

# Nuclear, Missile & Space Digest

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A Fortnightly Newsletter from the Indian Pugwash Society

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**Indian Pugwash Society**

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

Tel. No (91-11) 2671-7983

Fax No. (91-11)2615-4192

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## A. India

### **Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, while celebrating Chandrayaan success, India is at the same time also using Space Technology and its applications in various sectoral development projects**

*PIB, September 18, 2023*

While celebrating Chandrayaan success, India is at the same time also using Space Technology and its applications in various sectoral development projects, said Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Space and Atomic Energy, Dr Jitendra Singh while addressing a special session on "Emulating Chandrayaan-3 Success in Biomedical Sciences". Space Technology today has virtually entered every Indian household, he said. Dr Jitendra Singh said Space Applications is being utilised in almost all sectors such as Weather Forecasting and Disaster Management, Smart City project, Infrastructure Development, Railway Tracks & management of unmanned Railway Crossings, Roads & Buildings, Telemedicine, Governance, and most importantly, the 'Svemitva' GPS land-mapping.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1958501>

### **A US delegation interacts with iDEX team at IIT Delhi; iDEX winners & defence innovation start-ups showcase cutting-edge dual-use technologies**

*PIB, September 18, 2023*

The US delegation, led by Under Secretary (Research & Engineering), Department of Defence Ms Heidi Shyu, met a team of Innovations for Defence Excellence-Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO) under Ministry of Defence at IIT Delhi on September 18, 2023. Joint Secretary (Defence

Industries Production) & Additional CEO of DIO Shri Anurag Bajpai presented an overview on iDEX to the US delegation, explaining how the initiative is revolutionising the defence innovation ecosystem in India. He highlighted how iDEX is fostering innovation, in critical domains like Artificial Intelligence (AI), unmanned solutions, domain awareness, communications, space, cybersecurity etc. He brought out how technologies developed by iDEX winners are acting as force multipliers for the Services and the innovators are beginning to make their mark globally with their dual-use solutions.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1958533>

### **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi enabled the Chandrayaan-3 Mission with his foresight and increased allocation for Space Research, says Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh**

*PIB, September 20, 2023*

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi enabled the Chandrayaan-3 Mission with his foresight and increased allocation for Space Research, said Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Space and Atomic Energy.

"We are offering them funds when they require it, we are offering them environment when they require it, we are offering them freedom when they require it, we are offering them synergy when they require it and we have liberated them from those self-imposed shackles and this has happened in the last nine years," said Dr Jitendra Singh, participating in the Discussion on "India's Glorious Space Journey marked by successful Soft Landing of Chandrayaan-3" in the Rajya Sabha today.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1959144>



## Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh says, the 2nd Phase of Chandrayaan-3 will begin a few hours from now, when dawn breaks on the Moon after a gap of 14 days

*PIB, September 21, 2023*

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh informs that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of Chandrayaan-3 will begin a few hours from now, when dawn breaks on the Moon after a gap of 14 days.

Replying to over Eight Hour Debate in the Lok Sabha, on the subject of "Success of Chandrayaan-3 and other achievements of our Nation in the Space Sector", Dr Jitendra Singh said, ISRO is in the process of trying to reestablish communication with Chandrayaan-3's solar-powered lander Vikram and rover Pragyan, to revive them so that they can continue with scientific experiments.

Dr Jitendra Singh emphatically asserted that India will become the first country in the world to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Lunar Mission after activation of communication circuit.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1959508>

## Launch of Third MCA Barge, LSAM 9 (Yard 77)

*PIB, September 23, 2023*

Third Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge, Yard 77 (LSAM 9) was launched by Cmde G Ravi, Warship Production Superintendent (Visakhapatnam) on **22 Sep 23** at Guttenadeevi, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh (launch site of M/s SECON). With all major and auxiliary equipment/systems sourced from indigenous manufacturers, this Barge is proud flag bearer of "Make in India" initiatives of Ministry of Defence. Contract for construction and delivery of 08 x Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge was concluded with M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd,

Visakhapatnam, a MSME, in consonance with "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiatives of the Government of India. The MSME shipyard has already delivered first MCA Barge on 18 Jul 23 and has launched Second Barge on 18 Aug 23.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1959820>

## India joins US, Australia and Japan to urge Russia against arms deal with North Korea

*Deccan Herald, September 24, 2023*

The two leaders discussed 'possibilities' for military cooperation. The US-led West as well as South Korea expressed concern over the possibility that the Kim-Putin meeting might lead to Russia procuring ammunition from North Korea to replenish its stock, which was depleting fast in the past 19 months since it launched "special military operations" in Ukraine.

North Korea has long been under the UN Security Council's sanctions.

The US and the European Union (EU) also imposed sanctions on Russia in response to its military aggression against Ukraine.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/india-joins-us-australia-and-japan-to-urge-russia-against-arms-deal-with-north-korea-2698681>

## India Navy to muscle up as Pak gets Chinese submarines

*Mint, September 24, 2023*

MDL is finishing the last of the six Kalvari class submarines and negotiating with Naval Group for three more advanced submarines, while also preparing to export submarines to other countries. The Indian Navy needs more submarines to protect its coastline and deter Pakistan and China. With Pakistan soon to acquire eight Chinese Yuan class submarines between 2023-2028, pressure has mounted on Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL) to conclude a deal for building three additional diesel-electric Kalvari class submarines with French Naval Group this year so that its submarine building

capacity (currently 11) does not turn idle by the end of the year.

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-navy-to-muscle-up-as-pak-gets-chinese-submarines-11695520912684.html>

### **India joins US, Australia and Japan to urge Russia against arms deal with North Korea**

*Deccan Herald, September 24, 2023*

After persuading the West to accept the G20 Delhi Declaration without a word of condemnation for Russia for its military aggression against Ukraine, India has joined the United States, Japan and Australia to tacitly ask Russia to refrain from clinching any arms transfer deal with North Korea. The foreign ministers of Quad – a four-nation coalition comprising India, Japan, Australia and the United States – sent out a message to Russia, urging all member states of the United States to abide by the Security Council resolutions prohibiting “the transfer to North Korea or procurement from North Korea of all arms and related materiel”.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/india-joins-us-australia-and-japan-to-urge-russia-against-arms-deal-with-north-korea-2698681>

### **First ever drone exhibition cum display ‘Bharat Drone Shakti 2023’ inaugurated by Raksha Mantri at Hindan Air Force Station**

*PIB, September 25, 2023*

Bharat Drone Shakti 2023, a first-of-its-kind drone exhibition cum display was inaugurated by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at Air Force Station, Hindan in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh on September 25, 2023. It has been jointly organised by Indian Air Force (IAF) and Drone Federation of India (DFI). The two-day event, which is being held on September 25 & 26, 2023, features over 75 drone start-ups from across the country.

The drones featured during the event can be employed for a variety of military and civil applications. By showcasing their

capabilities through a series of aerial & statics demonstrations, the IAF and DFI seek to bolster the Government’s initiative to make India a major drone hub by 2030.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1960413>

### **500 GW renewable energy target by 2030: Minister**

*New Indian Express, September 26, 2023*

Power minister RK Singh on Monday said India will achieve its 500 GW renewable energy target before the 2030 deadline. Singh, while addressing India Energy Transition Summit 2023 organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, also said that if the country had not lost two years because of COVID-19, India would have achieved 50% of its power generation capacity from non-fossil fuels, by now.

“We will achieve 500 GW of renewable energy (RE) well before 2030,” he said. Currently, the country has 424 GW of power generation capacity, which includes nearly 180 GW from non-fossil fuels and another 88 GW is in the works. “

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2023/sep/26/500-gw-renewable-energy-target-by-2030-minister-2618312.html>

### **India statement delivered by Secretary (West) at the Annual High Level Meeting on “International Day for The Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons”**

*Ministry of External Affairs, September 27, 2023*

India welcomes the convening of the High-Level Plenary meeting to commemorate the International Day for Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. It provides a valuable opportunity for the international community to reaffirm its commitment to global nuclear disarmament and to enhance public awareness about this very important topic, especially as in recent times, the possibility of use of nuclear

weapons and the risk of nuclear escalation have been widely discussed in the public domain.

We are all cognizant of the fact that any use of nuclear weapons will have catastrophic consequences for humanity. India hopes that our deliberations today will take us closer to the collective aspiration for a nuclear-weapons-free-world.

[https://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/37149/India\\_statement\\_delivered\\_by\\_Secretary\\_West\\_at\\_the\\_Annual\\_High\\_Level\\_Meeting\\_on\\_International\\_Day\\_for\\_The\\_Total\\_Elimination\\_of\\_Nuclear\\_Weapons](https://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/37149/India_statement_delivered_by_Secretary_West_at_the_Annual_High_Level_Meeting_on_International_Day_for_The_Total_Elimination_of_Nuclear_Weapons)

### **Navy wants a third carrier, nuclear subs to counter China in the Indo-Pacific**

*Hindustan Times, September 28, 2023*

Indian understanding is that Chinese aircraft carriers (Liaoning and Shandong) can conduct round-the-clock fighter operations. With Chinese Navy expected to increase its footprint in Indian Ocean through logistics support bases from Straits of Malacca to Gulf of Aden, Indian Navy has asked the Modi government for muscling up its strength by building another aircraft carrier, three nuclear powered submarines and six diesel-electric conventional submarines to tackle the PLA challenge. All the constructions will be done under PM Modi's "Atmanirbhar Bharat" vision and in Indian shipyards.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/navy-wants-a-third-carrier-nuclear-subs-to-counter-china-in-the-indopacific-101695872870359.html>

## **B. Russia**

### **IAEA shares Russian vision of threats to Zaporozhye NPP – Rosatom CEO**

*TASS, September 25, 2023*

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is fully aware of the situation at the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant and echoes Russia's assessment of the threats posed by Ukrainian armed units, CEO of

Russia's Rosatom state nuclear corporation Alexey Likhachev said on Monday.

"The IAEA has a complete picture of what is going on at the station, both in terms of security, the social agenda and existing threats. The IAEA specialists may not always be on the same page with us or understand how we feel, but they see and assess the current situation at the Zaporozhye NPP just like we do. And this assessment is as follows: the only threat to the Zaporozhye NPP's security emanates from the reckless behavior of Ukrainian armed units," he said on the sidelines of the 67th annual session of the agency's General Conference.

<https://tass.com/defense/1680263>

### **Ukrainian troops shell Energodar extensively last week – Rosenergoatom**

*TASS, September 26, 2023*

Ukrainian troops actively delivered strikes on civilian infrastructure in the city of Energodar in the Zaporozhye Region all last week, including with the use of drones, Renat Karchaa, an adviser to the director general of Russia's Rosenergoatom nuclear power engineering company, said on Monday.

"There were quite a lot of explosions [in Energodar last week]. Most of them were caused by [Ukrainian] drones, which targeted civilian infrastructure only, and what's more, it was in broad daylight," he said in an interview with Russia's TV Channel One.

<https://tass.com/defense/1680291>

### **Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant fully supplied with cooling water – Rosenergoatom official**

*TASS, September 26, 2023*

The Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) is not experiencing any deficit of cooling water despite the drying up the Kakhovskoye Reservoir following the



destruction of the adjacent dam by Ukrainian forces, Renat Karchaa, adviser to the CEO of Russian state nuclear power concern Rosenergoatom, said.

The situation surrounding water supplies for the ZNPP was exacerbated after Ukrainian troops destroyed the dam of the Kakhovka Hydro Power Plant (HPP), which resulted in a severe reduction in the reservoir's water volume.

<https://tass.com/defense/1680601>

### **Russian security chief holds consultations with Egyptian colleagues**

*TASS, September 26, 2023*

The situation in Ukraine and the Middle East was among the topics discussed at the Russian-Egyptian security consultations held by Secretary of the Russian Security Council Nikolay Patrushev in Cairo. "The sides exchanged views on issues of security in the Middle East, North Africa, the Mediterranean, and the Sahara-Sahel zone. They also touched upon the situation around Ukraine. The sides reiterated their commitment to the continuation of cooperation and coordination in international and regional affairs," the press service of the Russian Security Council said on Tuesday.

<https://tass.com/defense/1680753>

### **Russia warns against speculating on use of nuclear weapons – diplomat**

*TASS, September 28, 2023*

Russia advises against speculating on the use of nuclear weapons as it sees no need to use them, Konstantin Gavrilov, head of the Russian delegation to the Vienna Negotiations on Military Security and Arms Control, told Rossiya-24 television.

Commenting on discussions around the potential use of nukes amid the situation in Ukraine, the diplomat said: "The Americans voiced [their speculations] that Russia threatens to use nuclear weapons. We have never done this. We have guidelines, and we

have doctrines that say when and where nuclear weapons can be used. We adhere strictly to these [principles]. And it's not worth speculating here."

<https://tass.com/defense/1681649>

### **IAEA mission to ZNPP meets Russia's interests, rotation due on October 3 – envoy**

*TASS, September 29, 2023*

The work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) mission at the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant meets Russia's interests, Russia's permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov said on the Rossiya-24 TV channel.

"We proceed from the fact that the IAEA mission at the Zaporozhye NPP meets our interests. By the way, it was us who invited international experts to be permanently stationed there," he recalled, noting that a rotation of experts was carried out last month. "The next rotation is due on October 3," Ulyanov added.

<https://tass.com/defense/1682309>

### **Russian forces pound right bank to stop Ukrainian units from crossing Dnieper – politician**

*TASS, September 30, 2023*

Russian forces are delivering preemptive strikes on targets on the western bank of the Dnieper in the Kherson Region so as to complicate the Ukrainian armed forces' preparations for crossing the river and advancing, the chairman of the We Are Together with Russia movement, Vladimir Rogov, told TASS.

Rogov commented on reports that the Ukrainian military was plotting an offensive in the Kherson and Zaporozhye Regions in early October.

"Regarding the Kherson area, it is exactly for this purpose that now our missile strikes and aircraft are being engaged," he said, adding that the strikes are continually

targeting Berislav and Kazatsky on the other bank, opposite Novaya Kakhovka.

<https://tass.com/defense/1682603>

### **C. People's Republic of China**

#### **China launches Yaogan 39 remote sensing satellite**

*Zhao Lei*

*China Daily, September 17, 2023*

China launched a Long March 2D carrier rocket on Sunday afternoon at the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan province to place several remote-sensing satellites into orbit, according to China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp. Remote-sensing satellites refer to those tasked with observing, surveying and measuring objects on land and at sea, as well as monitoring the weather forecast. The Yaogan family is the largest fleet of remote-sensing spacecraft in China and their data has been widely used in governments, public service sectors and businesses.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202309/17/WS65069b5ba310d2dce4bb623d.html>

#### **China, ASEAN enhance cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear technology**

*Xinhua, September 17, 2023*

China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have deepened their cooperation in the field of nuclear energy and nuclear technology applications over the past 10 years, according to the China Atomic Energy Authority (CAEA). Liu Jing, vice chairman of the CAEA, made the remarks at the second China-ASEAN Forum on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Technology held in Nanning, the capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. "China has provided ASEAN countries with reliable nuclear technology products, services, and solutions, promoted the training of professionals, and supported the development of peaceful uses of nuclear technology," Liu said.

<https://english.news.cn/20230917/7d1ffe5ba51347a8923f9d56a4b6929e/c.html>

#### **China's 'artificial sun' aims to generate fusion power by 2049: media report**

*Global Times, September 18, 2023*

China's experimental advanced superconducting tokamak (EAST), widely known as the Chinese "artificial sun," has made another major breakthrough in its mission of creating nuclear fusion and aims to generate fusion power by 2049, according to a media report. Citing scientists from the Institute of Plasma Physics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (ASIPP) in Hefei, East China's Anhui Province, the report on financial news site sina.com said that by simulating solar nuclear fusion reactions, scientists achieved new breakthroughs in generating fusion that can benefit the whole of mankind.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202309/1298386.shtml>

#### **China General Nuclear enters agreement to develop renewable energy base in Laos**

*Andrew Hayley*

*Reuters, September 18, 2023*

China General Nuclear Power Group (CGN) has signed a project development agreement with the government of Laos to develop a renewable energy base in the north of the country, according to a statement released by CGN. The base will incorporate wind, solar, hydro and energy storage capabilities, and will feed into an existing power line that transfers power generated in Laos to China's Yunnan province, and a second planned 500kV power line between the two.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/china-general-nuclear-enters-agreement-develop-renewable-energy-base-laos-2023-09-18/>

#### **Chinese embassy says not invited to be part of nuke water testing**

*The Asahi Shimbun, September 18, 2023*

China has not been invited to participate in the analysis and comparative testing of

treated nuclear-contaminated water being released into the ocean from the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant, the Chinese Embassy in Japan said on September 18. "If the Japanese side really has confidence in the treatment of nuclear-contaminated water, it should respond to it in a serious and responsible manner," the embassy said in a statement.

<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/15008167>

### **China launches 'Kuafu' nuclear fusion research facility, named after mythical giant, in quest to build 'artificial sun'**

*Victoria Bela*

*South China Morning Post, September 19, 2023*

China has launched its largest nuclear fusion research facility – nicknamed after a mythical giant – as it continues its quest to build an "artificial sun". In a report, state news agency Xinhua revealed for the first time the interior of the completed main building of the facility in east China's Anhui province. It is formally known as the Comprehensive Research Facility for Fusion Technology (CRAFT) but has been nicknamed "Kuafu" after a mythical figure who tried to capture the sun.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3234968/china-launches-kuafu-nuclearfusion-research-facility-named-after-mythical-giant-quest-build>

### **Myanmar Junta Seeks Chinese Help Acquiring Nuclear Technology**

*The Irrawaddy, September 19, 2023*

The Myanmar junta's nuclear ambitions are once again in the spotlight after it begged China to help train its experts in the use of nuclear technology at a China-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) nuclear forum last week. The request makes China the second country to be approached by the junta regarding the technology. Currently, the regime is collaborating with Russia's state-owned nuclear corporation Rosatom after opening the country's first

nuclear information centre in Yangon early this year.

<https://www.irrawaddy.com/specials/myanmar-china-watch/myanmar-junta-seeks-chinese-helpacquiring-nuclear-technology.html>

### **Fukushima: China's seafood imports from Japan down 67% in August**

*Mariko Oi*

*BBC, September 20, 2023*

China's imports of seafood from Japan slumped last month as Tokyo started to release treated waste water from the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant. Imports of Japanese seafood fell 67.6% in August from the same month last year, China's customs authority said. Japan's ministry of agriculture and fisheries says China was the world's top importer of the country's seafood. The sharp fall came as Japan prepared to start releasing the waste water and in the aftermath of the release.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-66862576>

### **Chinese satellite ground stations installed on disputed South China Sea reefs**

*Liu Zhen*

*South China Morning Post, September 20, 2023*

China has built two ground stations for its BeiDou satellite system on disputed South China Sea reefs, according to state television. The stations, connected to China's land-based ship automatic identification system (AIS), are installed at lighthouses located on North Reef and Bombay Reef in the Paracel Islands, which are also claimed by Vietnam and Taipei. They use the BeiDou satellite network – completed in 2020 as a rival to the US global positioning system (GPS) – to locate the vessels and transmit signals, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3235147/chinese-satellite-ground-stationsinstalled-disputed-south-china-sea-reefs>

## China, Pakistan successfully wrap up joint air exercise

*China Military Online, September 21, 2023*

With the return of participating Pakistani forces to their home country, China and Pakistan successfully wrapped up the Shaheen-X joint air exercise in Northwest China, with observers predicting more military interactions and exchanges that will further deepen pragmatic cooperation between the "Iron Brothers." The J-10C and JF-17 fighter aircraft of the Pakistan Air Force contingent landed back at an operational air base in Pakistan after successful participation in the joint air exercise in China, the Pakistan Air Force said in a press release.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA\\_209163/TopStories\\_209189/16253444.html](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA_209163/TopStories_209189/16253444.html)

## Chinese vice FM meets with IAEA chief over Japan's radioactive water release

*CGTN, September 21, 2023*

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu met with Rafael Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in New York, U.S. Ma reiterated China's position on Japan's ocean discharge of nuclear-contaminated wastewater from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. IAEA should uphold an objective, scientific, impartial approach to performing its own responsibilities on Japan's ocean discharge of nuclear-contaminated wastewater and respond to the international community's legitimate and reasonable concerns, Ma told Grossi.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2023-09-21/Chinese-vice-FM-meets-with-IAEA-chief-over-Japan-radioactive-water-release-1nhozldfjC8/index.html>

## China is developing new nuclear system to power moon base expected to be up and running by 2028

*Ling Xin*

*South China Morning Post, November 22, 2023*

China's station at the moon's South Pole will be powered by nuclear energy, the chief of

the lunar project said. "We are now developing a new system that uses nuclear energy to address the moon station's long-term, high-power energy demands," Wu Weiren, chief designer of the Chinese lunar exploration programme, told state broadcaster CCTV. He did not give technical details about the nuclear reactor being built, but previous reports said it could generate 1 megawatt of electricity, which is enough to power hundreds of homes for a year.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3200569/china-developing-new-nuclearsystem-power-moon-base-expected-be-and-running-2028>

## Satellite images show increased activity at nuclear test sites in Russia, China and US

*Eric Cheung, Brad Lendon and Ivan Watson*

*CNN, September 23, 2023*

Russia, the United States and China have all built new facilities and dug new tunnels at their nuclear test sites in recent years, satellite images obtained exclusively by CNN show, at a time when tensions between the three major nuclear powers have risen to their highest in decades. One is operated by China in the far western region of Xinjiang, one by Russia in an Arctic Ocean archipelago, and another in the US in the Nevada desert. "There are really a lot of hints that we're seeing that suggest Russia, China and the United States might resume nuclear testing," he said, something none of those countries have done since underground nuclear testing was banned by the

<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/09/22/asia/nuclear-testing-china-russia-us-exclusive-intl-hnkml/index.html>

## China and Japan clash over Fukushima water at IAEA meeting

*The Japan Times, September 26, 2023*

Japan and China have sparred over the release of treated water containing tritium from the meltdown-stricken Fukushima



No. 1 nuclear plant into the sea at an annual meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency. In a general debate speech delivered at the meeting, the Chinese representative referred to the treated water from Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings's plant in Fukushima Prefecture as "nuclear-contaminated water," and reiterated the country's opposition to the discharge. "There is great uncertainty of the accumulated oceanic effects of the large amount of radionuclides discharged into the sea," the representative said, arguing that Japan was not providing sufficient information.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/09/26/japan/politics/japan-china-fukushima-water-iaea/>

### **China launches its latest remote sensing satellite**

*China Military Online, September 27, 2023*

China sent its latest remote sensing satellite into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. The satellite, Yaogan-33 04, was launched on a Long March-4C carrier rocket at 4:15 A.M. (Beijing Time), and has entered its planned orbit successfully. It will be used for scientific experiments, land resource surveys, crop yield estimates, and disaster prevention and relief work. The launch was the 489th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA\\_209163/TopStories\\_209189/16254831.html](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA_209163/TopStories_209189/16254831.html)

### **China has world's second largest number of nuclear power units**

*CGTN, September 27, 2023*

China has the second-largest number of nuclear power units in operation or under construction in the world, according to the China Nuclear Energy Association. The Chinese mainland has 55 nuclear power units in operation with a combined installed capacity of 57 gigawatts (GW) and 24 units under construction with a total installed capacity of 27.8 GW, Wang Binghua, an official at the association, told a meeting in

Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province. The Chinese mainland has approved 21 new nuclear power units since 2021, said Wang, adding that six to eight nuclear power units are expected to be greenlighted annually within the foreseeable future.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2023-09-27/China-has-world-s-second-largest-number-of-nuclearpower-units-1nrCMwXfpkA/index.html>

### **China expects to OK 6-8 nuclear power units per year in green energy drive**

*Reuters, September 27, 2023*

China expects to greenlight six to eight new nuclear power units a year within the foreseeable future, an official at the China Nuclear Energy Association (CNEA) said, according to a report in state media outlet Xinhua. China is looking to develop its nuclear power sector as part of a broader push on renewables and domestic energy security. Nuclear is expected to contribute about 10 percent of power generation in the country by 2035 and 18 percent by 2060, with a total generation capacity of 400 gigawatts (GW) by 2060, the CNEA said.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/china-expects-ok-6-8-nuclear-power-units-per-year-green-energy-drive-2023-09-27/>

## **D. Pakistan**

### **Secret Pakistani arms sale to US helped facilitate IMF bailout: Report**

*Times of India, September 18, 2023*

A secret Pakistani arms sales to the United States helped facilitate a controversial bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) earlier this year, as per two sources aware of the arrangement, with confirmation from internal Pakistani and American government documents, The Intercept reported.

The Intercept is an online American non-profit news organization.

The arms sales were made for the purpose of supplying the Ukrainian military. This signals Pakistani involvement in a conflict it had faced US pressure to take sides on.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/pakistan/secret-pakistani-arms-sale-to-us-helped-facilitate-imf-bailout-report/articleshow/103749986.cms?from=mdr>

### **Nuclear officials from Iran, Pakistan propose civilian nuclear energy co-op**

*Tehran Times, September 29, 2023*

The nuclear chiefs from Iran and Pakistan has discussed cooperation in areas of nuclear technology for civilian purposes. Mohammad Eslami of Iran and Raja Ali Raza Anwar of Pakistan held talks on the issue on Thursday on the sidelines of the annual session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference in Vienna.

Eslami and Raza Anwar also discussed cooperation in other fields.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian stated last month that the Islamic Republic places no limitation on the development of full-fledged ties with neighboring Pakistan in areas of mutual interest.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/489539/Nuclear-officials-from-Iran-Pakistan-propose-civilian-nuclear>

### ***E. Europe***

### **EU urges Iran to reconsider barring of UN nuclear watchdog inspectors**

*France 24, September 17, 2023*

The International Atomic Energy Agency had warned Saturday that the “disproportionate and unprecedented” move would seriously hamper its work.

Iranian media and a Western diplomat said the decision concerned eight inspectors, all from France and Germany. Brussels, which acts as coordinator for the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers known

as the JCPOA, said it was “highly concerned” by the development. “Particularly worrying is the direct and severe impact of this decision on the agency’s ability to conduct its verification activities, which includes the monitoring of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action [JCPOA],” a spokesman said. “The EU urges Iran to reconsider its decision without delay.”

<https://www.france24.com/en/middle-east/20230917-eu-urges-iran-to-reconsider-barring-un-nuclear-watchdog-inspectors>

### **EU calls on Iran for immediate return of nuclear inspectors**

*DW News, September 17, 2023*

Brussels has slammed Tehran’s decision to remove accreditation from several members of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Reports have suggested the move affected eight inspectors, all from Germany and France. The European Union on Sunday criticized Iran over its decision to withdraw accreditation from several United Nations nuclear inspectors. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Saturday that some members of their team no longer had permission to inspect Iran’s nuclear arsenal.

The EU is a coordinator for the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers known as the JCPOA. The bloc declared it was “highly concerned” by the removal of the accreditation.

<https://www.dw.com/en/eu-calls-on-iran-for-immediate-return-of-nuclear-inspectors/a-66838197>

### **European airborne electronic-attack program kicks into high gear**

*Defense News, September 18, 2023*

An Indra-led consortium of European companies is set to launch work on an electronic-warfare capability for the European Union aimed at protecting friendly aircraft against missile attacks.

In a few months, the bloc's Responsive Electronic Attack for Cooperative Tasks (REACT) effort will begin its second phase, company officials told Defense News. The consortium, which includes European sensor makers Hensoldt, Elettronica and Saab, was selected in June to receive tens of millions of euros in funds from the European Defence Fund (EDF) for the work.

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2023/09/18/european-airborne-electronic-attack-program-kicks-into-high-gear/>

### **Canada offers CAD3 billion finance for nuclear in Romania**

*World Nuclear News, September 20, 2023*

The Canadian Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Jonathan Wilkinson has announced CAD3 billion (USD2.2 billion) of export financing to Nuclearelectrica to support the building of two CANDU-6 reactors at the Cernavoda nuclear power plant in Romania. The agreement was announced by Wilkinson alongside Sebastian Burduja, Romania's Energy Minister, in Ottawa. He said it would support energy security and boost the fight against climate change in Romania as well as "further support Canadian jobs and business activity in Romania's nuclear sector".

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Canada-offers-CAD3-billion-finance-for-new-nuclear>

### **IAEA Mission Says Greece Committed to Managing Radioactive Waste Safely, Sees Areas for Improvement**

*IAEA, September 21, 2023*

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) mission said that Greece has established a good basis to ensure and enhance the safety of radioactive waste management. The review identified areas for additional efforts, for example, improving stakeholder involvement and securing adequate human resources for the safe

management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. The Integrated Review Service for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management, Decommissioning and Remediation (ARTEMIS) was carried out at the request of the Greek Atomic Energy Commission (EEAE) and the review team concluded the eight day mission to Greece on 18 September. Greece has no nuclear power plants and the 5 MW Greek Research Reactor-1 (GRR-1) located at the National Centre of Scientific Research "Demokritos" (NCSR "D") is currently licensed for extended shutdown.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-mission-says-greece-committed-to-managing-radioactive-waste-safely-sees-areas-for-improvement>

### **'This is a milestone': Poland's environment agency greenlights country's first nuclear power plant**

*Euronews, September 22, 2023*

Poland has issued an environmental permit for the country's first nuclear power plant, state-run news agency PAP reported on Friday, citing Climate Minister Anna Moskwa.

According to Poland's General Directorate for Environmental Protection (GDOS), the building and operation of the plant will not adversely affect the environment and its impact will be monitored, PAP reported.

The project won't affect Natura 2000 areas in a negative way or contribute to the deterioration of natural habitats, according to GDOS.

It took the environmental protection directorate more than one and a half years to look over the evidence in the environmental impact report and make the decision to issue to permit.

<https://www.euronews.com/green/2023/09/22/this-is-a-milestone-polands-environment-agency-greenlights-countrys-first-nuclear-power-pl>

## IAEA Sees Operational Safety Commitment at Penly Nuclear Power Plant in France, Encourages Continued Improvement

*IAEA, September 22, 2023*

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team of experts said that the operator of Units 1 and 2 of the Penly Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) in France has demonstrated a commitment to operational safety. The team also encouraged the operator to continue improvements in areas such as the implementation of maintenance work. The Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) concluded an 18-day mission to the Penly NPP on 21 September. The mission, which focused on two of the plant's units, was carried out at the request of the Government of France. OSART missions aim to improve operational safety by independently assessing safety performance against the IAEA's safety standards by proposing recommendations and, where appropriate, suggestions for improvement. Safety is an essential element during commissioning and the subsequent safe operation of a nuclear power plant.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-sees-operational-safety-commitment-at-penly-nuclear-power-plant-in-france-encourages-continued-improvement>

## Grossi stresses positive role of nuclear at IAEA General Conference

*World Nuclear News, September 25, 2023*

Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi opened the 67th International Atomic Energy Agency General Conference by saying that opinion polls show the "tide is turning" on public attitudes to nuclear energy, but countries "still need to engage stakeholders openly and proactively" in their nuclear power programmes. *Director General Grossi speaking at General Conference (Image: IAEA)* In his opening address to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) event at its headquarters in Vienna, Austria, Grossi highlighted the positive progress of the organisation's initiatives

using nuclear technology in areas of tackling climate change as well as cancer care, zoonotic disease, food safety and plastic pollution.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Grossi-urges-vocal-backing-of-nuclear-as-IAEA-gath>

## Poland signs deal for first nuclear power plant

*Economic Times, September 28, 2023*

Poland signed an initial deal with US nuclear group Westinghouse On Wednesday to design the country's first atomic power plant, which it sees as a way of bolstering energy security by reducing reliance on fossil fuels. The plant in northern Poland will cost an estimated \$23 billion to build, with the first reactor set to come online in 2033. Poland was among 11 EU nations that agreed last February to deepen cooperation on nuclear energy, calling it the best strategy to meet goals on cutting carbon emissions. While Warsaw's plans to pursue nuclear power have been in the works for years, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent turbulence on global oil and gas prices have given the project new urgency.

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/power/poland-signs-deal-for-first-nuclear-power-plant/104008501>

## Viewpoint: Advancing nuclear energy in Europe

*World Nuclear News, September 29, 2023*

Industry leaders, experts and stakeholders considered the question of *Cooperation, Complementarity and the Fleet Effect* during an EDF-organised side-event at the 67th IAEA General Conference. Here, Roberto Adinolfi, Chairman of Ansaldo Nucleare, outlines the key insights from the session. Keynote speakers François Jacq, General Administrator of the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), and Luc Rémont, EDF Chairman and CEO, along with my fellow panellists, Sama Bilbao y León, Nigel Cann, Dejan Paravan and Vakis Ramany,



shared their invaluable insights and experiences, shedding light on the future of nuclear energy in Europe and beyond.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Viewpoint-Advancing-nuclear-energy-in-Europe>

## F. Ukraine

### Update 184 - IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine

*IAEA, September 22, 2023*

Ukraine's Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) has completed drilling of ten groundwater wells, bringing the plant close to having a longer-term solution for the provision of cooling water to the shutdown reactors after the destruction of the Kakhovka dam in June, Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said today.

Over 200 cubic meters of water can now be supplied to the sprinkler ponds that cool the ZNPP's six reactors and spent fuel. The IAEA has been informed that the site intends to drill an additional well bringing the total to 11 wells which is hoped to provide the approximately 250 cubic metres of water per hour to maintain the cooling of the reactors and spent fuel pools in the current shutdown state. The ZNPP cooling pond remains intact, containing a large volume of water that can also provide cooling to the ZNPP's shutdown reactors for many months.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/update-184-iaea-director-general-statement-on-situation-in-ukraine>

### Update 185 - IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine

*IAEA, September 29, 2023*

Ukraine's Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) is preparing to once again use reactor unit 4 to generate steam for various safety functions at the facility, following repairs that put it out of action for several weeks, Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said today.

After the plant conducted hydraulic pressure tests on the primary and secondary cooling circuits of this unit, IAEA experts at

the site said the ZNPP this week began transitioning it from cold to hot shutdown. Once this is done, the ZNPP plans to return unit 6 to cold shutdown. Unit 6 has been providing steam in hot shutdown since mid-August, after a water leak was detected in one of unit 4's four steam generators.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/update-185-iaea-director-general-statement-on-situation-in-ukraine>

### Fresh concerns over Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant

*Emerging Europe, September 29, 2023*

International regulators are incapable of properly monitoring safety at the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power station, according to a critical dossier compiled by Greenpeace that is being sent to western governments on Thursday. The environmental campaign group concludes the International Atomic Energy Agency has too few inspectors at Europe's biggest nuclear plant—four—and that there are too many restrictions placed on their access.

It argues that the IAEA is "unable to meet its mandate requirements" but it is not prepared to admit as much in public, and as a result what it describes as Russian violations of safety principles are not being called out.

<https://emerging-europe.com/news/fresh-concerns-over-zaporizhzhia-nuclear-power-plant-emerging-europe-this-week/>

### Ukrainian military plans action to seize Zaporozhye NPP – source

*TASS, September 30, 2023*

Ukraine's special operations forces are planning actions to seize the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP), a source close to the authorities told TASS.

"Special ops units of the Ukrainian armed forces' Special Operations Forces, who have been trained by British instructors, are planning actions to seize the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant," he

said, adding that it could happen in early October.

<https://tass.com/defense/1682567>

### **Ukraine moving troops to Dnieper ahead of potential offensive – source**

*TASS, September 30, 2023*

Ukraine is planning to stage an offensive in the Kherson and Zaporozhye areas in early October, while at the same time trying to seize the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant, a source close to the situation told TASS on Friday. “A source close to law enforcement agencies has learned that Zelensky is coordinating an offensive with his British and American sponsors that will take place in early October in the Kherson and Zaporozhye areas,” the source said.

According to the source, “for these ends, a large group of Ukrainian marines have been pulled to the Nikolayev Region to cross the Dnieper River.”

<https://tass.com/defense/1682589>

## **G. USA**

### **United States Imposes Sanctions on a Multinational Network Supporting Iran’s UAV Procurement Activities**

*U.S. Department of State, September 19, 2023*

Today, the United States is designating a network of 11 individuals and entities across four countries supporting Iran’s unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and military aircraft industry.

This network is responsible for procurement and maintenance activities in support of the Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industrial Company’s (HESA) UAV and military aircraft production. HESA was designated in September 2008 for being owned or controlled by Iran’s Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics. The network includes three individuals based in the Islamic Republic of Iran, two individuals

and one entity based in the People’s Republic of China, three entities based in the Russian Federation, and two individuals based in Türkiye.

<https://www.state.gov/united-states-imposes-sanctions-on-a-multinational-network-supporting-irans-uav-procurement-activities/>

### **Marshall Islands calls on U.S. to address legacy of nuclear testing**

*The Japan Times, September 21, 2023*

The president of the Marshall Islands said on Wednesday that his Pacific island nation was “cautiously optimistic” it could soon finalize a deal on future ties with the United States, but repeated a call for Washington to address the legacy of massive nuclear testing in the 1940s and 50s.

The Marshall Islands is one of three sparsely populated Pacific island nations covered by so-called Compacts of Free Association (COFAs) with the United States. Under the agreements, the U.S. has responsibility for their defense and provides economic assistance, while gaining exclusive access to huge strategic swaths of the Pacific.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/09/21/world/politics/marshall-islands-us-nuclear-legacy/>

### **Under Secretary Jenkins to Participate in the IAEA General Conference In Vienna, Austria, September 24-28**

*U.S. Department of State, September 22, 2023*

Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Ambassador Bonnie D. Jenkins will travel to Vienna, Austria on September 24-28 to attend the 67th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). She will accompany Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm, head of the U.S. delegation, Christopher Hanson, Chair of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Jill Hruby, Under Secretary for Nuclear

Security of the U.S. Department of Energy and Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration.

While in Vienna, the Under Secretary will attend bilateral meetings, side events, and outreach engagements on nuclear-related issues to emphasize U.S. commitment to nonproliferation and countering weapons of mass destruction terrorism, reiterate U.S. steadfast support of Ukraine, and promote civil-nuclear partnerships.

<https://www.state.gov/under-secretary-jenkins-to-participate-in-the-iaea-general-conference-in-vienna-austria-september-24-28/>

### **The delicate art of maintaining the United States' ageing nuclear weapons**

*ABC News, September 24, 2023*

In an ultra-sterile room at a secure factory in the city of Kansas City, US government technicians refurbish the nation's nuclear warheads. The job is exacting: Each warhead has thousands of springs, gears and copper contacts that must work in conjunction to set off a nuclear explosion. About 1,300 kilometres away in New Mexico, workers in a steel-walled vault have an equally delicate task. Wearing radiation monitors, safety goggles and seven layers of gloves, they practice shaping new warhead plutonium cores — by hand. And at nuclear weapons bases across the country, troops as young as 17 keep 50-year-old warheads working until replacements are ready.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-09-24/the-delicate-art-of-maintaining-americas-ageing-nuclear-weapons/102893302>

### **Northrop Grumman secures \$705m deal to develop new air-to-ground missile**

*Airforce Technology, September 26, 2023*

US defence prime Northrop Grumman has been awarded a \$705m contract by the US Air Force to develop the Stand-in Attack Weapon (SiAW), a high-speed air-to-ground weapon that could equip current fifth- and future sixth-generation combat aircraft.

The SiAW project is a significant milestone, aligning with the USAF vision for a digital weapons acquisition and development programme. Over the next 36 months, Northrop Grumman will work to refine the SiAW, integrate it into various platforms, and undertake a flight test programme for rapid prototyping.

The company will develop at its Northridge, California facility and the Allegany Ballistics Laboratory in West Virginia.

<https://www.airforce-technology.com/news/northrop-grumman-secures-705m-deal-to-develop-new-air-to-ground-missile/>

### **United States Imposes Sanctions on Transnational Procurement Network Supporting Iran's One-Way Attack UAV Program**

*U.S. Department of State, September 27, 2023*

Today, the United States is designating a network linked to the U.S.-designated Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). This network—comprised of five entities and two individuals based in Iran, the People's Republic of China (PRC), Hong Kong, Türkiye, and the United Arab Emirates—has been procuring sensitive parts for Iran's one-way attack unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) program.

Iran is supplying Russia with arms, including Shahed-136 UAVs, to support Russia's illegal war against Ukraine. One of the servomotors procured by the network designated today was recovered in the remnants of a Russia-operated Shahed-136 that was recently shot down in Ukraine.

<https://www.state.gov/united-states-imposes-sanctions-on-transnational-procurement-network-supporting-irans-one-way-attack-uav-program/>

### **US says Iran must take nuclear steps to make room for diplomacy**

*Reuters, September 27, 2023*

Iran must take “de-escalatory” steps on its nuclear program if it wants to make space

for diplomacy with the United States, starting by cooperating with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the U.S. State Department said on Tuesday. The comments by spokesman Matt Miller at a briefing was the second time in recent days that the United States has criticized Iran for its decision to bar multiple IAEA inspectors assigned to the country, hindering the U.N. nuclear watchdog's oversight of Tehran's atomic activities. The United States and many of its Western allies fear Iran's nuclear program may be a cover for developing nuclear weapons. Iran denies having such ambitions. "Iran must take de-escalatory steps if it wants to reduce tensions and create a space for diplomacy," Miller said.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us-says-iran-must-take-nuclear-steps-make-room-diplomacy-2023-09-26/>

### **Palantir wins \$250 million US Army AI research contract**

*Defense News, September 27, 2023*

The U.S. Army awarded Palantir Technologies a contract worth as much as \$250 million to research and experiment with artificial intelligence and machine learning. The arrangement, announced by the Department of Defense on Sept. 26, runs through 2026. Exactly where work will be done and from where funding will be pulled will be determined with each order, it said. Interest in AI and ML in the defense world has exploded in recent years, with military officials lauding their potential battlefield applications and industry matching the energy. The Defense Department was juggling more than 685 AI-related projects as of 2021, according to the Government Accountability Office, a federal watchdog. At least 232 were in the Army's bailiwick.

<https://www.defensenews.com/artificial-intelligence/2023/09/27/palantir-wins-250-million-us-army-ai-research-contract/>

### **US Security Deal With Marshalls at Risk Over Nuclear Payments Description**

*VOA News, September 28, 2023*

The United States struck security agreements this week with Pacific Island nations seen as a key part of U.S. plans to counter China's territorial expansion. But after three years of negotiations, one of those nations, the Marshall Islands, still has not reached a deal with Washington. At issue is how the agreement describes compensation for decades-old U.S. nuclear testing. VOA's Jessica Stone reports.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/us-security-deal-with-marshalls-at-risk-over-nuclear-payments-description-/7289301.html>

### **Exemption given for Navy to build nuclear sub in stopgap funding bill**

*Defense News, September 28, 2023*

Congress intends to give the Pentagon a carveout in a short-term funding bill that will allow the Navy to begin construction on a new ballistic missile submarine. Without that exemption, service leaders have expressed concern that congressional budget dysfunction could otherwise push the program behind schedule and create a nuclear deterrence gap in the years ahead.

The Senate's bipartisan stopgap funding bill, released Tuesday, includes a rare exemption that would allow the Navy to start building the second Columbia-class submarine before Congress passes a full Pentagon budget for fiscal 2024. A rival stopgap funding bill introduced by House Republicans also includes the Columbia-class carveout. It's unclear when Congress will pass the exemption into law, as unrelated issues threaten to spark a government shutdown at the end of the week.

<https://www.defensenews.com/congress/2023/09/27/exemption-given-for-navy-to-build-nuclear-sub-in-stopgap-funding-bill/>



## West Asia

### H. Iran

#### **IAEA Director General's Statement on Verification in Iran**

*IAEA, September 16, 2023*

Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran), informed me of its decision to withdraw the designation of several experienced Agency inspectors assigned to conduct verification activities in Iran under the NPT Safeguards Agreement. This follows a previous recent withdrawal of the designation of another experienced Agency inspector for Iran.

These inspectors are among the most experienced Agency experts with unique knowledge in enrichment technology. They have conducted essential verification work at the enrichment facilities in Iran which are under Agency safeguards.

With today's decision, Iran has effectively removed about one third of the core group of the Agency's most experienced inspectors designated for Iran.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-director-generals-statement-on-verification-in-iran-0>

#### **Military Chief: Demands for Iranian Drones Exceeding Production**

*Fars News Agency, September 18, 2023*

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri praised the country's defense industry for manufacturing various type of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), and said that demands by foreign customers for Tehran-made drones are much higher than the country's production capacity. Maj. Gen. Baqeri highlighted the country's remarkable progress in the defense field at a conference titled "Sacred Defense and its Impact on the National Security of Iran and West Asia" on Monday. "While Iran was once faced with sanctions on the purchase of weapons, the sanctions have currently been imposed

on the export of Iranian military hardware," the top general stated.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020627000622/Military-Chief-Demands-fr-Iranian-Drones-Exceeding-Prdcin>

#### **IAEA Mission Observes Commitment to Safety at Research Reactors in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Recommends Further Enhancement**

*IAEA, September 20, 2023*

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team of experts said the operator of two research reactors in the Islamic Republic of Iran has improved safety and implemented significant upgrades to modernize the reactor's systems and components in recent years. The team also provided recommendations and suggestions for further enhancement of the operational organizational structure, safety documents and operational safety programmes.

The Integrated Safety Assessment for Research Reactors (INSARR) team concluded an eight-day mission today to assess the safety of the Miniature Neutron Source Reactor (MNSR) and Heavy Water Zero Power Reactor (HWZPR) research reactors in Iran against IAEA safety standards.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-mission-observes-commitment-to-safety-at-research-reactors-in-the-islamic-republic-of-iran-recommends-further-enhancement>

#### **U.S. slaps fresh sanctions against Iranian drones, military aircraft**

*Tehran Times, September 20, 2023*

By placing Iranian, Russian, Chinese, and Turkish organizations on a blacklist due to allegations that they help Iran's legal program to build drones and military aircraft, the U.S. government has announced fresh penalties relating to Iran's military aviation programs.

The U.S. Department of Treasury announced a series of sanctions on Tuesday that were aimed at seven people and four entities in the four nations for what it claimed was their alleged role in facilitating “shipments and financial transactions” to the Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industrial Company (HESA).

The Treasury reaffirmed in a statement the unverified accusations that Iran sells drones to Russia for use in the current conflict in Ukraine.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/489251/U-S-slaps-fresh-sanctions-against-Iranian-drones-military-aircraft>

### **Nuclear deal can be restored if US shows seriousness: Iran FM**

*Tehran Times, September 24, 2023*

If the U.S. shows seriousness in the negotiations the 2015 nuclear deal can be put on the right track, the Iranian foreign minister said on Saturday, suggesting in that situation all parties will return to their compliance under agreement. The talks to resurrect the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) came to a standstill after the United States and its three European allies (France, Britain and Germany) cut the talks following the September 2022 unrest in Iran. “If the U.S. administration is serious, the negotiations can be concluded in a short time and then all the parties will return to the JCPOA,” Hossein Amir Abdollahian said in a meeting with a number of American experts, ambassadors and retired politicians on the sidelines of the annual UN meeting in New York.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/489314/Nuclear-deal-can-be-restored-if-US-shows-seriousness-Iran-FM>

### **Iran’s top nuclear official arrives in Vienna**

*Tehran Times, September 24, 2023*

Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, has traveled

to the Austrian capital on Sunday to take part in a conference organized by the UN nuclear watchdog. The 67th Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference will be held from 25 to 29 at the Vienna International Centre (VIC). Eslami is expected to deliver a speech at the conference on Monday morning, according to Iran’s state news agency IRNA.

Also, the head of the AEOI will hold a meeting with IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi and pay a visit to an Iranian nuclear exhibition in Vienna. He is also expected to meet the nuclear officials of other countries.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/489347/Iran-s-top-nuclear-official-arrives-in-Vienna>

### **Defense Ministry Spokesman: Iran in Possession of ‘Israel-Striker’ Missile**

*Fars News Agency, September 25, 2023*

Iranian Defense Ministry Spokesman Brigadier General Reza Talaei-Nik praised the country’s astonishing achievements in defense fields, and said Tehran has developed missiles specifically designed to pound targets inside the Israeli-occupied territories. “Today, Iran is the region’s prime power in defense,” Talaei-Nik stated on Sunday. “We were all by ourselves before the war, but today they say no equation in the region can be balanced without Iran; this is the defensive power that has been achieved,” he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020703000215/Defense-Ministry-Spokesman-Iran-in-Possession-of-Israel-Striker-Missile>

### **Nuclear Chief: Iran Reserves Right to Respond to Israeli Threats**

*Fars News Agency, September 25, 2023*

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami cautioned that the Israeli regime has

jeopardize the credibility of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and further warned that Tehran reserves the right to give a tit-for-tat response to Israel's arrogant behavior.

Addressing the 67th Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the Austrian capital, Vienna, on Monday, Eslami referred to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's remarks, and stressed there is no doubt that the international community's silence has emboldened Zionists.

Netanyahu called for a "credible nuclear threat" against Tehran in an address to the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Israeli premier's office later clarified that he misread the line and meant to say a "credible military threat".

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020703000637/Nclear-Chief-Iran-Reserves-Righ-Respnd-Israeli-Threas>

### **Iran Manufactures Water Landing Drone Equipped with Missile, Bomb**

*Fars News Agency, September 25, 2023*

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri said that Tehran has developed unmanned aerial vehicles capable of landing on and taking off water and carrying missiles and bombs. Tangsiri stated on Sunday the IRGC has manufactured military drones capable of taking off and landing on water. The UAVs can also carry missiles and bombs, he added. "The IRGC Navy has also produced hybrid drones that have two separate engines for launch and propulsion," the senior military official continued.

These drones can perform patrol and reconnaissance operations for up to 15 hours, Tangsiri stated, noting that they will join the IRGC Navy's fleet in the near future.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020703000494/Iran-Manfacres-Waer-Landing-Drne-Eipped-wih-Missile-Bmb>

### **Iran never seeking to build nuclear arms, Raisi says**

*Tehran Times, September 25, 2023*

The idea that Iran seeks to develop nuclear weapons has been completely refuted by President Ebrahim Raisi, who also said that high-level enrichment was a response to the West flouting its agreements.

Raisi made the statement in an interview with the CNN's Fareed Zakaria on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York.

The president also said that Iran's uranium was enriched to a purity level of 60% in reaction to the European parties' lack of commitment to the 2015 nuclear agreement, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

He went on to add, "In the beginning, we were not seeking 60% levels of enrichment. European states trampled upon their commitments."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/489392/Iran-never-seeking-to-build-nuclear-arms-Raisi-says>

### **Iran's Nuclear Head: West Political Pressures via UN Atomic Watchdog Not to Remain Unanswered**

*Fars News Agency, September 26, 2023*

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said that Western countries are resorting to political leverage and sanctions in order to take advantage of the United Nations nuclear watchdog to mount pressures on Tehran, adding his country will not allow any politically-motivated act to go unanswered.

Eslami made the remarks in a meeting with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi in Austria's Vienna on Monday.

The top nuclear official slammed the biased approach taken to Iran by Western

governments, saying, "By resorting to sanctions ... these countries are trying to use the IAEA's mechanisms to mount pressure on Iran."

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020704000313/Iran%E2%80%99s-Nuclear-Head-Wes-Pliical-Pressres-via-UN-Amic-Wachdg-N-Remain>

### **Iranian Commander: Foreign Nuclear Submarines Cause Environmental Threats to Persian Gulf**

*Fars News Agency, September 26, 2023*

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri blasted the presence of extra-regional forces in the region, and said that their nuclear-powered submarine should not be deployed in the Persian Gulf strategic waterway due to their potential environmental threats. Rear Admiral Tangsiri made the remarks in a televised interview where he stressed that the presence of nuclear-powered submarines in the Persian Gulf can result in marine pollution in case of an accident, which can lead to a "catastrophe" in the international waterway.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020704000276/Iranian-Cmmmander-Freign-Nclear-Sbmarines-Case-Envirnmenal-Threas>

### **Iran claims to launch imaging satellite into orbit as tensions simmer with West**

*Times of Israel, September 27, 2023*

Iran claimed on Wednesday that it has successfully put an imaging satellite into space. The state-run IRNA news agency, quoting the country's Communication Minister Isa Zarepour, said the Noor-3 satellite had been put in an orbit 450 kilometers (280 miles) above the Earth's surface. There was no immediate acknowledgment from Western officials of the launch or of the satellite being put into orbit. Iran has had a series of failed launches in recent years. Zarepour said the aerospace arm of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary

Guard launched the satellite carrier, which has had success in launching satellites from its previously secret launch program. Authorities did not immediately release images of the launch.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-claims-to-launch-imaging-satellite-into-orbit-as-tensions-simmer-with-west/>

### **IRGC Chief: Data of Newly-Launched Satellite to Be Used for Intelligence Purposes**

*Fars News Agency, September 28, 2023*

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami said that "the Nour-3" imaging satellite, which was launched into the space on Wednesday, will help the country fulfill its intelligence requirements.

He made the remarks at a gathering of IRGC officers and veterans in Tehran on Wednesday, hours after the successful launch of the third satellite manufactured by the IRGC Aerospace Force.

Iran announced on Wednesday the homegrown Nour-3 imaging satellite was successfully placed into a 450km orbit of the earth with the homemade Qased satellite carrier. The IRGC had launched the first Iranian military satellite, Noor-1, in April 2020, and Noor-2 in March 2022.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020706000084/IRGC-Chief-Daa-f-Newly-Lanched-Saellie-Be-Used-fr-Intelligence-Prpses>

### **Nuclear officials from Iran, Pakistan propose civilian nuclear energy co-op**

*Tehran Times, September 29, 2023*

The nuclear chiefs from Iran and Pakistan has discussed cooperation in areas of nuclear technology for civilian purposes

Mohammad Eslami of Iran and Raja Ali Raza Anwar of Pakistan held talks on the issue on Thursday on the sidelines of the annual session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference in Vienna.



Eslami and Raza Anwar also discussed cooperation in other fields.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian stated last month that the Islamic Republic places no limitation on the development of full-fledged ties with neighboring Pakistan in areas of mutual interest.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/489539/Nuclear-officials-from-Iran-Pakistan-propose-civilian-nuclear>

### **Senior Commander: Iran Enjoys Most Powerful Air Defense Units in West Asia**

*Fars News Agency, September 30, 2023*

Commander of the Iranian Army Air Defense Force Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard stressed the high capabilities and full preparedness of Iran's air defense units to thwart any possible conspiracy by enemies, and said Tehran has become an "absolute power" in this field in the region.

Speaking on the sidelines of a ceremony held on Friday to commemorate 108 martyrs of the Army's Air Defense Force during Iraq's imposed war on Iran in the 1980s, Brig. Gen. Sabahifard said his country started eight years of imposed war with hardly any equipment, all of which was bought from abroad and we were totally dependent.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020708000145/Senir-Cmmander-Iran-Enjys-Ms-Pwerfl-Air-Defense-Unis-in-Wes-Asia>

### **U.S. admits Iran not seeking nukes**

*Tehran Times, September 30, 2023*

In a remarkable acknowledgment, the U.S. Department of Defense said Iran is not pursuing nuclear weapons, refuting Western propaganda that it may be doing so.

While U.S. politicians continue to capitalize on Iran's exaggerated nuclear threat for domestic political gains, the U.S. State Department set the record straight on Iran's nuclear program. It said, "It is assessed that Iran is not pursuing a nuclear weapons program at this time."

The Pentagon assessment came in a report dubbed "Strategy for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction," which also addressed other countries possessing nuclear programs.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/489602/U-S-admits-Iran-not-seeking-nukes>

### **Israel unveils new Barak tank with AI, sensors and cameras**

*Defense News, September 21, 2023*

Israel on Tuesday unveiled its new Barak tank for the military's Armored Corps, a platform equipped with artificial intelligence, sensors, radar and small cameras. The Defense Ministry said the tank's systems will provide superiority to Israeli troops by revealing enemy locations and providing targets for combat troops on the battlefield based on 360-degree peripheral observation technology.

"The Barak tank was designed based on a concept of anti-fragility, with the aim of providing the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers a weapon system with built-in flexibility, which will allow them to win in all combat situations," said Brig. Gen. Oren Giber, who leads the ministry's Merkava and armored vehicles directorate.

<https://www.defensenews.com/land/2023/09/20/israel-unveils-new-barak-tank-with-ai-sensors-and-cameras/>

## **I. Israel**

### **KNDS, Elbit Systems Sign Teaming Agreement for EuroPULS**

*Israel Defense, September 18, 2023*

KNDS and Elbit Systems have signed a Teaming Agreement for the EuroPULS at DSEI London to address the growing need for precision rocket artillery capabilities. The agreement, which comes shortly after signing an MOU between both companies, realizes, formalizes, and implements the strategic cooperation for the next-generation rocket artillery system - EuroPULS.

The DNA of EuroPULS consists of the synergetic combination of the capabilities of the systems house KNDS and the technology group Elbit Systems Land which have partnered together to establish EuroPULS.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59624>

## **IDF Unveils Its New “Lightning” Tank**

*Israel Defense, September 20, 2023*

The IDF unveiled its new ultra-advanced tank, the Barack (Hebrew for “lightning”), a Merkava Mark V that has been in development for the past five years and has just finished an extended trial run in Northern Israel.

The new tank, developed by the IDF and the Ministry of Defense, as well as by Elbit, Rafael, and additional defense companies from all over Israel, boasts some remarkable capabilities expected to revolutionize the battlefield. The tank’s crew will be equipped with Elbit Systems’ smart combat helmet, which has been integrated into the vehicle.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59658>

## **Elbit Awarded \$95 Million Contract to Supply SkyStriker Loitering Munitions to a European Country**

*Israel Defense, September 20, 2023*

Elbit Systems Ltd. announced that it was awarded a \$95 million contract to supply SkyStriker loitering munitions (LM) to a European country. The contract, which includes several hundred units, will be carried out over a period of two years.

The SkyStriker LM is a fully autonomous loitering munition that can locate, acquire, and engage operator-designated targets with a warhead of up to 10 Kg, enabling high-precision performance. It can be launched from a variety of ground and aerial platforms, including from a dedicated canister on Elbit Systems’ PULS™ (Precise and Universal Launching System) rocket artillery systems.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59659>

## **Analysis | Israeli Defense Establishment Split Over Benefits of Potential Saudi Deal**

*Israel Defense, September 29, 2023*

Israel’s defense establishment is split on whether a normalization agreement with Saudi Arabia is worth consenting to a nuclear program on Saudi territory.

The IDF and Ministry of Defense tend to argue that the security risks arising from the emerging deal outweigh its benefits. On the Mossad, senior officials that the benefits of such an agreement, that will alter the Middle East probably for generations to come, outweigh the risks. According to this concept, it is possible to live with a Saudi nuclear program, but under certain limitations. We’ll touch on those later.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59735>

## **Israel, Germany Sign Historic Arrow-3 Agreement**

*Israel Defense, September 29, 2023*

The Ministries of Defense of Israel and Germany signed on Thursday a historic agreement for the delivery of the “Arrow-3” system to Germany. The deal amounts to \$3.5 billion, making it Israel’s largest one to date.

At the onset of the celebratory ceremony held at the German Ministry of Defense in Berlin, Germany’s Minister of Defense Boris Pistorius and his Israeli counterpart, Yoav Gallant, signed a joint declaration expressing their shared commitment to strengthening defense ties between their countries. This was followed by a brief signing ceremony of the letter of commitment necessary to proceed with the agreement. The letter discusses a commitment that amounts to \$600 million and will enable the parties to begin working on the project immediately.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59736>

## *J. Saudi Arabia*

### **Crown prince confirms Saudi Arabia will seek nuclear arsenal if Iran develops one**

*Guardian, September 21, 2023*

The Saudi crown prince has confirmed his country would seek to acquire a nuclear arsenal if Iran developed one, throwing fresh doubt on a possible US-Saudi nuclear cooperation deal currently under negotiation.

Joe Biden's Democratic allies in the US Senate have warned his administration will face a tough battle for approval of a deal normalising relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia if it includes substantial nuclear cooperation with Riyadh, because of distrust of Saudi intentions.

In an interview on Wednesday, Mohammed bin Salman added weight to suspicions that an ostensibly civilian nuclear programme could be diverted to military purposes if Saudi Arabia felt under threat.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/sep/21/crown-prince-confirms-saudi-arabia-seek-nuclear-arsenal-iran-develops-one>

### **Saudi Arabia says it plans tougher IAEA checks on its nuclear activities**

*Reuters, September 25, 2023*

Saudi Arabia said on Monday it has decided to end light-touch oversight of its nuclear activities by the U.N. atomic watchdog and switch to full-blown safeguards, a change the agency has been demanding for years.

Saudi Arabia has a nascent nuclear programme that it wants to expand to eventually include activities like proliferation-sensitive uranium enrichment. It is unclear where its ambitions end, since Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has said for years it will develop nuclear weapons if regional rival Iran does. Riyadh has yet to fire up its first nuclear reactor, allowing its programme to still be monitored under the Small Quantities Protocol (SQP),

an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency that exempts less advanced states from many reporting obligations and inspections.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/saudi-arabia-says-it-plans-tougher-iaea-checks-its-nuclear-activities-2023-09-25/>

## *K. Turkiye*

### **Roketsan aims to grow jointly with Turkish defense firms**

*Daily Sabah, September 22, 2023*

Roketsan aims to grow with domestic and national defense firms that constitute its strategic partners and increase cooperation, Murat İkinci, head of Turkish missile producer Roketsan said Thursday.

Speaking during the Strategic Partnership Summit of Roketsan in the capital Ankara, İkinci said: "Roketsan's strategy is not to grow organically. Roketsan is not following a strategy that would manage all its works within its own institution. If that were to be the case, it would lose its competitiveness." The general director said that the company aims to grow along with its strategic partners. İkinci reiterated that Roketsan is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year and features among the top 100 defense firms in the world while being the third biggest research and development (R&D) institution of Türkiye.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/roketan-aims-to-grow-jointly-with-turkish-defense-firms>

### **Türkiye's maritime power grows as 2 naval patrol ships join fleet**

*Daily Sabah, September 25, 2023*

The first two of 10 ships targeted for construction within the scope of the Offshore Patrol Vessel Project, initiated to meet the needs of the Turkish Naval Forces, have been recently launched into the sea, marking a new significant step for the ever-developing defense industry.

Two offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) named TCG Akhisar and TCG Koçhisar were

launched during a Saturday ceremony held at the Istanbul Shipyard Command. The event was attended by Defense Minister Ya'ar Güler and Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB) head Haluk Görgün.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiyes-maritime-power-grows-as-2-naval-patrol-ships-join-fleet>

## **Türkiye plans for over 20 GW of nuclear energy capacity by 2050**

*Daily Sabah, September 26, 2023*

Türkiye plans to add over 20 gigawatts (GW) of nuclear energy capacity to its portfolio by the end of 2050 as it strives to become a carbon-neutral economy, a senior official said Monday.

“Within the framework of the National Energy Plan, Türkiye plans to add 7.2 gigawatts of nuclear energy capacity to its energy portfolio by 2035 and over 20 gigawatts by the end of 2050,” said Energy and Natural Resources Minister Alparслан Bayraktar. Speaking during the 67th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) via a video message on Monday, Bayraktar affirmed that nuclear energy would play a vital role in reaching carbon neutrality by the year 2053 as a priority for the development of the nation’s sustainable energy.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/energy/turkiye-plans-for-over-20-gw-of-nuclear-energy-capacity-by-2050>

## **Turkish drone boss touts newer models with greater reach**

*Daily Sabah, September 27, 2023*

Türkiye’s premier drone manufacturer is showcasing its latest generation of unmanned combat aerial platforms boasting features that will make them even more advanced than the existing ones that helped the company acclaim global fame.

Baykar’s drones have transformed Türkiye into a major global supplier and became integral to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s vision of a self-reliant defense industry,

spanning from unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) to fighter jets and warships, all aimed at reinforcing the country’s assertive foreign policy in an unstable region. Its Bayraktar TB2 drones helped swing conflicts in multiple countries, such as Azerbaijan and Libya, and lastly in Ukraine, where they played a pivotal role in countering Russian forces early into Moscow’s invasion.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-drone-boss-touts-newer-models-with-greater-reach>

## **Türkiye-built engines, UCAVs: Teknofest displays defense industry’s might**

*Daily Sabah, September 28, 2023*

This year’s third edition of the premier aerospace and technology festival Teknofest currently underway in the Aegean province of Izmir serves as a unique platform showcasing the latest developments of topnotch domestically produced defense products, varying from powerful engines to the famed unmanned combat air vehicles (UCAVs) and fighter jets. Organized by the Turkish Technology Team Foundation (T3 Foundation) and the Industry and Technology Ministry, Teknofest Izmir kicked off Wednesday at Çigli Airport and is set to continue through Sunday. Among numerous firms taking the stage at the event, the pioneering developer TUSA<sup>a</sup> Engine Industries (TEI), exhibited its first complete engine of TF-6000 turbofan engine, the first of its kind made in Türkiye.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-built-engines-ucavs-teknofest-displays-defense-industrys-might>

## **New US Senate foreign relations chair sets sight on Turkish F-16 deal**

*Daily Sabah, September 28, 2023*

The newly appointed chair of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee on



Thursday expressed his intention to look at Türkiye's request to buy Lockheed Martin F-16 fighter jets.

Senator Ben Cardin, a Democrat, said numerous factors, not just Sweden's ascension to NATO, would influence the decision regarding the previous chair's longstanding objection to the \$20 billion deal. "I need to talk to the administration on a lot of these issues, because it's beyond just one issue involved, and I need to understand that," Cardin told reporters a day after he took over leadership of the influential panel.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/new-us-senate-foreign-relations-chair-sets-sight-on-turkish-f-16-deal>

### L. East Asia

#### **IAEA and Japan Sign Agreement on Continuous Monitoring and Safety Assessment of ALPS Treated Water Discharge**

*IAEA, September 18, 2023*

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Japan signed an agreement today setting out the full scope of the Agency's comprehensive and continuous safety review of the discharge of treated water from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (FDNPS), paving the way for decades of independent monitoring, sampling and analysis at the site and at sea.

IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi and Japanese Foreign Minister Kamikawa Yoko signed the Memorandum of Cooperation on the side-lines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, nearly four weeks after the discharge of the water treated through the Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS) began. The IAEA has been reviewing the safety of Japan's plan on how to handle the treated water since it was first announced in 2021 and today's agreement focuses on the Agency's long-term activities during the discharge itself.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-and-japan-sign-agreement-on-continuous->

*monitoring-and-safety-assessment-of-alps-treated-water-discharge*

#### **IAEA Sampling of Second Batch of ALPS Treated Water Corroborates Japan's Measurements**

*IAEA, September 22, 2023*

The International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) independent sampling and analysis of the second batch of ALPS treated water prepared for discharge from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (FDNPS) confirms the tritium level reported by Japan.

IAEA experts collected samples in June from the tanks at FDNPS holding the second batch of water to be discharged. The samples were sent to the IAEA Laboratories in Austria and Monaco where they were analysed to corroborate Tokyo Electric Power Company's (TEPCO) - the FDNPS operator - analysis for tritium.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-sampling-of-second-batch-of-alps-treated-water-corroborates-japans-measurements>

#### **Solomon Islands leader 'appalled' by Japan on Fukushima water**

*Japan Times, September 23, 2023*

The leader of Solomon Islands, who has developed close ties with China, on Friday joined Beijing in denouncing Japan's release of wastewater from the crippled Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant.

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly, Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare said he was "appalled" at the move and warned of effects on his South Pacific archipelago.

"If this nuclear wastewater is safe, it should be stored in Japan. The fact that it's dumped into the ocean shows that it is not safe," he said.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/09/23/japan/politics/solomon-islands-japan-fukushima-wastewater/>

## Water from Fukushima-1 may reach Russian shores, but does not pose any danger – expert

TASS, September 27, 2023

The water discharged from the Fukushima-1 nuclear power plant may wind its way to waters near the Russian Far East, but the tritium contained in it will not have a negative impact on the environment, seafood or the human body, Yuki Kobayashi, author of many works on nuclear safety issues, a researcher of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, one of Japan's leading research and charity centers, told a TASS correspondent.

"The water discharged from the Fukushima-1 nuclear power plant, generally cleaned of radioactive substances, will initially move southward along Japan's east coast by way of the cold Oyashio Current," the expert said. "Theoretically, it could be picked up by the northward-flowing warm Tsushima Current, delivering the tritium contained in this water to Russian shores."

<https://tass.com/science/1680875>

## Indonesia steps up nuclear diplomacy after securing IAEA board seat

The Jakarta Post, October 30, 2023

As geopolitical tensions brew in its vicinity, Indonesia has continued to intensify its nuclear diplomacy throughout the week by securing a membership position at the United Nations nuclear watchdog and asserting its nuclear non-proliferation stance at the multilateral organization headquarters.

Indonesia was unanimously elected to represent the Southeast Asia and Pacific region on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors through 2023 to 2025. The country will join other board members including Algeria, Burkina Faso, South Korea, Bangladesh, the Netherlands and Spain.

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/world/2023/09/30/indonesia-steps-up-nuclear-diplomacy-after-securing-iaea-board-seat.html>

## M. Australia

### Energy minister says replacing coal-fired power stations with nuclear would cost \$387 billion

ABC News, September 18, 2023

The federal government has released figures to try to shut down growing calls from the opposition to consider nuclear power as part of Australia's future energy mix. Energy Minister Chris Bowen said new analysis showed that using nuclear power to replace retiring coal-fired power stations would cost \$387 billion.

"When you put the most expensive form of energy into the system, there is a massive cost to pay," he told RN breakfast.

"It's a unicorn and a fantasy and someone has to pay for it if they are really serious about this plan."

The government's current plan is to invest in clean energy projects through what is known as "Rewiring the Nation" at a cost of \$20 billion.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-09-18/energy-minister-says-nuclear-power-too-expensive/102868218>

### Australia Plans \$3B Fund to Expedite US Nuclear Sub Delivery

The Defense Post, September 19, 2023

Australia is planning to invest \$3 billion over the next five years to expedite the delivery of five nuclear-powered submarines purchased from the US earlier this year. In an interview with *Breaking Defense*, Royal Australian Navy Vice Admiral Jonathan Mead explained that Canberra is putting the money into long-lead items and to "help fund the expansion of American shipyards that will build and retrofit the Australian subs."

"It's partly long-lead items, but it's also partly working on those yards where our submarines will come out of for us," he explained.

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/09/19/australia-us-nuclear-sub-delivery/>

## **Australia Conducts North Korea Nuclear Activity Air Surveillance**

*The Defense Post, September 20, 2023*

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has conducted air surveillance over North Korea to monitor illegal nuclear weapons development. Two Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) P-8A Poseidon aircraft were deployed from Kadena Air Base in Japan as part of Operation Argos to enforce UN Security Council (UNSC) sanctions on the totalitarian state. This marks the 12th RAAF air patrol to monitor trade in the region. ADF Chief of Joint Operations LGen Greg Bilton said in a press release that Australia is fully committed to nuclear non-proliferation and is set on maintaining order in the Indo-Pacific region alongside other nations. "This operation is Australia's contribution to a multinational effort, alongside Canada, France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States," he said.

[https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/09/20/australia-north-korea-nuclear-surveillance/?expand\\_article=1](https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/09/20/australia-north-korea-nuclear-surveillance/?expand_article=1)

## Contribute Articles

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

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

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### Prepared by :

**Mr. Kushal Agrawal**

**Mr. Niranjana Oak**

**Mr. Aasi Ansari**

### Indian Pugwash Society

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