

# Nuclear, Missile & Space Digest

Volume 15, Number 2

A Fortnightly Newsletter from the Indian Pugwash Society

January 30, 2023

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- IRGC Chief Reminds France of Salman Rushdi's Fate
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- Commander: Iranian Army in Possession of Precision-Striking Drones
- Iran to get Sukhoi Su-35 aircraft in spring: MP
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- Colombia to purchase Barak MX missiles from IAI
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## A. India

### Pakistan, India exchange lists of nuclear assets, inmates

*The Indian Express, January 1, 2023*

Pakistan and India exchanged lists of their nuclear facilities on Sunday as part of a 1988 pact that bars them from attacking each other's nuclear installations, according to official statements from both sides. The lists were simultaneously handed over through their respective diplomats in Islamabad and New Delhi. India and Pakistan also exchanged lists of prisoners in each other's custody as part of an agreement dating back to 2008. Pakistan shared a list of 705 detained Indians, 51 civilians and 654 fishermen. India shared a list of 434 Pakistanis in its custody, 339 civilians and 95 fishermen. India and Pakistan arrest each other's fishermen for crossing the unmarked sea frontier between them. Their maritime security agencies seize the boats and jail the fishermen, who are usually only released after the two countries hold negotiations.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/pakistan/pakistan-india-exchange-lists-of-nuclear-assets-inmates-8355305/>

### India ready to launch its first Atmanirbhar human space flight Gaganyaan by 2024

*Business Standard, January 1, 2023*

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh on Sunday announced that the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is ready to launch India's first Atmanirbhar human flight "Gaganyaan" by the year 2024. The minister said that India is constantly making new achievements in the field of science and technology. Science is touching new heights under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which is why India's first self-sufficient Gaganyaan will enter space in 2024.

Giving information about the achievements being made by the government in the field of science and technology, Jitendra Singh said "The idea of taking forward the 'Gaganyaan' program was in 2022 itself but

due to Covid-19 it was delayed. In the next year (2024), there will be two preliminary launchings, the first launch will be unmanned, this experiment will be done to mark the routes because if the 'Gaganyaan' rocket goes into space then it should also return safely to the same way."

<https://www.businessinsider.in/science/news/india-ready-to-launch-its-first-atmanirbhar-human-space-flight-gaganyaan-by-2024/articleshow/96664209.cms>

### PSUs to be roped in to build nuclear power plants: Jitendra Singh

*The Economic Times, January 3, 2023*

India is all set to rope in its public sector behemoths for building nuclear power plants as it aims to achieve its goal of net zero emissions by 2070, Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said here on Tuesday. Addressing the media on the sidelines of the 108th Indian Science Congress here, Singh said the nuclear sector has been opened up for joint ventures with public sector undertakings to generate financial resources for building atomic power plants. Singh is the Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office and in-charge of the Department of Atomic Energy. The government had amended the Atomic Energy Act in 2015 to enable joint ventures between the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and public sector companies to build nuclear power projects. "We are now building nuclear power plants in northern parts of the country as well," Singh said citing the construction of a nuclear power plant in Gorakhpur in Haryana.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/psus-to-be-rope-in-to-build-nuclear-power-plants-jitendra-singh/articleshow/96715590.cms>

### India tried to defuse Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant situation: EAM Jaishankar

*The Hindu, January 5, 2023*

India tried to defuse the situation around Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear

power plant and quietly helped in the grain deal between Moscow and Kyiv, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has said even as he vehemently rejected charges of New Delhi being a war profiteer over its procurement of discounted Russian oil. The External Affairs Minister also described the cap on the price of Russian crude oil as a Western decision that was taken without any consultations with India, asserting that New Delhi would never automatically sign into what others had cooked up. In an interview to 'Die Press' newspaper of Austria, Mr. Jaishankar while replying to a question on the Ukraine conflict, indicated India's readiness to contribute towards defusing the situation. Mr. Jaishankar was asked whether he saw a role for India as a mediator between Russia and Ukraine.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/india-tried-to-defuse-zaporizhzhia-nuclear-plant-situation-eam-jaishankar/article66339641.ece>

### **India-France to join hands in fighter and submarine design and manufacturing**

*Hindustan Times, January 5, 2023*

Visiting diplomatic advisor to French President, Emmanuel Bonne, will call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi today as his strategic dialogue with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval is pitched at making France a key partner in "Make in India" campaign in manufacturing much needed aircraft engine and long range submarine. The 36th India-France Strategic dialogue will be held this afternoon and lead to other high level exchanges coming March. Diplomatic Advisor Bonne will also meet Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. While the Modi government is tight-lipped about the dialogue, India is building self-reliance in weapons and hardware platforms with the help of key allies like France in the face of rising militarization by China as once upon a time key supplier Russia bogged down in Ukraine war.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/indiafrance-to-join-hands-in-fighter-and-submarine-design-and-manufacturing-101672890137294.html>

### **ISRO to launch Space Kidz India satellite made by 750 children on Friday aboard SSLV-D2 rocket**

*Money Control, January 9, 2023*

Space Kidz India, a Chennai-based space tech startup is slated to launch their satellite made by 750 girls studying in government schools across the country aboard an Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launch vehicle on February 10. The satellite will be aboard ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-D2) which will launch from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 9.18 am on February 10. Space Kidz India selected 10 girl students from 75 government schools across the country for this mission. "The selected students are predominantly from class VIII to XII," Space Kidz India's website said. The payloads of this mission aboard SSLV-D2 include a LoRa transmitter. LoRA is a physical proprietary radio communication technique. It also includes a solid-state radiation sensor, 75-student experiments and expandable structure.

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/isro-to-launch-space-kidz-india-satellite-made-by-750-school-children-9818131.html>

### **French President Emmanuel Macron's trip likely to boost Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant**

*The Economic Times, January 10, 2023*

French President Emmanuel Macron's planned trip to India in the first quarter of this year is expected to witness major progress on the proposed Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) that is being built by French nuclear major EDF in collaboration with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL). The technical, financial and civil nuclear liability issues pertaining to the much delayed Jaitapur project are expected to be resolved by both sides before Macron's visit, ET has learnt. Macron's diplomatic advisor Emmanuel Bonne was in New Delhi last week to set the stage for the visit of the French president and issue of Jaitapur NPP figured in the strategic dialogue between him and NSA Ajit

Doval. India has announced plans to construct six 1,650 MW nuclear power plants at Jaitapur in Ratnagiri, which could become the nation's largest nuclear power site once completed with a 9,900 MW capacity.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/french-president-emmanuel-macrons-trip-likely-to-boost-jaitapur-nuclear-power-plant/articleshow/96864083.cms>

### **India carries out successful test launch of Prithvi-II**

*The Indian Express, January 11, 2023*

INDIA ON Tuesday carried out a successful test launch of tactical ballistic missile Prithvi-II from a test range off the Odisha coast. "A successful training launch of a short-range ballistic missile, Prithvi-II, was carried out on January 10 from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha," a statement from the ministry read. "A well-established system, Prithvi-II missile has been an integral part of India's nuclear deterrence. The missile struck its target with high accuracy," it said. The user training launch successfully validated all operational and technical parameters of the missile, the ministry said. The missile, which is powered by light propulsion twin engines, has a range of around 350 km and can carry 500-1,000 kg of warheads. It uses an advanced inertial navigation system to strike the set target.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-carries-out-successful-test-launch-of-prithvi-ii-8374104/>

### **Indian Navy may repeat Kalveri class submarine order**

*Hindustan Times, January 11, 2023*

When visionary Manohar Parrikar was the Defence Minister of India, he had suggested to then Navy Chief Admiral Robin K Dhowan that Indian Navy should exercise the option of three more Kalveri (Scorpene) class rather than go for fresh acquisition of six of Project 75 I, air independent propulsion equipped, submarines. Admiral Dhowan did not agree because of which the

options clause for Project 75, which was approved by Atal Behari Vajpayee government way back in 2003, was cancelled in September 2016. On July 20, 2021, the Ministry of Defence floated a request for proposal (RFP) for AIP equipped six Project 75 I class submarines at the cost of ₹ 40,000 crore. Since it is normal for Indian military-civilian bureaucracy to take at least 10-15 years to complete any big acquisition, it means that the current Scorpene submarine line at MDL will go to seed with the next set of 75 I class being built in late 2030s with a fresh massive investment on submarine line. All this appears to be set for a change.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/indian-navy-may-repeat-kalveri-class-submarine-order-101673416531671.html>

### **Joint India-US space mission later this year: Science and Technology Minister**

*The Economic Times, January 13, 2023*

Stepping up cooperation in the space sector, India and the US are expected to launch a joint Earth observation project – NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite – later this year, Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said on Friday. He made the remarks during the visit of a US delegation led by Sethuraman Panchanathan, the director of the National Science Foundation. The NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) Mission will measure the Earth's changing ecosystems, dynamic surfaces and ice masses to provide information about biomass, natural hazards, sea level rise and groundwater and will support a host of other applications. It will also observe the Earth's land- and ice-covered surfaces globally with 12-day regularity on ascending and descending passes, sampling the Earth on average every six days for a baseline three-year mission.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/joint-india-us-space-mission-later-this-year-science-and-technology-minister/articleshow/96973264.cms>



## ***B. Russia***

### **Russian nuclear power plants set new generation record in 2022**

*TASS, January 2, 2023*

Russian nuclear power plants (NPP) set a new electricity generation record of 223.371 bln kWh in 2022, Rosenergoatom, the electric power arm of Rosatom state corporation, reported. The high quality turnaround campaign optimized by 146 days, including through the use of digital tools, played a major role in the rise of electric power generation, Rosenergoatom CEO Andrey Petrov said. The greatest contribution to the next record among Russian NPPs was made by the Balakovskaya NPP (more than 35.7 bln kWh), the Rostovskaya NPP (above 35.046 bln kWh), and the Kalininskaya NPP (32.636 bln kWh), the company said. Rosenergoatom comprises eleven nuclear power plants with 37 power units in service (including the Academician Lomonosov floating power unit). Their installed capacity is above 29.5 GW in total. The share of nuclear generation is about 20% of total electric power generation in Russia at the moment.

<https://tass.com/economy/1558495>

### **Russia discussing building two mini-NPPs with Sri Lanka, envoy says**

*TASS, January 2, 2023*

Russia is discussing the construction of two small nuclear power plants with the government of Sri Lanka, Russian Ambassador to the island nation Levan Dzhagaryan told Ceylon Today. "Recently, I met with Sri Lanka's Nuclear Energy Council, the country's nuclear agency and Minister of Power and Energy Kanchana Wijesekera. Our plan is to help Sri Lanka with the construction of two mini-NPPs, with a capacity of 55MW each," the Russian envoy said. Two power units will be just the beginning, he said, to be followed by four and finally six power plants later on. "The proposal is very valuable, from several perspectives. Firstly, it would enable the country to save oil and coal. Secondly, the project will be environmentally friendly and

safe. Besides, it will be inexpensive," the Russian diplomat specified.

<https://tass.com/economy/1558603>

### **Turkey continues talks with Russia on gas payment deferral – energy minister**

*TASS, January 6, 2023*

Turkey continues negotiations with Russia on the deferred payment for natural gas, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Turkey Fatih Donmez said on Friday. "Negotiations with Russia on many issues are in progress. We are negotiating in a way that will be beneficial to us. We are talking about the deferral of payment, and many other issues. At the moment, we have not had a negative experience with Russia," he said, according to Haberturk TV channel. Donmez noted that "at the moment the most important issue for all countries is the security and security of supply." Bloomberg reported in October, citing sources, that Turkish oil and gas company Botas asked Russia to defer some payments for Russian gas until 2024.

<https://tass.com/economy/1559351>

### **Russia to boost Aerospace Forces' combat potential this year, vows defense chief**

*TASS, January 10, 2023*

Russia will focus on improving drones and the invulnerabilities of fighter aircraft and bombers to modern air defense systems to boost the Aerospace Forces' combat potential this year, Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu said at the ministry's conference call on Tuesday. "We will raise the combat potential of the Aerospace Forces both with regard to the capabilities of fighters and bombers to operate in areas of modern air defense systems and the upgrade of unmanned aerial vehicles," the defense chief said. The defense minister said at the ministry's board meeting in late November that Russian troops were testing new methods of the combat employment of missile troops and artillery during the special military operation in Ukraine,

primarily, through reconnaissance/strike systems that included drones.

<https://tass.com/defense/1560153>

### **Russia to continue developing its nuclear triad in 2023, defense chief says**

*TASS, January 10, 2023*

Russia intends to continue forging ahead with its nuclear triad in 2023, Sergey Shoigu, the nation's defense chief, said at a ministry conference call on Tuesday. "We will continue to develop the nuclear triad and maintain its combat readiness because the nuclear shield remains the main guarantee of our country's sovereignty and territorial integrity," Shoigu stressed. The defense minister said at an annual board meeting involving President Vladimir Putin in late December that the share of advanced equipment provided to the country's strategic nuclear forces had reached 91.3%.

<https://tass.com/defense/1560175>

### **No meeting with IAEA chief on Putin's schedule, says Kremlin spokesman**

*TASS, January 11, 2023*

Russian President Vladimir Putin currently has no plans to meet with IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told TASS on Wednesday. "So far - no," he said when asked if such a meeting was on the president's schedule. Grossi said earlier that he would head to Ukraine next week, after which he wanted to visit Russia. The Zaporozhye NPP is located in the city of Energodar, its capacity is about 6 GW. It is the largest nuclear power plant in Europe. In March 2022, the facility was taken under the control of Russian forces. Since then, Ukrainian army units have been repeatedly shelling both residential neighborhoods of Energodar and the territory of the nuclear plant, using drones, heavy artillery, and multiple rocket launchers. The last time that Putin and Grossi met was in October, in St. Petersburg. The IAEA director general called relations

with the Russian leader extremely important from the point of view of ensuring the safety of nuclear power facilities, including the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant.

<https://tass.com/politics/1561185>

### **US, Japan view Russia-China military cooperation as 'provocative' – joint statement**

*TASS, January 12, 2023*

Russia's growing strategic military cooperation with China is provocative, the US and Japan said in a joint statement following a meeting of the two countries' foreign policy and defense chiefs. "The ministers also highlighted with concern Russia's growing and provocative strategic military cooperation with China, including through joint operations and drills in the vicinity of Japan," the statement reads. In addition, Washington and Tokyo condemned Moscow's special military operation in Ukraine, and "reiterated the need for Russia to be held accountable." In their view, Russia's activities "present a serious security threat for the European region and shake the foundation of the international order." The ministers also claimed that Russia was using "reckless nuclear rhetoric."

<https://tass.com/world/1561257>

### **Putin to speak with IAEA chief Grossi if necessary – Kremlin**

*TASS, January 12, 2023*

Russian President Vladimir Putin will speak with Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi if necessary, but such a meeting is currently not on the Russian president's work schedule, Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Thursday. "There are no planned meetings on [Putin's] schedule if we are speaking about Grossi," Peskov told journalists, adding that the Russian president and the IAEA chief agreed during their meeting in St. Petersburg last October "to carry on

with the dialogue if necessary.” “This is why, if the need should arise and there is a corresponding request, a telephone conversation or a meeting is definitely possible,” he said. The last time that Putin and Grossi met was in October 2022, in St. Petersburg. The IAEA director general called relations with the Russian leader extremely important from the point of view of ensuring the safety of nuclear power facilities, including the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant.

<https://tass.com/politics/1561481>

### **Japanese PM betrayed memory of victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki - Medvedev**

*TASS, January 14, 2023*

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida acted as a US' attendant and betrayed the memory of hundreds of thousands of victims of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev said Saturday. Medvedev called the joint statement made by Kishida and US President Joe Biden that any potential use of nuclear weapons by Russia in Ukraine will be an irredeemable hostile act against humanity a “horrible shame.” Medvedev underscored that he will not “even comment on the paranoia regarding our state’s nuclear plans.”

<https://tass.com/politics/1562241>

## **C. China**

### **Taiwan counts on military conscription reform to deter China invasion**

*Financial Times, January 02, 2023*

A low-key US military delegation arrived in Taiwan last month to assess its army, navy and air force and explore what the country’s armed services could gain from closer co-operation with Washington. The visit’s aims were the same as Taipei’s high-profile announcement last week that it was lengthening conscription: to strengthen Taiwan’s defences enough to deter China

from attempting an invasion. The People’s Republic of China, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory, has threatened to use force to bring the island under its control since the ruling Chinese Communist party’s Nationalist civil war adversaries fled there in 1949.

<https://www.ft.com/content/c8762364-da8f-4543-a440-1ea72ccfabbf>

### **Chinese military short of troops trained in hi-tech operations, PLA Daily reveals in rare show of candour**

*South China Morning Post, January 02, 2023*

The vice-captain of a warship has yet to complete a key training test, China’s military has revealed, in an indirect but rare acknowledgement of its shortage of highly skilled troops. The admission, in a recent media report, highlights a core problem as China speeds up the modernisation of the People’s Liberation Army – a lack of hi-tech expertise limiting state-of-the-art equipment from use to its full extent, especially in the navy. The vice-captain of the Zhangye – a Type 056 corvette – had not completed an important training assessment, military mouthpiece PLA Daily said in a report last week.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3205251/chinese-military-short-troops-trained-hi-tech-operations-pla-daily-reveals-rare-show-candour>

### **Blinken discussed U.S.-China relationship in call with China’s Qin**

*Nikkei Asia, January 02, 2023*

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with incoming Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang over the phone, Blinken said on Twitter, after China last week appointed its ambassador to the United States to be its new foreign minister. Blinken said he discussed the U.S.-China relationship and maintaining open lines of communication in his phone call with Qin.



China appointed Qin, its ambassador to the United States and a trusted aide of President Xi Jinping, to be its new foreign minister, as Beijing and Washington seek to stabilize rocky relations.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/US-China-tensions/Blinken-discussed-U.S.-China-relationship-in-call-with-China-s-Qin>

### **European politicians should be wary of Rasmussen's visit to Taiwan island and avoid becoming strategic pawns**

*Global Times, January 03, 2023*

Grasping to a personal political fantasy, former prime minister of Denmark and ex-NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen arrived on the island of Taiwan for a three-day visit, which experts believed to be the latest attempt by a former politician to access personal benefit by pandering to political correctness. During his scheduled stay, Rasmussen, founder of the Alliance of Democracies Foundation will meet with Taiwan regional leader Tsai Ing-wen, Lai Ching-te, Joseph Wu, lawmakers and think tank scholars. The foundation was sanctioned by the Chinese government in March, 2021. In a separate press release issued by the foundation, it said the visit was the first official visit by a former NATO secretary-general. "The visit will focus on support from the democratic world for Taiwan and closer EU-Taiwan relations," it said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202301/1283135.shtml>

### **China's nukes use U.S. technology**

*Bill Gertz*

*The Washington Times, January 03, 2023*

Beijing's rapid buildup of nuclear forces has been assisted by American nuclear and missile technology obtained by Chinese spies and through U.S. space and nuclear cooperation in the 1990s, according to a review of Chinese technology records and internal U.S. government documents. The Pentagon disclosed last month that China's stockpile will have at least 1,500 strategic nuclear warheads by 2035, up from 200 just

a few years ago and 400 warheads today. Adm. Charles Richard, commander of U.S. nuclear forces until December 9, further sounded the alarm on the Chinese nuclear expansion last month when he formally notified Congress that the size of Chinese nuclear forces exceeded those of the United States for the first time in one of three unspecified areas: warheads, long-range missiles or launchers.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2023/jan/3/chinas-nuclear-forces-built-part-us-technology/>

### **Xi tells Marcos that China is ready to restart oil exploration talks**

*Cliff Venzon and Pak Yiu*

*Nikkei Asia, January 04, 2023*

Chinese President Xi Jinping told visiting Philippine counterpart Ferdinand Marcos Jr. that Beijing is ready to restart discussions on joint oil and gas exploration, as the two sides remain at odds over the South China Sea. "China is willing to continue to work with the Philippines to properly deal with maritime issues in a friendly and consultative manner, restart negotiations on oil and gas development, promote cooperation on oil and gas development in non-disputed areas, and develop cooperation on green energy such as photovoltaic, wind energy and new-energy vehicles," China's Foreign Ministry said in a translated account of Xi's comments. Xi met with Marcos, who is on a state visit to Beijing, as the leaders aimed to lay the groundwork for stronger bilateral relations despite lingering friction over the vital waterway.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/South-China-Sea/Xi-tells-Marcos-that-China-is-ready-to-restart-oil-exploration-talks>

### **Chinese battery makers strengthen grip on global supply**

*Harry Dempsey and Gloria Li*

*Financial Times, January 04, 2023*

Chinese battery manufacturers have extended their dominance over global

supply, with the top two producers reaching a combined market share of 50 per cent, and leaving South Korean and Japanese rivals lagging behind. CATL, supplier to carmakers including Tesla and Volkswagen, more than doubled battery sales to 165.7 gigawatt hours in the 11 months to the end of November, according to data from Korea's SNE Research – enough for roughly 3.3mn average-sized electric vehicles. That extends the company's lead as the world's biggest producer and takes its market share to 37.1 per cent, up from 32.2 per cent in 2021.

<https://www.ft.com/content/0d2553ad-e512-4979-af1b-39d08397de82>

### **China-Taiwan: Concern at repair of Taiwanese military device in China**

*Fan Wang*

*BBC, January 04, 2023*

There are calls for greater safeguards in Taiwan after at least one device used by the military for its missiles was sent for repair in China. An optical instrument used for launch measurements for Taiwan's Hsiung-Feng III anti-ship missiles was shipped to its manufacturer in Europe. It was then sent back to Taiwan from Shandong province in eastern China, Taiwanese media reported. Last year Beijing intensified military activity around the island. China sees Taiwan as part of its territory and has vowed to unify to it by force if necessary. Self-ruled Taiwan sees itself as distinct from the mainland. President Tsai Ing-wen has announced new plans to bolster Taiwan's defence in the event of an attack from Beijing, including extending mandatory military service from four months to one year.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-64161966>

### **China, Philippines ink updated MoU on BRI to boost cooperation in infrastructure, other areas**

*Yin Yeping*

*Global Times, January 05, 2023*

During President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr of the Philippines' three-day visit

to China, China and the Philippines signed a total of 14 cooperation documents. One of the major documents was an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with a focus on bilateral cooperation in infrastructure projects. The two countries first signed the MoU on the BRI in November 2018 and the updated version will further promote closer BRI cooperation, which will underpin the expansion of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, Chinese experts noted. In terms of broad bilateral cooperation, during the visit, the two countries also vowed cooperation in various areas ranging from energy to agriculture, where the potential for collaboration is huge.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202301/1283278.shtml>

### **Chinese military on alert as US destroyer transits Taiwan Strait in first new year sailing**

*Kawala Xie*

*South China Morning Post, January 06, 2023*

The Chinese military were placed on alert as an American warship transited the Taiwan Strait, the first such crossing in two months in what the US Navy terms "routine" operations. The People's Liberation Army followed and monitored the guided-missile destroyer Chung-hoon's passage through the strait, and "all movements were under control", the PLA Eastern Theatre Command said, without specifying the service branches involved. The crossing also prompted criticism from Beijing's embassy in the United States.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3205813/chinese-military-alert-us-destroyer-transits-taiwan-strait-first-new-year-sailing>

### **China Uses US Tech for Their Weapons...Again**

*SOFREP, January 06, 2023*

The fast growth of Beijing's nuclear forces has been enabled by American nuclear and



missile technology acquired by Chinese spies and US space and nuclear cooperation in the 1990s, according to an overview of Chinese technology records and internal US government documents. The Pentagon reported last month that by 2035, China's arsenal of strategic nuclear warheads would reach a minimum of 1,500, up from 200 only a few years ago and 400 warheads presently. Adm. Charles Richard, the former commander of the US nuclear forces, highlighted the Chinese nuclear development last month by informing Congress that the size of Chinese nuclear forces for the first time surpasses that of the United States in one of three particular areas – warheads, long-range missiles or launchers.

<https://sofrep.com/news/china-uses-us-tech-for-their-weapons-again/>

### **Taiwan plans domestic satellite champion to resist any China attack**

*Kathrin Hille*

*Financial Times, January 06, 2023*

Taiwan is courting investors to help it establish its own satellite communications provider, inspired by the role Elon Musk's Starlink has played in the war in Ukraine, as Taipei boosts efforts to fortify itself against a potential assault from China. Taiwan is in preliminary talks with several domestic and international investors to raise funds for the project, which the country's space agency, known as TASA, wants to spin out of an existing satellite division, according to three people familiar with the situation. "We are going to spin our low-Earth orbit satellite communications project off into a company," said a senior official at TASA.

<https://www.ft.com/content/07c6e48b-5068-4231-8dcf-fe15cb3d0478>

### **US military deepens ties with Japan and Philippines over China threats**

*Kathrin Hille*

*Financial Times, January 09, 2023*

The US and Japanese armed forces are rapidly integrating their command structure and scaling up operations as Washington

and its Asian allies prepare for a possible conflict with China, according to the top US Marine Corps general in Japan. The two militaries have "seen exponential increases . . . just over the last year" in their operations on the territory they would have to defend in case of a war, Lieutenant General James Bierman, commanding general of the Third Marine Expeditionary Force and of Marine Forces Japan, told the Financial Times in an interview.

<https://www.ft.com/content/5f5981c6-8ec4-4241-9abf-2bd9fcfc4b8#post-b065dfea-01a2-4d5b-86ba-4b3bdd6c3ab9>

### **Chinese 'wolf warrior' Zhao leaves diplomatic spokesperson role**

*Nikkei Asia, January 09, 2023*

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian, who gained prominence as one of China's most outspoken "wolf warrior" diplomats, has been transferred to the department that manages land and sea borders, according to the ministry's website. Zhao, 50, is now deputy head of the ministry's Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs, the website showed. Zhao became a ministry spokesperson in 2020 after stints at China's embassy in Pakistan, where he built a large following on Twitter as well as on Chinese social media for his frequent and often combative posts, many targeted at the U.S.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Chinese-wolf-warrior-Zhao-leaves-diplomatic-spokesperson-role>

### **3,600 American Cruise Missiles Versus The Chinese Fleet: How One U.S. Munition Could Decide Taiwan's Fate**

*David Axe*

*Forbes, January 09, 2023*

A Chinese attack on Taiwan could trigger a war involving two million Chinese troops, half a million Taiwanese troops and the combined fleets and air forces of the United States and Japan. China has some key advantages going into this possible ultra-mega war. Compared to

China, Taiwan is tiny, less wealthy on a national level and isolated. China can mass its best troops, ships and planes along a short geographic front and attack at the time of its choosing. The Chinese People's Liberation Army Rocket Force has aimed thousands of missiles at the closest American and Japanese bases. To intervene, U.S. and Japanese forces must fight their way through these missiles as well as the PLA Navy's submarines.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidaxe/2023/01/09/3600-american-cruise-missiles-versus-the-chinese-fleet-how-one-us-munition-could-decide-taiwans-fate/?sh=165cc0187da7>

### **Taiwan condemns China for latest combat drills near island**

*Nikkei Asia, January 09, 2023*

Taiwan condemned China for holding its second military combat drills around the island in less than a month, with the defence ministry saying it had detected 57 Chinese aircraft. China views democratically-governed Taiwan as its own territory and has been ramping up military, political and economic pressure to assert those claims. The Eastern Theatre Command of the People's Liberation Army said its forces held "joint combat readiness patrols and actual combat drills" in the sea and airspace around Taiwan, focused on land strikes and sea assaults. The aim was to test joint combat capabilities and "resolutely counter the provocative actions of external forces and Taiwan independence separatist forces," it added in a brief statement.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Taiwan-tensions/Taiwan-condemns-China-for-latest-combat-drills-near-island>

### **China-Pakistan joint drills strengthen ties, enhance interoperability between the two navies: GT exclusive interview with Pakistani naval chief**

*Liu Xuanzun*

*Global Times, January 09, 2023*

The Pakistan Navy plans to host the AMAN-23 multinational maritime exercise in February 2023, with the Chinese People's

Liberation Army (PLA) Navy, having taken part in previous editions, are again expected to participate. China and Pakistan have been maintaining close naval and maritime exchanges and cooperation in recent years, including joint drills, enhanced by Pakistan's procurement of four advanced Type 054A/P frigates from China.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202301/1283501.shtml>

### **US looks to deter China by sprinkling missile-armed marines across Japanese islands**

*South China Morning Post, January 10, 2023*

The United States wants to disperse its marines throughout Japan's Okinawa islands by 2026, arming them with missiles and lighter gear to deter China's military, according to reports. The US has already told Japan about the reorganisation, which it will announce after a two-plus-two meeting in Washington between Japan's ministers of defence and foreign affairs and their US counterparts, the Yomiuri newspaper reported. Officials at Japan's defence ministry were unavailable for comment. A foreign ministry official declined to comment on the report, but said Japan and the US "will discuss matters regarding issues on the US Forces Japan, including the realignment of the US Forces Japan". Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a regular briefing that bilateral military cooperation between the US and Japan "should not harm the interests of third parties and regional peace and stability."

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/east-asia/article/3206221/us-looks-deter-china-sprinkling-japanese-islands-missile-armed-marines>

### **War game instigates US intervention in possible Taiwan Straits conflict**

*Liu Xuanzun*

*Global Times, January 10, 2023*

A recent war game scenario run by the Washington-based Center for Strategic

and International Studies (CSIS) is not worthy of reference, as it was designed to hype the “China threat” theory, and to suggest the US should fully arm the island of Taiwan preemptively, and instigate the US military to immediately intervene if a conflict breaks out, Chinese mainland experts said. The US think tank said the simulations indicate the US, Japan and the island of Taiwan would suffer huge losses in defeating the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) if a conflict breaks out in the Taiwan Straits in 2026. From a technical point of view, the simulations are biased and set under a scenario of wishful thinking, as they underestimated the PLA’s capabilities and overestimated US and Japanese forces, analysts said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202301/1283579.shtml>

### **Japan to expand island military base near Taiwan after China’s missile drills**

*Julian Ryall*

*South China Morning Post, January 10, 2023*

Japan is expanding a military base on a tiny island east of Taiwan months after the Chinese military’s ballistic missiles landed near its shores last year, rattling locals amid worsening regional military tensions. Yonaguni, a remote outpost of Japan’s southern Okinawa prefecture, is located 110km from Taiwan and is near the Diaoyu Islands, a group of islands claimed by Beijing but administered by Tokyo as the Senkakus. In August, Yonaguni’s 1,700 residents were shocked when six Chinese missiles fell just off its shores, in waters Tokyo considers to be within Japan’s exclusive economic zone.

<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3206121/japan-expand-military-base-near-taiwan-over-chinas-military-moves>

### **India to deploy home-grown Stinger-style missiles at China border for air defence**

*South China Morning Post, January 11, 2023*

India will buy portable air defence missiles to deploy along the borders with China as militarisation in the region gathers speed

and hostilities between the two countries enter a third year. The Defence Acquisition Council – headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh – cleared the purchase of the very short-range missiles that can be carried by troops, according to a statement issued. “In view of the recent developments along the northern borders there is a need to focus on effective air defence weapon systems which are man portable and can be deployed quickly in rugged terrain,” the ministry said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/south-asia/article/3206393/india-deploy-homegrown-stinger-style-missiles-china-border-air-defence>

### **China tests engine for next-gen manned rocket; nation’s plan unaffected by US hyping of space race**

*Deng Xiaoci*

*Global Times, January 11, 2023*

China has made new progress in its development of next-generation manned rockets, with developers recently conducting a torch ignition experiment for the third-stage engine of the craft at a ground environment. According to the Sixth Research Academy of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC), the academy’s 101 Institute conducted the test at the institute’s upper stage testing venue, and they have acquired the flow characteristics of the oxygen ignition system in the ground environment, which could provide sufficient support for the ground testing of engine ignition reliability in the next stage.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202301/1283627.shtml>

### **UK and Japan to sign defence pact to counter China threat**

*Jasmine Cameron-Chileshe and George Parker*

*Financial Times, January 11, 2023*

Rishi Sunak, the UK prime minister, and his Japanese counterpart, Fumio Kishida, will on Wednesday sign a defence



agreement, enabling the UK and Japan to deploy forces in each other's countries. The move comes as the UK government seeks to strengthen its engagement in the Asia-Pacific region to counter the influence of China, although the war in Ukraine has forced London to reassess its global strategy.

<https://www.ft.com/content/55742e74-c9f5-4617-bfe7-49beb1ecec70>

### **Chinese scientists' claims for new quantum code-breaking algorithm raise eyebrows in the US**

*Stephen Chen*

*South China Morning Post, January 11, 2023*

Mainstream encryption in use today may become vulnerable within years instead of decades after Chinese researchers proposed a new code-breaking algorithm to run on a small quantum computer built from technology already within reach. But some senior security and quantum experts in the United States have raised concerns as well as doubts about that claim coming out of China. Quantum computers can speed up the factoring of large numbers – a difficult task for traditional computers – to break codes in a relatively short period.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3206384/chinese-scientists-claims-new-quantum-code-breaking-algorithm-raise-eyebrows-us>

### **Device to detect orbital particles mounted outside China's space station**

*Global Times, January 12, 2023*

A particle detector has been installed on the extravehicular platform of China's space station to obtain key data used for the space station's safety, extravehicular activities of the astronauts, biological experiments, and the study of space material. The energy particle detector in Wentian lab has been transported via the cargo airlock cabin, assisted by a robotic arm. Wentian lab weighs 20 tons, and was launched by Long March vehicles into the space in July, 2022.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202301/1283715.shtml>

### **A Pentagon Report on China Fuels a Military Spending Frenzy in the US**

*Michael T. Klare*

*The Nation, January 12, 2023*

"China to Have 1,500 Nuclear Warheads by 2035: Pentagon." That was the headline at ABC News on November 29, the day the Department of Defense released the 2022 edition of its annual report on "Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China," also called the China Military Power report. The Pentagon's claim that China's nuclear stockpile would jump from some 400 warheads today to an estimated 1,500 in 2035 was widely reported in the popular media and seized upon by military hawks in Congress to clamor for increased military spending.

<https://www.thenation.com/article/world/pentagon-report-on-china-fuels-military-spending-frenzy-in-us/>

### **China's versatile spacecraft makes multiple science, technology breakthroughs**

*Deng Xiaoci*

*Global Times, January 12, 2023*

China has released the second batch of science and technology results collected from the first spacecraft of the country's Innovation X satellite series, which achieved multiple national and international firsts such as the first solar transition zone image, as well as the brightest Gamma-ray bursts (GRBs) ever recorded, the Global Times learned from developers. The spacecraft code-named SATech-01 was developed by the Innovation Academy for Microsatellite of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and it has been orbiting the Earth for five months.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202301/1283692.shtml>

## China will win quantum computing race unless West ups its game

*Rob Jesudason*

*Nikkei Asia, January 12, 2023*

NASA's launch of its first Artemis rocket from Florida two months ago officially ignited a new phase in the global space race. The successor to the Apollo program, Artemis aims to take Americans back to the moon before China lands its first astronauts on the lunar surface. The program is emblematic of the battle for technological supremacy between the U.S. and China. A Chinese research paper published last month suggests the country's scientists may already have found a way to crack standard encryption using current quantum technology.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Opinion/China-will-win-quantum-computing-race-unless-West-ups-its-game>

## Chinese military invents smart shield designed to make laser weapons useless

*Stephen Chen*

*South China Morning Post, January 12, 2023*

Military researchers in southeastern China say they have created a material that can prevent missiles from being blinded by laser defence systems while maintaining a clear view of their target. A lot of high-value military hardware – from Apache attack helicopters to Air Force One – is equipped with laser weapons that can fire a beam to deflect a homing missile. Most of these defence systems cannot destroy the missile itself, but the beam can produce a large and intense glare on its infrared sensor, causing the missile to lose its target.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3206540/chinese-military-invents-smart-shield-designed-make-laser-weapons-useless>

## China launches first satellite with high-power electric drive

*Stephen Chen*

*South China Morning Post, January 13, 2023*

China launched a communication satellite on January 13 with an unusually powerful

electric engine, according to state media. The Apstar-6E satellite, launched from the Xichang satellite launch centre shortly after 2AM, will offer high-speed communication services for users in Southeast Asia with a total bandwidth over 30 Gbps. "The satellite will conduct the first in-orbit verification of high-power ion and Hall electric propulsion technology," Science and Technology Daily, an official newspaper run by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, reported.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3206732/china-launches-first-satellite-high-power-electric-drive>

## Successful launches mark strong start to 2023 for China's space industry

*Fan Anqi and Deng Xiaoci*

*Global Times, January 13, 2023*

Marking a good start to another ambitious year for China's space industry, the country successfully carried out two launch missions from different launch sites, sending China's first all-electric propulsion communications satellite to a preset orbit via a Long March-2C carrier rocket and three other satellites to a designated orbit via a Long March-2D vehicle.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202301/1283775.shtml>

## PLA aircraft carrier Shandong holds confrontational drills in South China Sea amid US carrier strike group's entry of region

*Liu Xuanzun and Guo Yuandan*

*Global Times, January 15, 2023*

The Shandong aircraft carrier group of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy recently held a series of confrontational drills in the South China Sea at a time when a US carrier strike group had entered the region, with analysts saying that the Chinese carrier has practically enhanced its combat readiness,



while the US carrier only stirred up tensions and had limited military significance

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202301/1283836.shtml>

### **Chinese bombers, fighter jets in new year military drills appear to have boosted combat capacity**

*Kristin Huang*

*South China Morning Post, January 15, 2023*

Recent drills by China's advanced J-20 stealth fighters and nuclear-capable H-6 bombers highlighted the air force's improved operational combat abilities, according to state media reports. The People's Liberation Army's Eastern and Southern theatre commands carried out their first flight training of the new year last week, as the Chinese military continues training and equipment upgrades under its swift modernisation drive. An Eastern Theatre Command brigade deployed several J-20 fighters for simulated strike operations, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3206827/chinese-bombers-fighter-jets-new-year-military-drills-seen-display-boosted-combat-capacity>

### **Japan, US sign new space cooperation pact, exposes 'obvious anti-China color'**

*Global Times, January 15, 2023*

Representatives from the US and Japan gathered at the US' NASA headquarters in Washington and signed an agreement that "builds on a long history of collaboration in space exploration between two nations." However, the underlying anti-China color of the agreement is worryingly obvious, since it came just shortly after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken made remarks last week that the US and Japan agree China is their "greatest shared strategic challenge" and they confirmed that an attack in space would trigger a mutual defense provision in the US-Japan security treaty, Chinese observers warned.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202301/1283823.shtml>

## ***D. Pakistan***

### **Originated from Pakistan, deadly shipment of uranium seized at Heathrow airport**

*The Siasat Daily, January 11, 2023*

Counter-terror cops and security services in the UK have launched a probe after a deadly shipment of uranium was seized at London's Heathrow airport, a media outlet reported. The undeclared nuclear material can be used in a dirty bomb. It was destined for Iranian nationals in the UK, originated from Pakistan and arrived on a flight from Oman, The Sun reported. A source said: "The race is on to trace everyone involved." The package, suspected of being smuggled to UK-based Iranians, arrived in the hold of a passenger jet. Specialist scanners detected the potentially lethal uranium as it was ferried to a freight shed, triggering alarms.

Border agents swooped and isolated the unregistered shipment in a dedicated radioactive room. Counter-terror police were alerted and a security probe launched into who sent the cargo.

<https://www.siasat.com/originated-from-pakistan-deadly-shipment-of-uranium-seized-at-heathrow-airport-2500533/>

### **Pakistan Rejects Links to Uranium-Contaminated Cargo Seized at London Airport**

*VOA News, January 12, 2023*

Pakistan's government has rejected British media reports that a uranium-contaminated cargo shipment seized at London's Heathrow Airport originated from the South Asian nation. "No information to this effect has been shared with us officially. We are confident that the reports are not factual," Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mumtaz Zahra Baloch told VOA on Thursday. British police said in a statement earlier this week they had detected "a very small amount of contaminated material after routine screening within a package incoming to the UK" on December 29.

Police have reported no arrests in connection with the incident. British tabloid The Sun, which first reported the incident, said the shipment was destined for Iranian nationals in the United Kingdom, originated from Pakistan and arrived on a flight from Oman.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/pakistan-rejects-links-to-uranium-contaminated-cargo-seized-at-london-airport/6915617.html>

### *E. Europe*

#### **Sweden plans new law to enable nuclear plant construction**

*Financial Times, January 11, 2023*

Sweden's new centre-right government wants to build new nuclear power plants to boost energy security amid a fierce debate over high electricity prices and the need to generate carbon-free energy to make industry greener. Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said a new law would be proposed to lift current restrictions that limit the number of Swedish nuclear reactors to 10 in only three locations across the country. "We should be able to build more reactors in more places than we've been able to do up till now . . . . We have an obvious need for more electricity production in Sweden," Kristersson told a press conference on Wednesday.

<https://www.ft.com/content/f55b69a4-ee37-4182-88bb-3a8dec93bf49>

#### **Almost 100% Hungarians oppose EU sanctions against Russia - Cabinet**

*TASS, January 14, 2023*

Almost all Hungarian nationals, who took part in nation-wide consultations, favored the withdrawal of EU sanctions against Russia, Hungarian Government Spokeswoman Alexandra Szentkiralyi announced Saturday. Summarizing the nation-wide poll, she noted: "We have received the outcome of the consultations: 97% of Hungarians reject the sanctions that can inflict serious damage." "The message is clear: Brussels' sanctions policy must be reviewed," Szentkiralyi said on her Facebook [banned in Russia] page. Earlier, the

Government of Hungary said that the consultations lasted for two months, covered over 1,360,000 people and ended on December 15. The authorities consider it a rather high indicator, considering that the country's population stands below 10 million people.

<https://tass.com/economy/1562255>

### *F. NATO*

#### **Press review: NATO's eastern flank gets heavy weapons from US and Seoul seeks nukes**

*TASS, January 13, 2023*

The arrival of US armored vehicles to NATO's eastern flank is creating risks for Russia, Beijing seems to be planning to abandon belligerent rhetoric against Washington and South Korea shows renewed interest in nuclear weapons. These stories topped Friday's newspaper headlines across Russia. More than 1,000 US armored vehicles have arrived in the Dutch port of Vlissingen and will soon be sent to Poland and Lithuania. Experts are confident that the reinforcement of NATO's eastern flank, which was stepped up after the onset of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, will continue in the foreseeable future. This, among other things, opens additional opportunities for more Western weapons supplies to Ukraine, Kommersant writes.

<https://tass.com/pressreview/1561757>

### *G. Ukraine*

#### **Discussions of creating security zone around Zaporozhye nuke plant underway – UN**

*TASS, January 5, 2023*

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continues discussions on creating a security and safety zone around the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant, Spokesperson for the UN Secretary General Stephane Dujarric said at a briefing on Thursday. "Those discussions are going on with the IAEA and I

understand they're still ongoing," he said. Located in Energodar, the Zaporozhye nuclear facility, having roughly 6GW of capacity, is the largest of its kind in Europe. Russia took control of the plant on February 28 in the first days of its special military operation in Ukraine. The power station has continued its regular operation. Since then, the units of the Ukrainian army have been periodically shelling both Energodar's residential districts and the premises of the nuclear station, using drones, heavy artillery and multiple-launch rocket systems.

<https://tass.com/world/1559169>

### **Former UN inspector says supplies of weapons to Ukraine need to stop**

*TASS, January 11, 2023*

The West needs to stop providing weapons to Ukraine and give up efforts to help it to win, Scott Ritter, a former UN inspector for the destruction of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, said in a speech at a conference of the Schiller Institute. "The hope is to get the West to stop arming Ukraine, to get the West to walk away from any notion of the potential of Ukrainian victory, to get the West to accept the need and the necessity of mitigating the harm that has already been done," he said by video link. He cautioned against forcing Russia to accept Western and Ukrainian terms at any talks.

<https://tass.com/world/1560509>

### **Grossi says he's heading to Ukraine next week, then to Russia**

*TASS, January 11, 2023*

Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Rafael Grossi said he will travel to Ukraine next week and then wants to head to Russia. "I will be in Ukraine again next week and am hoping to meet with President [of Ukraine Vladimir] Zelensky, Prime Minister [Denis] Shmygal, Foreign Minister [Dmitry] Kuleba. Then I'm hoping to go to Russia," he said on Italian Rai News 24 television. The official also said he was hoping to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin. "I'm expecting this and hoping I will be able to do it," he said, when

asked if the meeting was in the cards. The IAEA chief also said at the fall meeting in St. Petersburg both sides were in agreement to continue talks regarding issues at nuclear power plants.

<https://tass.com/world/1561197>

### **Consultations on security zone around ZNPP making some progress – IAEA chief**

*TASS, January 13, 2023*

Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi said on Friday his consultations with Russia and Ukraine on the establishment of a security zone around the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant (ZNPP) are making progress but "not as fast as they should." "I remain determined to make the much-needed protection zone [around the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant] a reality as soon as possible. My consultations with Ukraine and Russia are making progress, albeit not as fast as they should. I remain hopeful that we will be able to agree and implement the zone soon," the IAEA quoted him as saying. The Zaporozhye NPP, located in the city of Energodar, has a capacity of 6 GW and is Europe's largest nuclear power plant. Russian forces took control of the plant in late February 2022 and ever since, the Ukrainian army has been periodically shelling its territory, as well as Energodar's residential quarters with the use of drones, heavy artillery and multiple rocket launchers.

<https://tass.com/world/1562115>

### **Materials for 'dirty bombs' already removed from Ukrainian NPPs, IAEA is late – expert**

*TASS, January 14, 2023*

The International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) decision to send experts to Ukrainian nuclear power plants is too late, since there are ground to think that materials for "dirty bombs" have already been taken away from them, Renat Karchaa, an adviser to the head of Russia's



Rosenergoatom nuclear power engineering company, told TASS on Friday. "Ukraine's potential makes it possible today not only to make a 'dirty bomb,' but also to make an A-bomb, although primitive and inferior to present-day standards. They can do it. Logic suggests that the IAEA is concerned with this problem, but I doubt it. If such fissile materials (radioactive materials - TASS) were taken from these plants, it has already happened," he said, commenting on the IAEA's decision to send its observers to Ukrainian nuclear power plants. "It least it is a delayed reaction. It should have been done earlier - to establish control. Now, I think it is too late," he said.

<https://tass.com/russias-foreign-policy/1562171>

### *H. France*

#### **Sweden could buy nuclear reactors from France, its PM says**

*Hindustan Times, January 3, 2023*

Sweden could potentially buy nuclear reactors from France to beef up the Nordic country's energy supply, the Swedish prime minister was quoted as saying while on a visit to Paris on Tuesday. "Sweden needs to buy at least two nuclear power reactors," Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said according to Swedish daily Aftonbladet. "I am completely open to France becoming one of the countries ensuring that Sweden gets more nuclear power," he added. Speaking ahead of a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, Kristersson also said he wanted Sweden and France to have deeper cooperation on nuclear power.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/sweden-could-buy-nuclear-reactors-from-france-its-pm-says-101672748178632.html>

#### **How France's prized nuclear sector stalled in Europe's hour of need**

*France 24, January 5, 2023*

As the Russian invasion of Ukraine prompted Europe's energy crisis and climate change racks the world, you could expect France to be congratulating itself on its vast fleet of nuclear power stations. After all, nuclear energy produces barely any CO2

and does not leave countries relying on Vladimir Putin's Russia. France went all in on nuclear after the OPEC embargo sparked the 1973 oil shock - unlike Britain, for example, which tapped then-abundant fossil fuel reserves in the North Sea (and is now one of the countries worst-affected by energy inflation). Nuclear power now produces some 70 percent of France's energy - the highest proportion in the world - thanks to this long-term strategy known as the Messmer plan (named after its architect, then PM Pierre Messmer) to nourish domestic nuclear expertise and build a large fleet of nuclear reactors.

<https://www.france24.com/en/france/20230105-how-france-s-prized-nuclear-sector-stalled-in-europe-s-hour-of-need>

### *I. Germany*

#### **Permit issued for final Grafenrheinfeld dismantling work**

*World Nuclear News, January 5, 2023*

Germany's PreussenElektra has received the second and final permit for the dismantling of the single-unit Grafenrheinfeld nuclear power plant (KKG) from the Bavarian State Ministry for the Environment and Consumer Protection. The 1275 MWe (net) pressurised water reactor achieved first criticality in December 1981 and was connected to the grid in the same month. It entered commercial operation in June 1982. As part of the 13th amendment to Germany's Nuclear Power Act, the plant lost its authorisation for power operation and was finally shut down on 27 June 2015.

In August 2011, the 13th amendment of the Nuclear Power Act came into effect, which underlined the political will to phase out nuclear power in Germany. As a result, eight units were closed down immediately: EnBW's Phillipsburg 1 and Neckarwestheim 1; EOn's Isar 1 and Unterweser; RWE's Biblis A and B and Vattenfall's Brunsbüttel and Krümmel.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Permit-issued-for-final-Grafenrheinfeld-dismantlin>

## *J. United Kingdom*

### **Ministers bolster UK nuclear fuel capacity to squeeze out Russian influence/**

*UK Government, January 2, 2023*

Nuclear fuel production in the UK is set to be bolstered by up to £75 million in UK government funding in a bid to support development of alternatives to Russian fuel supply and strengthen UK energy security, the Energy and Climate Minister Graham Stuart has announced today (2 January).

This will encourage investment in new and robust fuel production capabilities in the UK, backing the government's ambition to secure up to 24GW of nuclear power by 2050. G7 leaders agreed in June to begin concerted action to reduce reliance on civil nuclear and related goods from Russia, including working to diversify their supplies of uranium and nuclear fuel production capability. Russia currently owns around 20% of global uranium conversion capacity and 40% of enrichment capacity.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ministers-bolster-uk-nuclear-fuel-capacity-to-squeeze-out-russian-influence>

### **UK government opens bidding for nuclear fuel fund**

*World Nuclear News, January 2, 2023*

The UK government has begun accepting bids for up to GBP50 million (USD60 million) funding for projects it hopes will "stimulate a diverse and resilient nuclear fuel market" in the country. The Nuclear Fuel Fund is intended to provide greater options for UK nuclear operators to use UK-produced fuel, as the country seeks to diversify its uranium and nuclear fuel production capacity away from Russia. The GBP50 million fund is also intended to "support projects establishing new domestic fuel capabilities, which could include fuel supply options for Light Water Reactors, including future Small Modular Reactors, that could support much of our current nuclear energy needs. It will also look to support projects producing new fuel types which will be needed to supply

advanced modular reactors, likely to be in operation from the 2030s, such as high assay low enriched uranium".

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/UK-government-opens-bidding-for-nuclear-fuel-fund>

### **UK plans \$89m investment into nuclear power**

*Power Technology, January 3, 2023*

According to the statement, published on 2 January, the funding will aim to encourage the development of alternatives to the Russian fuel supply and increase UK energy security. It will also promote investment in new and robust fuel manufacturing capabilities in the UK, supporting the government's goal of securing up to 24GW of nuclear power by 2050. In June, G7 leaders launched a coordinated effort to minimise reliance on Russian civil nuclear and associated items, including efforts to diversify uranium sources and nuclear fuel manufacturing capabilities. Russia presently controls around 20% of worldwide uranium conversion capacity and 40% of global enrichment capacity, according to the UK Government.

<https://www.power-technology.com/news/uk-plans-89m-investment-into-nuclear-power/>

### **Copenhagen Atomics puts forward SMR design for UK appraisal**

*World Nuclear News, January 5, 2023*

UK Atomics - a subsidiary of Denmark's Copenhagen Atomics - has submitted a Generic Design Assessment (GDA) entry application for its small and modular thorium molten salt reactor to the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). GDA is a process carried out by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and the Environment Agency (EA) to assess the safety, security, and environmental protection aspects of a nuclear power plant design that is intended to be deployed in Great Britain. Successful completion of the GDA culminates in the



issue of a Design Acceptance Confirmation from the ONR and a Statement of Design Acceptability from the EA. In May 2021, BEIS opened the GDA process to advanced nuclear technologies, including small modular reactors (SMRs).

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Copenhagen-Atomics-puts-forward-SMR-design-for-UK>

### **Welsh plan for new nuclear medicine laboratory**

*World Nuclear News, January 10, 2023*

The Welsh government is funding a technical feasibility study and outline business plan to secure future supplies of medical isotopes by developing an Advanced Radioisotope Technology for Health Utility Reactor, known as Project ARTHUR. The UK government devolves health issues to the Welsh government, which says that the proposed facility in north west Wales would be a “global centre of excellence in nuclear medicine” and supply the UK with the medical radioisotopes required for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases such as cancer.

[https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Welsh-plan-for-new-nuclear-medicine-laboratory-\(1\)](https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Welsh-plan-for-new-nuclear-medicine-laboratory-(1))

### **Pak denies claims by British media over uranium in plane cargo: Report**

*Hindustan Times, January 12, 2023*

Pakistan on Thursday denied reports that a uranium-tainted package discovered on an Oman Air flight that landed at London’s Heathrow airport last month originated from Karachi. Foreign office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra was quoted by Pak daily Dawn as saying the reports are ‘not factual’ and that United Kingdom officials had not shared such information. “No information to this effect has been shared with us officially. We are confident the reports are not factual,” Zahra said, after British media claimed the scrap metal shipment - now the subject of a counter-terrorism investigation in that country - came from Pakistan. Commander Richard Smith, head of the

counter-terrorism unit of the Metropolitan Police Service, has promised the city government’s Police and Crime Committee a full inquiry.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/pak-denies-claims-by-british-media-over-uranium-in-plane-cargo-report-101673514053590.html>

### **K. United States of America**

#### **US senators urge Joe Biden not to sell ‘scarce’ nuclear submarines to Australia**

*The Guardian, January 6, 2023*

Two top US senators have urged president Joe Biden not to sell nuclear-powered submarines to Australia, warning it would diminish US national security given the vessels are “scarce”. The intervention confirms the US is under pressure not to sell its submarines before Australia is able to build its own as part of the Aukus alliance – meaning it could be decades before Australia gains nuclear submarines. A spokesperson for the Australian defence minister, Richard Marles, played down the leak, saying “the optimal pathway for Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines is taking shape, and an announcement remains on track to be made in the first part of this year.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/06/us-senators-urge-joe-biden-not-to-sell-scarce-nuclear-submarines-to-australia>

#### **Russian hackers targeted US nuclear research laboratories, records reveal**

*The Guardian, January 6, 2023*

A Russian hacking team known as Cold River targeted three nuclear research laboratories in the United States this past summer, according to internet records reviewed by Reuters and five cybersecurity experts. Between August and September, as Vladimir Putin indicated Russia would be willing to use nuclear weapons to defend its territory, Cold River targeted the

Brookhaven (BNL), Argonne (ANL) and Lawrence Livermore national laboratories (LLNL), according to internet records that showed the hackers creating fake login pages for each institution and emailing nuclear scientists in an effort to make them reveal their passwords. Reuters was unable to determine why the labs were targeted or if any attempted intrusion was successful.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/06/russian-hackers-targeted-us-nuclear-research-laboratories-records>

## Iran on Agenda When US National Security Adviser Visits Israel

*VOA News, January 9, 2023*

Iran's nuclear program and threats posed by Tehran will be discussed when U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan travels to Israel to meet Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new government.

"I'll be going to Israel and that will be a substantial topic of conversation when I go," he said. Speaking to reporters traveling with President Joe Biden on a trip to Mexico City, Sullivan did not say when his trip would take place. A National Security Council spokesperson said dates were still being worked out. Sullivan said efforts to revive an Iran nuclear deal opposed by Israel had been set aside for now while Washington pressures Iran to stop sending drones to Russia for use in its war against Ukraine and seeks to stop a crackdown on Iranian demonstrators.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/iran-on-agenda-when-us-national-security-adviser-visits-israel-/6911187.html>

## US nuclear agency falls short on scheduling, cost estimates

*AP News, January 13, 2023*

The U.S. agency in charge of jumpstarting the production of key components for the nation's nuclear arsenal is falling short when it comes to having a comprehensive schedule for the multibillion-dollar project.

The Government Accountability Office said in a report released Thursday that plans by

the National Nuclear Security Administration for reestablishing plutonium pit production do not follow best practices and run the risk of delays and cost overruns. The federal government has not manufactured plutonium cores regularly in more than 30 years and faces a congressionally mandated deadline of turning out at least 80 per year by 2030. The GAO describes the modernization effort as the agency's largest investment in weapons production infrastructure to date, noting that plutonium is a dangerous material and making the weapon cores is difficult and time consuming.

<https://apnews.com/article/politics-us-government-accountability-office-los-alamos-climate-and-environment-business-5c5f97b835419cf7935394884cf29314>

## West Asia

### L. Iran

## Iranian Drones Annihilate Simulated Targets During Massive Drills

*Fars News Agency, January 1, 2023*

Iranian Unmanned aerial vehicles practiced destroying various mock-up targets using state-of-the-art weapons during the large-scale wargames underway across a zone stretching from the Eastern side of the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf to the Northern part of the Indian Ocean. As Zolfaqar 1401 military exercise continues in Southern Iran, different types of Iran-made drones – namely Arash, Bavar, and Ababil 5 – took off from the board of Sahand destroyer and successfully shot the simulated targets at the coast. Different combat, reconnaissance and intercepting drones were reportedly used in the operation and it was finally the Ababil 5 combat drone that shot and destroyed the targets. Ababil 5 drone has recently joined the Iranian Navy and was used in the annual drills of the Iranian Army for the first time.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011011000197/Iranian-Drnes-Annihila-Simlaed-Targes-Dring-Massive-Drills>

## Iran simulates attack on Israeli naval base: Report

*Tehran Times, January 1, 2023*

An Israeli media outlet claimed that in the recent large-scale military drills conducted by the Iranian Army, a homegrown Iranian explosive-laden drone was utilized to target an alleged mock version of an Israeli Navy base. The Iranian Army's combat drones conducted on Saturday close air support (CAS) operations and launched ground attacks during the major stage of the Zolfaqar 1401 joint drills. Based on footage punished on the social media, the Hengam-class landing ship IRIS Lavan launched an Ababil suicide drone onto selected targets, dubbed the "simulated naval base" by Israeli media. Israeli media cited open-source intelligence-gathering Twitter accounts, highlighting that the fake facility was created with a similar architectural plan to the Eilat Naval Base in the Red Sea coast city of the same name.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/480324/Iran-simulates-attack-on-Israeli-naval-base-Report>

## Iran's Air Defense Systems Tested Successfully in Military Exercises

*Fars News Agency, January 1, 2023*

The Iranian Army's Air Force units intercepted and destroyed an aerial target with advanced homegrown air defense systems during the large-scale drills underway in the Southeast of the country.

The massive military exercise began early on Friday with the key motto of "self-confidence, power, sustainable security" in an area stretching from the Eastern sector of the strategic Strait of Hormuz to the Northern tip of the Indian Ocean. Iran's Army put to test its advanced missile defense systems, which successfully intercepted and destroyed intruding aircraft on the third day of large-scale wargames off the country's Southern coasts. In the early hours of Sunday, the third day of 'Zolfaqar 140' maneuvers, the radars of the Mersad air defense system detected a hostile drone approaching the Iranian territory and successfully shot it down at an altitude of

25,000 feet and 150 kilometers from the country's airspace.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011011000488/Iran's-Air-Defense-Systems-Tested-Successfully-in-Military-Exercises>

## Iranian Submarine Fires Indigenous Torpedoes for First Time

*Fars News Agency, January 1, 2023*

The Iranian Navy submarines annihilated underwater targets by firing domestically-manufactured torpedoes for the first time during the massive military exercises underway in the country's Southeastern waters. Iran's Army began large-scale drills across a zone stretching from the Eastern side of the Hormuz Strait in the Persian Gulf to the Northern part of the Indian Ocean on Friday. On Sunday, the Iranian Kilo-class Tareq attack submarine launched Mi'ad torpedoes for the first time to hit designated naval targets. Qadir submarines also detonated various naval targets with homegrown smart and high-speed Valfajr torpedoes during the wargames. Iranian Army's Sikorsky SH multi-mission helicopters also launched aerial torpedo into the water, which propelled itself to the target and destroyed it.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011011000904/Iranian-Submarine-Fires-Indigenous-Torpedoes-for-First-Time>

## Revenge for Gen. Soleimani inevitable: IRGC

*Tehran Times, January 2, 2023*

The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) issued a statement on Monday affirming that retaliation against those responsible for the assassination of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani is inevitable. "Martyr Hajj Qassem is an enduring legend not only for Iranians but also for those who are supportive of the Resistance Front throughout the globe," the statement said as Iran is marking the martyrdom anniversary of the anti-terror commander. The spread of the ideas of General Soleimani's school of thought throughout Iran and the region is one of the IRGC's

ineluctable strategies, the IRGC underlined in the statement. Based on the statement, the global language of resistance and anti-arrogance has fully bloomed in the three years since General Soleimani's martyrdom.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/480372/Revenge-for-Gen-Soleimani-inevitable-IRGC>

### **Lead Negotiator: Iran to Continue Cooperation with IAEA**

*Fars News Agency, January 3, 2023*

Iran's Chief Negotiator Ali Baqeri Kani said that Tehran will keep working with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to resolve all issues between the two sides. "As an effective and responsible member of the Agency and the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and as a country possessing nuclear capabilities, nuclear knowledge, and nuclear technology, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always cooperated seriously and effectively with the Agency and will definitely keep up that cooperation," Baqeri Kani told reporters on Monday. The senior diplomat also reacted to recent claims by Germany and the US that negotiations on the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), are not important to them anymore. Bagheri Kani, who is also Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister, stated that "the negotiations constitute a continuous process, which has been ongoing".

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011013000129/Lead-Negiar-Iran-Cnine-Cperain-wih-IAEA>

### **Iran FM holds talks with Pakistani counterpart**

*Tehran Times, January 7, 2023*

The top diplomats of Iran and Pakistan spoke over the phone on Friday to discuss a range of issues, including the recent insulting cartoons published by the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo. In their conversation, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and his Pakistani counterpart Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held

talks over the latest developments in bilateral ties and some regional and international issues, the Iranian foreign ministry said. Amirabdollahian said he was pleased with the growing trend of bilateral ties, especially the holding of the joint economic commission of the two countries in Pakistan. He also underlined the importance of implementing the agreements concluded at the commission.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/480568/Iran-FM-holds-talks-with-Pakistani-counterpart>

### **Commander: Iranian Army's Drones Can Confront All Threats**

*Fars News Agency, January 8, 2023*

Commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Force Brigadier General Kioumars Pourheidari underlined that the country's drones are capable of confronting any kind of threat. "The Iranian Army's Ground Force has managed to use new tactics and techniques, particularly in the fields of drones and aviation, during the Zolfaqar 1401 joint drills, which were held earlier this month in an area spanning from the country's Southern ports and waters to the Northern tip of the Indian Ocean," Brigadier General Pourheidari said. He pointed out that the military units carry out exercises throughout the year to increase their preparedness in the face of any threat and become aware of their points of weakness and strength.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011018000585/Cmmmander-Iranian-Army's-Drnes-Can-Cnfrn-All-Threas>

### **Iran determined to set up a joint military working group with Pakistan: top general**

*Tehran Times, January 8, 2023*

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri has announced Iran's determination to establish a joint working group with the Pakistani army. General Baqeri made the announcement in a phone



call with General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) of Pakistan's army. In the call, the Iranian general congratulated General Mirza on his appointment as the head of the JCSC. He pointed out the good relations between the armed forces of the two countries from the past to the present and the trend towards the development of defense and security cooperation, especially in enhancing the security of the common border. Major General Baqeri announced the full readiness of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran to speed up the proposal of General Nadeem Raza, the former head of JCSC, to establish a joint military task force between the two countries.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/480612/Iran-determined-to-set-up-a-joint-military-working-group-with>

### **Military Chief: Iran to Continue Strategy of US Expulsion from Region**

*Fars News Agency, January 8, 2023*

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri underlined that Iran's strategy to expel American terrorist troops will continue until achieving practical results. General Baqeri made the remarks on the third anniversary of Iran's missile attack on the biggest US troops' airfield in Iraq named Ain Al-Asad, which came a few days after the martyrdom of Iran's anti-terror commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani by the US troops. The Iranian missile attack on the US base was named "Operation Martyr Soleimani." "In the morning of January 3, 2020, the US terrorist government martyred the national and Islamic world hero, Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, and a group of his companions in the Resistance Front at the Baghdad airport in a drone attack," the top Iranian military commander said in his message on the anniversary of the occasion of the missile attack on the US base.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011018000499/Military-Chief-Iran-Continue-Strategy-f-US-Expulsion-fm-Region>

### **Human Rights Chief: Iran to Issue Indictment in Connection with Nuclear Scientist's Assassination**

*Fars News Agency, January 8, 2023*

Iran's Deputy Judiciary Chief and Human Rights Headquarters Head Kazem Qaribabadi announced that an indictment will be issued in connection with the assassination of Iran's martyred nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh who was assassinated by Israeli agents in early 2020.

Qaribabadi said a court in Iran will soon issue a verdict over the murder, adding that the Judiciary will not let justice fail in the case. He said two court sessions were recently held at the judicial organization of the armed forces and the trial will continue. Fakhrizadeh was assassinated on November 27, 2020 near Tehran. Iran has blamed the Israeli regime's spy agency Mossad, for the murder.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011018001025/Human-Rights-Chief-Iran-Issue-Indictment-in-Connection-with-Nuclear-Scientist's>

### **Iran planning to extend area of operation to Panama Canal: Navy chief**

*Tehran Times, January 11, 2023*

Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said on Wednesday that Iran is planning to extend its area of operation to the Panama Canal that divides South and North America. Speaking at a navy ceremony on Wednesday, Irani said, "Today, we have a great opportunity in the sea area for the development of the country, and we can turn this gift from an economic capacity into a civilizational capacity by using the maritime capacity properly. Today, the use of the sea is a geopolitical advantage for us, and those who do not have this capacity are suffering from geopolitical suffocation." The Iranian navy is planning to expand its scope of operations, he said.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/480749/Iran-planning-to-extend-area-of-operation-to-Panama-Canal-Navy>

## IRGC Chief Reminds France of Salman Rushdi's Fate

*Fars News Agency, January 11, 2023*

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami strongly condemned the insulting act by the Charlie Hebdo magazine in publishing caricatures of the country's top religious authority, and called on people who insult the Islamic sanctities to remember the destiny of Salman Rushdie. Maj. Gen. Salami made the remarks in reaction to recently published cartoons by the Charlie Hebdo which insulted the Iranian and Muslim values.

"Despaired and disappointed of their recent plots, the enemies are seeking to disturb the peace of mind of the Muslims by insulting their sanctities," the top commander said. He advised the insulters not to "play with the Muslims", noting that Salman Rushdie was punished more than thirty years after he insulted the Holy Quran and the Prophet of Islam.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011021000213/IRGC-Chief-Reminds-France-f-Salman-Rshdi's-Fae>

## Iranian Army using drones equipped with smart weapons

*Tehran Times, January 14, 2023*

A senior Iranian Army official has said that the Army uses drones equipped with smart weapons to strike distant targets. The official, Mehdi Hadian, who is deputy commander of the Iranian Army's Air Force, said the Army has boosted its combat capabilities by using drones that are equipped with smart and precision-guided weapons. "In the combat organization of the Army Air Force, the use of UAV capabilities has a significant place. Especially, these systems have successfully performed combined operations with the Air Force fighters and have shown significant functions in the designed missions," he said, according to Iran's official news agency IRNA. He added, "In general, the implementation of combined operations has played a major role in improving the combat

power of the Air Force. UAV systems, while collecting information and providing appropriate electronic warfare functions, prepare the environment for the implementation of the Air Force fighter operations in combat conditions."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/480830/Iranian-Army-using-drones-equipped-with-smart-weapons>

## Raisi trip to Beijing will help implement comprehensive plan: Boroujerdi

*Tehran Times, January 14, 2023*

Ala'eddin Boroujerdi, chief of the Iran-China Friendship Association, has underlined that the future trip by President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran to China will help speed up the implementation of the 25-year Iran-China Cooperation Plan, IRNA reported on Saturday. So far, no date has been given about Raisi's visit to China. Boroujerdi said that the association under his leadership is not satisfied with the current pace of the cooperation plan, urging the two countries' officials to accelerate the process. The 25-year plan for comprehensive partnership between Iran and China was finalized in March 2021. "The authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran expect that China, as a friendly country with considerable capabilities, to take important steps to enhance ties," Boroujerdi said, according to the website linked to the friendship assassination. He urged China to invest in the development projects in Iran to improve the tourism industry in the Islamic nation.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/480839/Raisi-trip-to-Beijing-will-help-implement-comprehensive-plan>

## Commander: Iranian Army in Possession of Precision-Striking Drones

*Fars News Agency, January 14, 2023*

Iranian Air Force Deputy Commander for Coordination Brigadier General Mehdi Hadian hailed the country's high

capability in production of various military equipment, and said that the Iranian Army's Air Force has been supplied with Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) equipped with pinpoint precision-striking missiles. General Hadian said on Saturday that the Iranian Army Air Force gives importance to the use of drones in combat operation, as the UAVs can conduct hybrid warfare along with warplanes successfully and show remarkable performances. "The drone systems are able to gather information and be used to in combat operation in order to pave the ground for the combats of the fighter jets," the commander noted. "The Iranian Army's Air Force makes use of drones equipped with smart and pinpoint weapons to annihilate distant targets," the military official declared.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011024000580/Cmmander-Iranian-Army-in-Pssessin-f-Precisin-Sriking-Drnes>

### **Iran to get Sukhoi Su-35 aircraft in spring: MP**

*Tehran Times, January 15, 2023*

A lawmaker has anticipated that Iran will receive a number of Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets from Russia early in the upcoming Iranian year, which begins on March 21. Speaking with Tasnim, Shahriar Heidari, a member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, underlined that Iran has ordered Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets from Russia, and they will arrive in the country in early 1402. The lawmaker pointed out that Iran has additionally ordered from Russia a number of other pieces of military hardware, including air defense systems, missile systems, and helicopters, the majority of which will be delivered soon. Based on media sources, Iran would obtain 24 of the fourth-generation twin-engine, super-maneuverable fighter planes used largely for air superiority operations. Tactical Air Base (TAB) 8 of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF), located in the city of Isfahan in central Iran, is expected to house some of the combat aircraft.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/480850/Iran-to-get-Sukhoi-Su-35-aircraft-in-spring-MP>

### **Iran ready to revive nuclear deal if US shows flexibility – envoy**

*TASS, January 12, 2023*

Iran is ready for a stable agreement on its nuclear program if the US displays political will, Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali said in an interview with the Izvestia newspaper published on Thursday. "Iran has always asserted its readiness to conclude a good and stable agreement. If the United States, displaying strong political will, takes notice of its national interests and the interests of other parties to the JCPOA (the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the Iranian nuclear program - TASS) and swiftly demonstrates flexibility, we will achieve stable conditions on the agreement," he insisted. On July 14, 2015, Iran and six international mediators (Russia, the UK, China, the US, France and Germany) reached an agreement on settling the issue of the Iranian nuclear program. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action developed by them became effective on October 18, 2015.

<https://tass.com/world/1561333>

### **M. Israel**

### **IAI's ERS-C3 satellite begins space mission**

*Israel Defense, January 1, 2023*

Israel Aerospace Industries' (IAI) EROS-C3 satellite was launched on Friday, December 30th, using a SpaceX Falcon 9 launch-vehicle, from the Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, USA. After launch, the satellite entered its planned orbit around the Earth and began transmitting data to the ground station. IAI engineers have begun a series of preplanned calibrations and tests to validate the satellite's performance, and complete the preplan test prior to full operation soon. The EROS-C3 is one of the most advanced observation satellites in the world, thanks to pioneering technologies which enable very high-resolution images and for the first time using multi spectral camera. "The men and women of Israel



Aerospace Industries, and their managers, have yet again shown that, for them, the sky is not the limit," said Chairman of IAI's Board of Directors, Amir Peretz.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56768>

### **Colombia to purchase Barak MX missiles from IAI**

*Israel Defense, January 2, 2023*

Colombia is about to purchase Barak MX missiles manufactured by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). According to Info Defensa the missiles, worth 131.2 million dollars, are intended for the air defense system of the Colombian army. At the end of last week, an agreement was signed between the Colombian Air Force and the Israeli company, after last May the Colombian Army approved the purchase of the Israeli systems. The delivery of the missiles is expected to take place by the end of September 2026. The website mentions that MX and Barak 8 missiles were offered by IAI to the Colombian Navy already in 2017.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56788>

### **Netanyahu says he'll revert to 'openly' opposing Iran deal, names security cabinet**

*The Times of Israel, January 3, 2023*

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday that he would change Israel's strategy toward countering Iranian nuclear ambitions, promising to bring the fight back to the court of public opinion. Speaking at a cabinet meeting, Netanyahu said that it was still a "possibility" that Western powers would resuscitate efforts to sign a nuclear deal with Iran and that he would apply public pressure to prevent it. Tuesday's meeting was the first with official business since the government was sworn in on Thursday.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-warns-iran-deal-still-possible-vows-to-revert-to-openly-opposing-it/>

### **Israel, US to conduct joint Air Force drills this week**

*Israel Defense, January 3, 2023*

Six F-15 fighter jets from the US Air Forces Central Command (AFCENT) landed yesterday at the Nevatim air force base in southern Israel, as part of an Agile Combat Employment (ACE) which is scheduled to take place during the week. According to the Israel Air Force (IAF), during the deployment the six F-15 jets will conduct joint drills with Israeli F-15 F-35 fighters, as well as with the intelligence-gathering Gulfstream G-500/G-550 ("Nachshon"). The aerial forces are expected to practice joint flights and simulate attacks against targets deep in enemy territory.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56796>

### **L3Harris, IAI teaming to deliver fire detection systems to Australia's combat vehicles**

*Israel Defense, January 4, 2023*

L3Harris Technologies, a global aerospace and defense technology innovator which provides advanced defense and commercial technologies across space, air, land, sea and cyber domains announced that it entered into a teaming agreement with Israel's ELTA Systems, an Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) group, to deliver a sophisticated fire detection and response capability for Australian armored fighting vehicles. The new system will enable a combat vehicle, when it encounters live fires, to immediately detect incoming rounds and initiate self-defense responses, which include a combination of electronic warfare measures and kinetic effects.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56809>

### **Peruvian army to restore its Spike-LR anti-tank missiles**

*Israel Defense, January 4, 2023*

Peru is planning on restoring the operational capabilities of its military's



Spike-LR anti-tank missiles. According to the Spanish website Defensa, the Peruvian Armed Forces Purchasing Agency (ACFFAA) allocated 2.4 million dollars to Israeli Rafael to recover the operational capabilities of the missiles operated by anti-tank unit No. 3 "Cazadores" and which reached the end of their operational life cycle, which is 10 years long, already in mid-2020. The evaluation, calibration and update service process will take at least one year and will be performed at the Center for Training and Maintenance (CEMAT) located in Fort Arica. The process includes a review, maintenance and repair of the missile launcher systems - each of which consists of a command and launch unit (CLU - Command Launch Unit), a thermal sight and a tripod - and of the missiles themselves (the number of which is unknown), which are in the anti-tank unit No. 3 "Cazadores" and in the warehouses of the Peruvian army.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56810>

### **Rafael's SPYDER now offering counter TBM capabilities**

*Israel Defense, January 4, 2023*

Rafael's combat-proven SPYDER air defense system is now enhanced with a sophisticated Counter-TBM (tactical ballistic missiles) capability. The introduction of this feature is the product of Rafael's Counter-TBM SPYDER program, which involved researching and analyzing the lessons learned from recent and ongoing armed conflicts involving extensive use of tactical ballistic missiles. The program has brought about a practical upgrade to the SPYDER system which is equipped for implementation. In response to urgent operational requests from several existing customers throughout the world, the program will extend the capabilities of the SPYDER's effectors as well as the implementation of various Counter-TBM derivatives across the system.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56812>

### **Tel Aviv University launches new nanosatellite, another step towards**

### **demonstrating quantum communication from space**

*Israel Defense, January 5, 2023*

A new technological achievement for Tel Aviv University: in less than two years TAU launched three nanosatellites into space. The third, TAU-SAT3, was launched yesterday on SpaceX's launch vehicle Falcon 9, from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. According to the researchers, TAU-SAT3, developed at the Center for Nanosatellites of TAU's Fleischman Faculty of Engineering, represents a scientific breakthrough, paving the way toward demonstration of optical and quantum communication from space via nanosatellites. The researchers: "TAU leads Israel's effort to create satellite communication channels based on optical and quantum technologies. To implement long-distance quantum communication over hundreds of kilometers or more we need to go into space. TAU-SAT3 is designed to pave the way toward demonstrating quantum communication via a quantum nanosatellite, to be built in the future at TAU."

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56824>

### **Elbit to supply 120 mm ammunition for the Ariete main battle tank of the Italian army**

*Israel Defense, January 6, 2023*

Israeli Elbit Systems will supply 120 mm ammunition for the Ariete main battle tank of the Italian army. The German website esut.de reports that the Israeli company won a contract worth 10.5 million euros to supply M339 ammunition. The M339 is a multi-purpose high-explosive ammunition (HE-MP-T) for combating fortifications, light and medium armored vehicles and against infantry. In addition, the associated practice ammunition M303 (Target Practice, TP-T) should be delivered.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56822>

## US Army wants Israeli "Iron Fist" system by 2025

*Israel Defense, January 8, 2023*

Elbit Systems' Iron Fist Light Decoupled Active Protection System achieved further improved performance in recent U.S. Army live-fire testing on the Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle. The U.S. Army announced that the testing completed in October 2022 demonstrated improvements in both durability and system effectiveness from previous testing. "The Army is very pleased with the improved performance of this system," said Maj. Gen. Glenn Dean, the Army's program executive officer for Ground Combat Systems. "The software improvements since 2018 are more consistent and stable. We see continued future growth opportunities for the system, but this active protection system better protects our soldiers and vehicles on the battlefield."

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56835>

## Rafael's Spike missile deal with Greece expected to be signed next month

*Israel Defense, January 10, 2023*

The deal for the supply of Rafael's Spike NLOS missiles to the Greek army, first reported last month, is expected to be signed at the beginning of February 2023. This, according to Greek Minister of Defense, Nikos Panagiotopoulos, who spoke with local media a few days ago. Panagiotopoulos was asked about the implementation of the plan to be equipped with spike missiles, and replied that complex and slow-moving negotiations are still underway for the weapon systems, that will be mounted both on ground army vehicles and on ships and helicopters.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56866>

## Elbit Systems to provide new mission training center for Israel's F-16 fleet

*Israel Defense, January 10, 2023*

The Israel Ministry of Defense signed an agreement today (Tuesday) with Elbit

Systems to expand the Mission Training Center (MTC) at the Hatzor Air Force Base, which contains flight training simulators for F15 and F16 aircrafts. The new Mission Training Center will be added to the existing MTC, that will be upgraded as part of the contract. Both MTCs will improve the quality of aircrew training, doubling the number of training sorties for the IAF's F-16 and F-15 aircrew. The deal's value is estimated to be about \$180 million (NIS 400 million), and about \$80 million in aid funds. The contract will be delivered over a three-year period, with an additional fifteen-year period that will include operation and maintenance services.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56876>

## US Marines developing aerial defense system partially based on Israel's Iron Dome

*Israel Defense, January 10, 2023*

The US Marine corps has approved continuing the development of a mobile aerial defense system, based in part on the Israeli Iron Dome, by Rafael. This announcement was made following a Corps' Milestone Decision Authority meeting last month, and approved the Medium-Range Intercept Capabilities (MRIC) program. This year, a decision will be made regarding the development of a prototype system, similar to Iron Dome, and designed to intercept rockets, artillery shells and mortars launched from a maximum range of 72 km.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56880>

## Report: South Korea interested in Rafael's anti-aircraft system

*Israel Defense, January 11, 2023*

The South Korean military is looking into acquiring an Israel-made system to improve its small drone detection and interception capabilities, against the threat of North Korea. A source in the Ministry of National Defense in Seoul told a local website that they are looking into the Sky Spotter, manufactured by Rafael, which

is designed for the early detection and monitoring of aerial threats, including UAVs, drones, observation balloons and kites – all tools used by terrorist organizations. According to the source, the ministry intends to make a quick purchase, following a decision on how to deal with drone/UAV threats from the north in the coming weeks. The new system would complement South Korea's current thermal observation and radar systems.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56889>

### **Smartshooter's IWOO system successfully passed live-fire tests in USA**

*Israel Defense, January 12, 2023*

SMARTSHOOTER, an Israeli designer, developer, and manufacturer of fire control systems, announced this week (Wednesday) that it moved past the final milestone on U.S. Department of Defense ASD SO/LIC IWTSO's Individual Weapon Overmatch Optic (IWOO) program using the SMASH advanced Fire Control System.

In February 2020, ASD SO/LIC's Irregular Warfare Technical Support Directorate (IWTSO) selected SMARTSHOOTER, to develop the solution for its Individual Weapon Overmatch Optic (IWOO) project.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56899>

### **N. Saudi Arabia**

#### **Saudi Arabia says seeks to use own uranium for nuclear project**

*Deccan Herald, January 12, 2023*

Saudi Arabia plans to use its own uranium resources to develop the kingdom's civilian nuclear programme, its energy minister said on Wednesday. The world's biggest oil exporter is trying to reduce its dependence on crude and announced in 2018 a plan to build 16 nuclear reactors over two decades. The project would cost \$80 billion. "Recent exploration activities revealed the presence of diverse sources of uranium in various locations," the minister, Prince Abdulaziz

bin Salman, told a minerals conference, according to state-run *Al-Ekhbariya TV*.

"The kingdom intends to use its national uranium resources, including for joint projects with its partners," the minister added.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/international/world-news-politics/saudi-arabia-seeks-to-use-own-uranium-for-nuclear-project-1180226.html>

### **O. Turkey**

#### **First power unit of Akkuyu NPP to be launched in 2023 – Erdogan**

*TASS, January 4, 2023*

The first power unit of the Akkuyu nuclear power plant (NPP), which is being built by Russia in Turkey, is scheduled to be launched in 2023, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan confirmed on Wednesday. "The construction of the Akkuyu NPP is proceeding at a rapid pace. Its first power unit will be launched this year. In the coming year, we will start supplying our country with nuclear energy," Erdogan said.

The Akkuyu is the first nuclear power plant to be built in Turkey. The project is being implemented in accordance with the inter-governmental agreement, signed by Russia and Turkey in 2010. It is being funded completely by the Russian side. Russia's Rosatom is a majority shareholder of Akkuyu Nuklear JSC, tasked with development, construction, maintenance, operation and decommissioning of the power plant.

<https://tass.com/economy/1558945>

#### **Baykar plans to make supersonic variant of unmanned fighter jet Kızılelma**

*Daily Sabah, January 4, 2023*

Turkish drone magnate Baykar plans to make a supersonic variant of its unmanned fighter jet, the Bayraktar Kızılelma, the chief technology officer (CTO) of the company said. Selçuk



Bayraktar was speaking on the features of Kızılelma, Türkiye's first indigenously developed and produced unmanned fighter aircraft, during a broadcast. Kızılelma will be able to fight against warplanes, Bayraktar said, besides, its cruising time is several times longer compared to Baykar's latest drone, the Akıncı unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV), he said. "We even plan to make a supersonic variant," Bayraktar noted. The National Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle System (MIUS), named Kızılelma (Red Apple), with low detectability and hypersonic speed, is an extremely critical and strategic project by Baykar whose battle-proven combat drones already attract great attention worldwide.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/baykar-plans-to-make-supersonic-variant-of-unmanned-fighter-jet-kizilelma>

### **Turkish defense industry sets \$6B export target for 2023**

*Daily Sabah, January 8, 2023*

Türkiye's defense industry has exceeded its export target in 2022 and is looking forward to reaching \$6 billion (TL 112.53 billion) in 2023, which "can also be much higher," Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB) head Ismail Demir said while speaking at the "Defense Industry 2023 Goals" news conference held in Teknopark Istanbul. "Today, the Turkish defense industry continues its efforts to meet the needs of our security units with domestic resources, with project activities carried out under the supervision of our Presidency, from design to mass production, from R&D and innovation to industrialization policies, and various ecosystem coordination studies that will ensure financing and sustainability," said Demir, noting that the upright stance and determination in the defense industry accelerated domestic projects against embargoes.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-defense-industry-sets-6b-export-target-for-2023>

### **Growing interest helps Turkish missile makers expand into Far East**

*Daily Sabah, January 13, 2023*

Interest in Turkish defense industry products and the demand for those especially used by the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) has been growing worldwide, with ammunition, missiles and rockets being no exception. Roketsan, a leading missile manufacturer that developed the smart ammunition fired from Türkiye's world-renowned combat drones, is now expanding into the Far East with its missiles developed with national resources. Murat İkinci, Roketsan's general manager, told Anadolu Agency (AA) that they signed a contract for two major projects in Indonesia. One of them was signed for the export of the Khan weapon system, which is the international version of the Bora missile. He said that the Khan weapon system is "one of the largest ballistic systems of our country at the moment."

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/growing-interest-helps-turkish-missile-makers-expand-into-far-east>

### **North Macedonia buys 18 Turkish-made howitzers**

*Daily Sabah, January 13, 2023*

North Macedonia, which became NATO's latest member, ordered three batteries with a total of 18 "Boran" howitzers from Türkiye, according to local media. Local reports said the move comes as part of the North Macedonian Army rearming its artillery divisions. "The army of North Macedonia is undergoing a major modernization drive. Through American and German military assistance, it is rearming itself with new combat systems from technology, largely a legacy of the Cold War acquired from Ukraine in 2001. In the artillery, it will be 'Boran' howitzers, for the infantry they will acquire American combat vehicles 'Stryker' and 'JLTV,' for air defense the French missile system



'Mistral 3,'" said the reports. The first battery of six Boran howitzers will arrive in two years, while the remaining two batteries will be delivered in the period from 2029 to 2031.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/north-macedonia-buys-18-turkish-made-howitzers>

## **Biden to ask US Congress to approve F-16 sale to Türkiye**

*Daily Sabah, January 13, 2023*

U.S. President Joe Biden's administration is planning to ask Congress to approve a \$20 billion sale of F-16 fighter jets to Türkiye, a report said Friday. The sale "is larger than expected" and includes 40 F-16 fighters and modernization kits for 79 of the warplanes already in Ankara's possession, the Wall Street Journal newspaper reported, citing anonymous officials familiar with the matter. Ankara requested the F-16s and modernization kits in October 2021 in what was previously estimated to cost \$6 billion.

Congressional notification of the deal is expected to take place next week when Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu pays a visit to Washington. In addition to the warplanes and updated equipment, the agreement is slated to include 900 air-to-air missiles and 800 bombs, the newspaper reported.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/biden-to-ask-us-congress-to-approve-f-16-sale-to-turkiye>

## **Türkiye vows to boost domestic ballistic missile's range to 1,000 km**

*Daily Sabah, January 15, 2023*

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on Saturday cited ongoing global crises, stressing that Türkiye not only survived troubling times but is also moving forward on its path to further strengthen its defense industry. During a visit to the southwestern Muğla province, Erdoğan recalled that Türkiye's external dependence in the defense industry dropped to 20%, from 80% some two decades ago when his ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party) came to

power. "National matters are above politics and should remain so. If we have achieved gains in the Mediterranean, the Aegean and the Black Seas, we must protect this together, without exception," he said. Erdoğan particularly stressed the ongoing tests of domestic missiles, which he said are "scaring" Greece.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-vows-to-boost-domestic-ballistic-missiles-range-to-1000-km>

## **East Asia**

### **P. Japan**

## **Japan's Kishida set to talk military buildup, chips on G7 tour**

*Reuters, January 9, 2023*

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida starts a tour of key Western partners on Monday, after unveiling his country's biggest military buildup since World War Two as Tokyo weighs steps to counter China's growing power.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/japans-kishida-set-talk-military-buildup-chips-g7-tour-2023-01-08/>

## **Japan, US to step up cooperation in developing next-generation nuclear reactors**

*Asia News Network, January 9, 2023*

Japan and the United States are arranging to strengthen cooperation in the development of next-generation reactors and other areas of nuclear energy, according to sources.

Thanks to Japan's drastic shift away from a policy under which there were no plans to construct or rebuild nuclear reactors, Tokyo and Washington are set to once again share similar intentions for nuclear power plants.

Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura, who is currently visiting the United States, is scheduled to meet with U.S. Secretary of Energy

Jennifer Granholm on Monday in Washington to confirm the deepening of cooperative relations.

<https://asianews.network/japan-us-to-step-up-cooperation-in-developing-next-generation-nuclear-reactors/>

### **Japan reinforces its defense capabilities, including counterstrike; considering donning US nuclear cover**

*Asian Community News, January 12, 2023*

US-Japan Security Consultative Committee meeting: In the backdrop of China's forced attempts to change the status quo of geographies, North Korea amassing weapons of mass destruction, and posing constant threats to neighboring countries, the United States restated its unwavering commitment using its full range of capabilities, including nuclear. In the US-Japan Security Consultative Committee meeting of foreign and defence ministers held on Wednesday in Washington DC just two days before the visit of the Japan PM Kishida to US, both sides presented a vision of a modernized alliance postured to prevail in a new era of strategic competition recognizing the convergence of their nations' new national security and defense strategies toward bolstering deterrence in an integrated manner.

<https://www.asiancommunitynews.com/japan-reinforces-its-defense-capabilities-including-counterstrike-considering-donning-us-nuclear-cover/>

### **Japan Eyes Delay of Fukushima Plant Water Release**

*US News, January 13, 2023*

Japan has revised the timing of a planned release to the sea of treated but still radioactive wastewater at the Fukushima nuclear power plant to "around spring or summer," indicating a delay from the initial target of this spring, after factoring in the progress of a release tunnel and the need to gain public support. The government and the plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, announced in April

2021 a plan to begin releasing the treated wastewater into the sea starting in spring 2023. They say more than 1 million tons of water stored in about 1,000 tanks at the plant are hampering its decommissioning and risk leaking in the event of a major earthquake or tsunami.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/news/articles/2023-01-13/japan-eyes-delay-of-fukushima-plant-water-release>

### **Why Asia's arms race risks spinning out of control**

*CNN, January 15, 2023*

It's an arms race bigger than anything Asia has ever seen – three major nuclear powers and one fast-developing one, the world's three biggest economies and decades-old alliances all vying for an edge in some of the world's most contested land and sea areas. In one corner are the United States and its allies Japan and South Korea. In another corner, China and its partner Russia. And in a third, North Korea.

With each wanting to be one step ahead of the others, all are caught in a vicious circle that is spinning out of control. After all, one man's deterrence is another man's escalation. "We'll continue to see these dynamics spiral in East Asia, where we have no measures of restraint, we have no arms control," Ankit Panda, a nuclear policy expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, told CNN.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/01/15/asia/asia-nuclear-arms-race-analysis-intl-hnk-ml/index.html>

### **Q. South Korea**

#### **South Korea, US eye exercises using nuclear assets, Yoon says – newspaper**

*Arab News, January 2, 2023*

South Korea and the United States are discussing possible joint planning and exercises using US nuclear assets in the face of North Korea's growing nuclear and

missile threats, South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol said in a newspaper interview. The Chosun Ilbo newspaper quoted Yoon as saying the joint planning and exercises would be aimed at a more effective implementation of the US “extended deterrence.” The term means the ability of the US military, particularly its nuclear forces, to deter attacks on US allies. “The nuclear weapons belong to the United States, but planning, information sharing, exercises and training should be jointed conducted by South Korea and the United States,” Yoon said, adding Washington is also “quite positive” about the idea.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2225416/world>

### **Towards a nuclear-armed South Korea**

*Asia Times, January 14, 2023*

South Korea may be inching closer to acquiring its own nuclear weapons, driven by wavering confidence in US security guarantees and North Korea’s rapidly advancing nuclear program. This week, The Warzone reported that South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol announced that his country might consider building tactical nuclear weapons in response to North Korea’s nuclear weapons program, the first time that a South Korean President raised the possibility since 1991. “It’s possible that the problem gets worse, and our country will introduce tactical nuclear weapons or build them on our own. If that’s the case, we can have our own nuclear weapons pretty quickly, given our scientific and technological capabilities,” said Yoon according to reports.

<https://asiatimes.com/2023/01/towards-a-nuclear-armed-south-korea/>

### **R. North Korea**

### **North Korea slams UN chief over nuclear criticism**

*Alarabiya News, January 14, 2023*

North Korea slammed United Nations chief Antonio Guterres on Saturday over his recent description of Pyongyang’s nuclear

programs as a “clear and present danger.”

Military tensions on the Korean peninsula rose sharply last year as the North conducted sanctions-busting weapons tests nearly every month, including firing its most advanced intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). North Korean leader Kim Jong Un also recently called for an “exponential” increase in Pyongyang’s nuclear arsenal and new ICBMs to counter what it termed US and South Korean hostility. Guterres told the UN Security Council on Thursday the onus was on Pyongyang to resume talks, which collapsed in 2019 when nuclear negotiations between Kim and then-US president Donald Trump broke down in Hanoi.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/world/2023/01/14/North-Korea-slams-UN-chief-over-nuclear-criticism>

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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

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