCyxR>

East Asia

T. North Korea

North Korea says it may boost military to counter US, South Korea and Japan pact

The Guardian, July 3, 2022

North Korea has denounced the United States, South Korea and Japan for pushing to boost their trilateral military cooperation targeting the North, warning that Pyongyang may need to consider reinforcing its own military capability. A North Korean foreign ministry spokesperson said on Sunday: "The reality clearly shows that the real purpose of the US spreading the rumour about 'threat from North Korea' is to provide an excuse for attaining military supremacy over the Asia-Pacific region." North Korea has long cited what it calls hostility by the US and its allies as a reason to pursue a nuclear program. Sunday's comments, reported by state news agency KCNA, come as North Korea's neighbours say the country is ready for its first nuclear

test in five years as part of its provocative run of weapons tests this year.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jul/03/north-korea-says-it-may-boost-military-to-counter-us-south-korea-and-japan-pact>

North Korea warns of nuclear war risk as Japan, US and South Korea increase military ties

The National, July 3, 2022

North Korea condemned US, Japanese and South Korean military co-operation on Sunday, claiming that Washington was increasing the risk of nuclear war in East Asia. The three countries are discussing joint military exercises in the region after North Korean ballistic missile tests, several of which were test-fired towards Japan. On March 24, North Korea said it had fired a long range intercontinental ballistic missile towards an ocean target more than 1,000 kilometres away, a test that Japanese authorities said landed within the country's territorial waters, north of the Hokkaido. Analysts from the Federation of American Scientists say such weapons could be fitted with a nuclear warhead and that North Korea has succeeded in building around 20 nuclear warheads and may have enough highly enriched uranium to produce at least 50.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/2022/07/03/north-korea-warns-of-nuclear-war-risk-as-japan-us-and-south-korea-increase-military-ties/>

Efforts to stop North Korea's nuclear program a 'collective failure,' atomic chief says

UPI, July 6, 2022

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency has called efforts to stop North Korea's nuclear weapons program a "collective failure" of global safeguards and cautioned that another detonation could come "any day." "Up until 2006, North Korea did not have nuclear weapons," IAEA Director-

General Rafael Grossi said in a lecture Tuesday at Australian National University in Canberra. “A number of initiatives ... failed. And as a consequence of that, in 2006 [there was] the first nuclear weapon test, to be followed by five more.” Grossi cited the U.S.-North Korea Agreed Framework, signed in 1994, as an unsuccessful attempt to stop Pyongyang from developing nuclear weapons. That agreement froze operations at North Korea’s Yongbyon nuclear reactor in exchange for a pair of civilian light water reactors and other benefits including fuel oil and security guarantees.

https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2022/07/06/Rafael-Grossi-IAEA-nuclear-program-collective-failure/6881657102131/

Why has North Korea stopped boasting about its missile tests?

Washington Post, July 7, 2022

North Korea has tested an unprecedented number of missiles this year as it expands its weapons program. Until recently, it usually boasted about each test in state media – sometimes with dramatic flair. But since April, that information has dried up. North Korea has stopped sharing details, photos and videos of the half-dozen missile tests it has conducted since then, including that of a suspected intercontinental ballistic missile, as it develops long-range weapons that could reach the East Coast of the United States.

It takes a constellation of information from various sources to try to piece together what may be going on with North Korea. Its hyperbolic weapons announcements are always taken with a grain of salt, and cross-checked with information provided by the United States, South Korea, Japan, commercial satellite imagery, weather data and other sources.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/07/07/north-korea-nuclear-missile-tests-covid/>

South Korea, US, Japan FMs agree to bolster cooperation on North Korea

Business Standard, July 9, 2022

The top diplomats of South Korea, the US and Japan talked in Indonesia where they agreed to step up cooperation against North Korea’s threats and make efforts to resume dialogue with Pyongyang, Seoul’s foreign ministry said. South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin held his first tripartite meeting with his US and Japanese counterparts, Antony Blinken and Yoshimasa Hayashi, on the resort island of Bali, on the margins of the Group of 20 meeting that was held from Thursday to Friday, Yonhap news agency reported.

“The three ministers shared the view that North Korea’s nuclear and missile threat is a pressing issue that needs to be dealt with as a priority by South Korea, the US and Japan,” the ministry said in a statement.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/south-korea-us-japan-fms-agree-to-bolster-cooperation-on-north-korea-122070900035_1.html

North Korea Fires Suspected Rocket Launchers: Seoul

The Defense Post, July 11, 2022

North Korea fired what appeared to be multiple rocket launchers Sunday, Seoul said, the latest in a series of provocations by the nuclear-armed nation to heighten tensions in the region. The South Korean military detected “flight trajectories” that were suspected to be shots from North Korean artillery, Seoul’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said. “Our military spotted flight trajectories that are suspected to be North Korea’s multiple rocket launchers from around 18:21 to 18:37 pm today,” said the Joint Chiefs of Staff in a text

message to reporters. "Our military has strengthened surveillance and vigilance, and maintained a thorough readiness posture while keeping close US-South Korea cooperation," it added, without further details. Seoul authorities did not share how many trajectories were detected in total.

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2022/07/11/north-korea-rocket/>

U. Japan

Japan ruling bloc signals openness to greater use of nuclear power

The Japan Times, July 2, 2022

With the global energy situation undergoing dramatic changes due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Japan's ruling bloc is leaning toward the idea of making greater use of nuclear power, ahead of a key election. Gasoline and electricity prices have soared amid historic price rises for resources. Unusual heat waves that have hit Japan are also fueling concerns in the business community over rising costs and power shortages. Calls are growing from the community for Japan to accelerate efforts to restart its idled nuclear reactors. Meanwhile, opposition parties are divided over policy on nuclear energy, with no signs of deepening debate on the issue.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2022/07/02/national/politics-diplomacy/japan-upper-house-election-nuclear-energy/>

Nuclear question arises in East Asia as invasion of Ukraine, US-China tensions continue

Channel News Asia, July 4, 2022

He was 11 months old when the United States dropped an atomic bomb over Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945. Each year on the anniversary of the bombing, Yasuhiro Asaeda will head to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial. His hope is that there will be no repeat of the tragedy. On its 75th anniversary, the survivor of the bombing told The Associated Press: "If the world could be peaceful, that would be the best." But East Asia's peace is becoming uneasy.

For example, amid the worst military tensions between China and Taiwan in 40 years, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has prompted some analysts to question whether Taiwan is next. China has been sending more and more military jets into Taiwan's air defence identification zone since 2020 to signal dissatisfaction and keep the island's fighter fleet stressed.

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/cna-insider/nuclear-question-east-asia-invasion-ukraine-us-china-tensions-2785001>

Nuclear ban treaty chair urges Japan to change approach

The Mainichi, July 5, 2022

The chairman of the first meeting of parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons urged Japan, the only nation that has experienced a nuclear attack, to change its stance on the treaty. "Of course, it's a decision of the government of Japan, and it's not at all for me to say. But, I would hope that this approach will change," Ambassador Alexander Kmentt told Kyodo News in a recent online interview. The senior Austrian diplomat chaired the three-day U.N. conference held in Vienna last month.

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20220705/p2g/00m/0in/057000c>

Japan election may be tailwind for nuclear restarts as public mood shifts

Reuters, July 8, 2022

Japan's push to restart nuclear reactors, shut down after the Fukushima disaster a decade ago, could get a tailwind as the governing coalition looks set for gains in a national election on Sunday. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's coalition is on track to expand its majority in the upper house of parliament, polls show, in an election where nuclear restarts have been an issue, along with inflation and defence. A boost for Kishida's pro-nuclear party would not directly affect decisions on restarting reactors, as they require the approval of local communities. But public

support for his agenda could be a tailwind as the national mood shifts.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/japan-election-may-be-tailwind-nuclear-restarts-public-mood-shifts-2022-07-08/>

In Nagasaki, Germany's Annalena Baerbock calls for world without nuclear weapons

DW, July 10, 2022

Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock arrived in the Japanese city of Nagasaki on Sunday, following her attendance at the G20 summit in Indonesia on Friday and a brief stop in the Pacific Island nation of Palau on Saturday. Baerbock visited the Atomic Bomb Museum in the city that was hit by a US nuclear bomb on August 9, 1945, where she laid a wreath in memory of the 70,000 people who were killed. It is one of the only two cities, along with Hiroshima, to ever be hit by a nuclear weapon. The two stand "like no other place for absolute annihilation and war, and as a symbol for the warning against the use of nuclear weapons," the German foreign minister said. She called for a world without such destructive weapons and said the German government supports disarmament, "even if the current global situation is quite different."

<https://www.dw.com/en/in-nagasaki-germanys-annalena-baerbock-calls-for-world-without-nuclear-weapons/a-62422970>

Japan PM Kishida: asked industry minister to have up to 9 nuclear reactors operational this winter

Reuters, July 15, 2022

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Thursday he had asked the industry minister to have up to nine nuclear reactors operational this winter. The move, which he announced at a news conference, is part of measures to deal with rising fuel prices in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/japan-pm-kishida-asked-industry-minister-have-up-9-nuclear-power-plants-2022-07-14/>

V. South Korea

South Korea bets on nuclear power, restarting construction on two reactors

CNN, July 6, 2022

South Korea, one of the world's most fossil fuel-reliant economies, is re-embracing nuclear energy, with the government announcing Tuesday it will restart construction on two nuclear reactors and extend the life of those already in operation. By 2030, the Energy Ministry wants nuclear to make up at least 30% of the country's power generation — a step up from its previous goal of 27%. To meet this, South Korea is restarting construction on two new reactors at the Hanul Nuclear Power Plant on the country's east coast. Construction on the two reactors has been stalled since 2017, when former President Moon Jae-in — who had pushed hard to phase out nuclear energy — took office.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/07/06/asia/south-korea-nuclear-plants-renewable-energy-intl-hnk/index.html>

W. Australia

Australia Committed to Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Science, IAEA Chief Visit

IAEA, July 9, 2022

Speaking with Mr Grossi on Wednesday, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese highlighted Australia's unwavering commitment to nuclear non-proliferation in the context of AUKUS. AUKUS is a partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Through AUKUS, Australia seeks to acquire conventionally armed nuclear-powered submarines, which requires special arrangements for nuclear safeguards.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/australia-committed-to-nuclear-non-proliferation-and-science-iaea-chief-visit>

X. Opinion

India can play bigger role in global nuclear politics. Ukraine fence-sitting stands in way

Lt Gen. Prakash Menon

The Print, July 12, 2022

In war, strategic contestation may not easily knuckle under the passing winds of tactical successes and defeats. The problem is always about judging the flow so that informed decisions can be made on how much and in what manner should force be applied. The Russians have used artillery and missile firepower to devastate Ukrainian resistance and taken control of nearly the entire Donbas region. An uneasy tactical pause is occupying the stage and the contours of a protracted conflict are discernible. It is high time that the international community took a stand on this issue. And India can take the lead in attempts aimed to preserve global peace.

<https://theprint.in/opinion/india-can-play-bigger-role-in-global-nuclear-politics-ukraine-fence-sitting-stands-in-way/1034079/>

The U.S. Should Get Out of the Way in East Asia's Nuclear Debates

Robert. E. Kelly

Foreign Policy, July 15, 2022

A February poll found that 71 percent of South Koreans wanted their country to have nuclear weapons. Another in May found 70.2 percent supported indigenous nuclearization, with 63.6 percent in support even if that violated the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The drivers, unsurprisingly, are North Korea's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and China's growing belligerence. These factors impact the Japanese nuclearization debate too, though interest there is noticeably lower. The United States has long opposed South Korean/Japanese counter-nuclearization. But in the light of the Ukraine war,

Washington should not hegemonically dictate the outcome of its allies' WMD debates.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/07/15/us-south-korea-japan-east-asia-nuclear-debates-nonproliferation/>

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

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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Prepared by :

**Mr. Kushal Agrawal
Mr. Niranjana Oak
Mr. Stephen James**

Indian Pugwash Society

No.1, Development Enclave,
Rao Tula Ram Marg, Near USI, Delhi-110010
Tel. No (91-11) 2671-7983
Fax No. (91-11)2615-4192
Email: indianpugwashsociety@gmail.com