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A Fortnightly Newsletter from the Indian Pugwash Society

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- U.S., South Korea and Japan conduct aerial drill amid North Korean nuclear threats
- US-Japan-South Korea Drill a 'New Era' for Defense Ties
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- Australian PM tells US House speaker he hopes AUKUS legislation passes this year
- Australia must lobby US for 'no first use' of nuclear weapons, says ex-minister Gareth Evans

A. India

Ministry of Defence signs contract with Cochin Shipyard Limited for Mid Life Upgrade and Re-Powering of INS Beas

PIB, October 16, 2023

The Ministry of Defence signed a contract on October 16, 2023, in New Delhi for Mid Life Upgrade and Re-Powering of "INS Beas" with Kochi-based M/S Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) at an overall cost of Rs. 313.42 Cr. INS Beas is the first of Brahmaputra Class Frigate to be re-powered from Steam to Diesel Propulsion. After completion of Mid Life Upgrade and Re-Powering in 2026, INS Beas will join the active fleet of the Indian Navy with a modernized weapon suite and upgraded combat capability. The transformative maiden re-powering project marks a significant stride in the maintenance philosophy of the Indian Navy and repair capabilities of M/s CSL. The project would involve more than 50 MSMEs and would lead to generation of employment for more than 3500 personnel. The project will be a proud flag bearer of Atmanirbhar Bharat in consonance with the Make-in-India initiative of the Government of India.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1968058>

Defence Ministry signs contract for construction of the first Indian Coast Guard Training Ship with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd, Mumbai

PIB, October 17, 2023

The Ministry of Defence signed a contract for the construction of one Training Ship for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), Mumbai at a cost of Rs 310 crore under the Buy (Indian-IDDMM) category in New Delhi on October 17, 2023. This is the first dedicated training platform with integral helicopter capabilities that will provide basic sea training to 70 Coast Guard and other international under-trainee officers to prepare these budding mariners on the multi-dimensional maritime aspects of Coast Guard life.

This training ship with advanced and modern high-tech surveillance and monitoring systems will provide profound insight and expertise to the ICG cadets on the challenges at sea while ensuring the security of coastline and offshore assets.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1968467>

21st India-France Military Sub-Committee meeting held in New Delhi

PIB, October 18, 2023

The 21st edition of India-France Military Sub Committee (MSC) meeting was held on October 16-17, 2023 at Air Force Station, New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired from the Indian side by Air Vice Marshal Ashish Vohra, Assistant Chief of Integrated Staff, (Military Cooperation) at HQ IDS and Major General Eric Peltier, General Officer, International Military Relations of the Joint Staff from the French side. India-France MSC is a forum established to progress defence cooperation between both nations through regular talks at strategic and operational levels between HQ, Integrated Defence Staff and the Joint Staff HQ of French Armed Forces.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1968648>

India stands for International Space collaborations for the larger benefit of mankind: Dr Jitendra Singh

PIB, October 18, 2023

India stands for international Space collaborations for the larger benefit of mankind. It is our solemn commitment that the Outer Space is used only for peaceful purposes and kept free of conflict.

This was stated today by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh while delivering the keynote address at the 2-day

Conference on 'Space - The final frontier for China in its quest for global leadership', organised by the Centre for Contemporary China Studies, MEA, at Sushma Swaraj Bhavan in New Delhi.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1968781>

'IMPHAL' - Third Stealth Destroyer of Project 15B delivered to the Indian Navy

PIB, October 20, 2023

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) has delivered the Third Stealth Destroyer of Project 15B Class Guided Missile Destroyer i.e. Yard 12706 (IMPHAL) to the Indian Navy. The Acceptance Document was signed by Shri Sanjeev Singhal, Chairman & Managing Director, MDL and RAdm Sanjay Sadhu, AVSM, NM, CSO (Tech) at MDL in the presence of Commanding Officer (Designate) Capt K K Choudhury, MDL Directors, WOT(MB) and Navy personnel today. The ship is constructed using Indigenous Steel DMR 249A and is amongst the largest Destroyers constructed in India, with an overall length of 164 meters and a displacement of over 7500 Tons.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1969358>

Test flight success of Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1) heralds successive sequential trial flights before the final "Gaganyaan" launch, says Union Minister of State for Space, Dr Jitendra Singh

PIB, October 21, 2023

Test flight success of Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1) this morning heralds successive sequential trial flights before the final "Gaganyaan" launch, said Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh in his first response soon after the entire exercise was accomplished as expected, with a single engine rocket carrying an early

depressurised version of "Gaganyaan" Crew Module (CM) to an altitude of around 17 Kilometre followed by final descent using a parachute for its splash down. The Minister of State for Space said, this is a critical step in the ISRO journey to launch a crewed human spacecraft through "Gaganyaan" mission. Today's exercise tested the performance of the Crew Escape System on the Crew Module of the Gaganyaan mission, he said.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1969644>

Fuel loading begins at Kakrapar 4

World Nuclear News, October 23, 2023

Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd started loading the first fuel into the core of the pressurised heavy water reactor unit on 20 October, after receiving permission from India's Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. Kakrapar 4 - also referred to as KAPP-4 - is one of two Indian-designed 700 MWe pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) being built at the site in Gujarat. Kakrapar 3 (KAPP-3) entered commercial operation earlier this year, having reached initial criticality in mid-2020. India's Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) said it had issued permission for fuel loading to begin "based on satisfactory outcome of the requisite safety review". Kakrapar 3 and 4 are the first of sixteen 700 MWe PHWRs planned for construction in India. Two units are already under construction at Rajasthan units 7 and 8. Site work has also begun for the first of four planned units at Gorakhpur in Haryana.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Fuel-loading-begins-at-Kakrapar-4>

"Unshackling" of Space sector has led to StartUp boom, says Dr Jitendra Singh

PIB, October 24, 2023

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space said in

Hyderabad today that “unshackling” of the Space sector by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has led to StartUp boom, as a result of which, within a short span of just about four years, the number of Space StarUps has gone up from a mere single digit to over 150, with some of the earlier ones like the “Skyroot” turning into lucrative entrepreneurs.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1970477>

IAEA Chief Meets Prime Minister Modi: Fostering India-IAEA Ties Across Diverse Sectors

IAEA, October 25, 2023

IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, on Monday, as part of his four-day visit to India. The two leaders discussed ways to foster India-IAEA ties across diverse sectors. “India’s civil nuclear programme is key for its decarbonization. Prime Minister Modi and I agreed on the importance of financing and technology access, placing nuclear at the forefront of global solutions,” Mr Grossi said. The leaders will “intensify cooperation” ahead of United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28) in the United Arab Emirates and next year’s Nuclear Energy Summit in Belgium, Mr Grossi added. Prime Minister Modi said that the “fruitful discussion” with Director General Grossi, “explored avenues for expanding the role of nuclear energy to meet [India’s] net zero commitment, and extending nuclear technology applications in areas like food, health, water treatment and countering plastic pollution in the Global South.”

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/iaea-chief-meets-prime-minister-modi-fostering-india-iaea-ties-across-diverse-sectors>

ISRO may soon use nuclear resources to maintain instruments in rover

Times of India, October 29, 2023

The Indian Space Research Organization (Isro) is planning to use nuclear resources to maintain the instruments attached to the rover in warm conditions in future, as the

lunar temperature would dip to -150 Celsius, according to P Veeramuthuvel, project director, Chandrayaan-3. He said the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 has revived the student community’s interest in the field of science.

Addressing the media, Veeramuthuvel said the life of Chandrayaan-3 was over. “The electronics attached to the rover were designed to function for a lunar day (14 days) and they were functioning very actively for the said period with the help of solar energy. We were not able to revive the rover, as the instruments were not functioning due to the cold conditions on the lunar surface,” he said.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/coimbatore/isro-may-soon-use-nuclear-resources-to-maintain-instruments-in-rover/articleshow/104792260.cms>

IAF fighter squadron converts from MIG-21 to SU-30 MKI

PIB, October 31, 2023

The Number 4 Squadron (Oorials) of the Indian Air Force (IAF) based at Air Force Station Uttarlai (Barmer) is converting from the MiG-21 to the Su-30 MKI, marking a watershed moment in the history of the squadron which was operating the MiG-21 since 1966. The MiG-21 was the first supersonic fighter in service of the IAF and was inducted in 1963. It has participated in all major conflicts since then. This change signifies the unwavering commitment of the Indian Air Force to modernise and at the same time protect the skies of the nation. The formal induction of the new aircraft was marked by a ceremony at Air Force Station Uttarlai on 30 October 23.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1973505>

Indian Navy bids farewell to IL 38 SD long range maritime patrol aircraft

PIB, October 31, 2023

The Indian Navy’s Ilyushin-38 Sea Dragon Long Range Maritime Patrol aircraft bid

farewell after 46 years of glorious service to the nation. The decommissioning ceremony was held on 31 Oct 23 at INS Hansa, Dabolim.

The Chief of the Naval Staff, dignitaries, and veteran officers and sailors of the IL-38 squadron graced the event with families, reminiscing about the yeoman service. INAS 315 was commissioned on 01 Oct 1977 with the induction of IL-38 aircraft heralding a modern era of airborne Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance and Anti-Submarine Warfare in the Navy. With its unique capabilities, striking prowess and extended reach covering the vast Indian Ocean region, the IL-38 SD has over the years proven itself to be a formidable force multiplier.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1973626>

B. Russia

Russian diplomat points to increasingly deteriorating strategic stability situation

TASS, October 16, 2023

The strategic stability situation continues to deteriorate as the US-led West keeps creating serious strategic risks, Vladimir Yermakov, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Non-Proliferation and Arms Control Department, said.

"We can see that Washington is stubbornly refusing to accept the loss of its total dominance. The US-led West is grasping at straws to slow down the natural march of history, creating serious strategic risks by its destabilizing activities," he noted in an interview with Russian journalists. "As a result, the international security and strategic stability situation continues to deteriorate. Thankfully, efforts to prevent the worst-case scenarios have so far been successful," Yermakov added.

<https://tass.com/defense/1691243>

Russia to build nuclear plant in Burkina Faso

Power Technology, October 16, 2023

The military Government of Burkina Faso and Russia's state-owned nuclear company Rosatom on Friday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to build a nuclear power plant to boost energy supply in the West African state. Citing a statement from Burkina Faso's energy ministry, *Reuters* reports that the nuclear plant will enable the country to meet the energy needs of the nation's population. The MoU was signed by Burkina Faso Energy and Mines Minister Simon-Pierre Boussim and Rosatom's deputy director general Nikolay Spasskiy. The agreement follows a request from Burkina Faso junta leader Captain Ibrahim Traore to Russian President Vladimir Putin during the Russia-Africa summit held in St Petersburg in July.

<https://www.power-technology.com/news/russia-agrees-to-build-nuclear-plant-in-burkina-faso/?cf-view>

Guards at Zaporozhye nuclear plant neutralize Ukrainian drones almost daily – Russian MFA

TASS, October 17, 2023

Guards at the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant neutralize Ukrainian drones almost every day, said Konstantin Vorontsov, a deputy director at the Russian Foreign Ministry's department for nonproliferation and arms control.

"Since July 2022, there have been drone attacks and episodes of gunfire targeting the city of Energodar, which were carried out by Ukrainian forces," he said at a meeting of the UN General Assembly First Committee, which deals with disarmament and international security matters. "These days, on an almost daily basis, guards at the plant neutralize numerous aircraft launched by Ukrainian militants for the purpose of attacks and provocations against the plant."

<https://tass.com/defense/1691743>

Two Russian Tu-95MS strategic bombers perform planned flight over Sea of Japan

TASS, October 17, 2023

Two Russian Tupolev Tu-95MS strategic missile-carrying bombers performed a scheduled flight over the neutral waters of the Sea of Japan in strict compliance with international rules, Russia's Defense Ministry reported on Tuesday.

"Two Tu-95MS strategic missile-carrying bombers of long-range aviation performed a scheduled flight in the airspace over the neutral waters of the Sea of Japan. The flight lasted about seven hours. Su-35S aircraft of the Aerospace Forces provided fighter support for the flight," the ministry said in a statement.

<https://tass.com/defense/1691859>

Russian lawmakers vote to scrap ratification of nuclear test ban treaty

Reuters, October 18, 2023

Russia's parliament moved swiftly to fulfil the wish of President Vladimir Putin by completing the passage of a bill that shifts Moscow's legal stance on nuclear testing at a time of acute tension with the West.

The lower house, the State Duma, on Wednesday passed the second and third readings of a bill that revokes Russia's ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Both were passed unanimously by 415 votes to zero.

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Putin urged the Duma on Oct. 5 to make the change in order to "mirror" the position of the United States, which has signed but never ratified the 1996 treaty.

Russia says it will not resume nuclear testing unless Washington does, but arms control experts are concerned it may be inching towards a test that the West

would perceive as a threatening escalation in the context of the Ukraine war.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russian-duma-passes-law-revoke-ratification-nuclear-test-ban-treaty-2023-10-18/>

Nuclear tests may resume under certain circumstances – Russian envoy in Vienna

TASS, October 18, 2023

The resumption of nuclear tests will be possible under certain circumstances, but it would be a negative step for maintaining world stability, Russia's permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov has, said.

"Never say never. The tests may resume under certain circumstances," he acknowledged in an interview with the Rossiya-24 TV channel.

"In my opinion, this would be a negative development for the modern world and for maintaining stability. We already have more than enough turbulence in international relations. Another powerful factor would be strongly undesirable," he said when asked about the possibility of resuming nuclear tests in the foreseeable future.

<https://tass.com/defense/1692883>

Euratom Annual Report/97% Of Europe's Natural Uranium Comes From Overseas, But Russia Deliveries Fall

Nucnet, October 19, 2023

About 97% of natural uranium supplied to the EU in 2022 came from overseas with deliveries from Russia decreasing by 16% as the bloc implemented efforts to reduce its dependency on Moscow. Data in the annual report of the Euratom Supply Agency (ESA), the body responsible for the supervision of uranium

supply and demand in the EU, shows that four countries provided more than 91% of all natural uranium supplied to the EU in 2022. Kazakhstan, Niger and Canada were the top three countries delivering natural uranium, providing 74.19% of the total. Kazakhstan's share was 26.82%, Niger's 25.38% and Canada's 21.99%. Russia followed, with a 16.89% share, which included natural uranium contained in enriched uranium products.

<https://www.nucnet.org/news/97-of-europe-s-natural-uranium-comes-from-overseas-but-russia-deliveries-fall-10-4-2023>

Russia says it rehearsed 'massive' nuclear strike

BBC, October 25, 2023

Russia has rehearsed its ability to deliver a "massive" nuclear strike, the Kremlin says.

The military exercise involved delivering a "response to an enemy nuclear strike", Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said.

State TV showed him recounting the rehearsal to President Vladimir Putin.

It comes as Russia's parliament backed the withdrawal of Moscow's ratification of a global treaty that bans all physical testing of nuclear warheads. Russia and the United States conduct regular nuclear readiness simulations - Moscow has traditionally held its own towards the end of October.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-67222213>

Star wars combat scenario 'entirely plausible,' Russian cosmonaut squad commander says

TASS, October 25, 2023

Combat in near-Earth outer space is a scenario that is entirely plausible, Oleg Kononenko, deputy chief of the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center and commander of the Roscosmos cosmonaut squad, said.

Kononenko, who is also a TASS special correspondent on the International Space

Station (ISS), said: "Even though it's not something I'd wish for, a war spreading to space is quite likely and plausible. The UN is issuing decisions on not deploying weapons in space, on not deploying nuclear arms in space, on not taking down somebody else's satellites, but I think that probably, at some point, this may still happen," he said in an interview with Rossiya-24 television.

<https://tass.com/science/1696747>

Putin watches strategic deterrence exercise via video conferencing

TASS, October 25, 2023

Russian President Vladimir Putin watched an exercise of the country's strategic deterrence forces via video conferencing on Wednesday.

The Russian president joined the exercise from the Kremlin's situational center and listened to the reports by Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu and Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov.

The exercise was carried out with the forces and capabilities of the ground-based, naval and airborne components of the Russian nuclear deterrence forces, the Kremlin press office said on its website.

<https://tass.com/defense/1696843>

Russia's recent nuclear force exercise not politically-motivated – former commander

TASS, October 26, 2023

The command post exercise of nuclear forces that Russia held on Wednesday was a scheduled annual event and had no political subtext, said Colonel General Viktor Yesin, the former chief of Russia's Main Staff of the Strategic Missile Forces.

"The drill was conducted according to the annual training plan of Russia's Strategic Nuclear Forces. The event is held in October every year. It was not linked to anything," he told TASS. The analyst said that this year's training included firing a Yars intercontinental ballistic missile from

the Plesetsk Cosmodrome toward the Kura test site in Kamchatka, a Sineva ICBM by the Tula nuclear-powered submarine of the Northern Fleet toward the Kura test site, and air-launched cruise missiles by Tu-95MS jets.

<https://tass.com/defense/1697239>

Russia's nuclear forces exercise on Wednesday was pre-scheduled, Kremlin spokesman says

TASS, October 26, 2023

The exercises of the Russian strategic nuclear deterrent forces, which took place on Wednesday and were supervised by Russian President Vladimir Putin, had been scheduled in advance, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"They were scheduled in advance. They are held regularly every year," he said to a question on the subject.

According to Peskov, the drill achieved good results.

"All goals set for the exercise were accomplished," he said.

<https://tass.com/defense/1697531>

Putin pledges further support to Russia's nuclear space tug project

TASS, October 27, 2023

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday pledged further support to a project to develop a nuclear propulsion system for Russian spacecraft.

Yuri Novikov, a specialist from Russia's Arsenal design bureau, asked the president whether the industry may count on the government's support for the project to design a reactor-powered engine for spacecraft.

"Yes, you may," Putin replied. "We are the frontrunners in this area, and others are trailing behind. This is a very important subject. We have just <...> discussed the matter," Putin replied.

<https://tass.com/science/1697603>

West's claims to Russia to lower threshold for using nuclear weapons unfounded – Shoigu

TASS, October 30, 2023

Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu dismissed the West's allegations against Russia of lowering the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons, including due to the withdrawal of ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), as completely unfounded.

"These accusations are completely unfounded. Russia's nuclear doctrine has not changed and still allows for the use of nuclear weapons only in two situations: in response to an enemy's nuclear strike or if Russia's existence is threatened, even if conventional weapons are used against it," he said at the 10th Xiangshan Security Forum.

<https://tass.com/russia/1698753>

Russia ready to discuss post-conflict resolution of Ukraine crisis – Shoigu

TASS, October 30, 2023

Russia remains ready for discussions on the post-conflict resolution of the Ukrainian crisis and further coexistence with the West, Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu said.

"In case the necessary conditions are created, we remain ready for political discussions on a realistic basis - both on the post-conflict resolution of the Ukrainian crisis, and on the further coexistence with the West as a whole," he said at the 10th Xiangshan Security Forum. Shoigu stressed that "it is important to ensure equal relations among all nuclear powers - permanent members of the UN Security Council, which bear a special responsibility for maintaining peace and global stability."

<https://tass.com/russia/1698759>

Dismantling CTBT after Russia's ratification withdrawal out of the question – Shoigu

TASS, October 30, 2023

Russia's withdrawal of ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) does not mean the dismantling of this mechanism of military-strategic balance, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said at the 10th Xiangshan Security Forum.

"As for our country's withdrawal from ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, this is only a desire to ensure balance with the United States of America, which has never ratified this treaty. Dismantling it is out of the question," Shoigu said.

<https://tass.com/russia/1698767>

West tries to spread conflict potential in Europe to Asia-Pacific region – Shoigu

TASS, October 30, 2023

The West is attempting to extend the conflict potential of the European crisis to the Asia-Pacific region, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said at the 10th Xiangshan Security Forum.

"Having provoked an acute crisis in Europe, the West is seeking to spread the conflict potential to the Asia-Pacific region, and in several directions," he said.

He added that "direct involvement in the confrontation between states with nuclear arsenals multiplies strategic risks."

<https://tass.com/russia/1698771>

Western policy towards Russia threatens military clash between nuclear powers – Shoigu

TASS, October 30, 2023

Western strategy of increasing the conflict with Russia could lead to a military showdown between nuclear powers, Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu said at the 10th Xiangshan Security Forum.

"The Western policy of steady escalation of the conflict with Russia carries the threat of a direct military clash between nuclear powers, which is fraught with catastrophic consequences," he said.

"The United States and NATO continue to seriously hope that they will be able to undermine Russia's security and deprive us of the will to resist," the minister added.

<https://tass.com/russia/1698775>

Russian general blames Pentagon for exploiting Nigerians as 'free clinical resource'

TASS, October 31, 2023

The pharmaceuticals the US provides to Nigeria as part of the fight against HIV/AIDS have no therapeutic impact, while the Pentagon uses Nigerians as a "free clinical resource," said Lieutenant General Igor Kirillov, head of Russia's Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) Protection Troops.

"American pharmaceuticals, even with the documented increase in consumption in Nigeria, do not have a tangible therapeutic impact, and Nigerian citizens are being exploited as a 'free clinical resource,'" he said at a briefing on the United States' military and biological activities.

<https://tass.com/world/1699441>

US continues biological weapons program – Russian top brass

TASS, October 31, 2023

The participation of the US non-profit organization RAND, which planned large-scale biological attacks, in the projects of the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) indicates that the research is inconsistent with Washington's commitments on non-proliferation of biological weapons, Chief of the Russian Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) Protection Troops Lieutenant General Igor Kirillov said.

“The involvement of RAND, a nonprofit organisation that specialises in political issues, in the CIA biological projects also raises concerns. This organisation used artificial intelligence capabilities to plan large-scale biological attacks. It is obvious that such research is inconsistent with Washington’s commitment to nonproliferation of biological weapons,” Kirillov said at a briefing on US biological-military activities.

<https://tass.com/world/1699447>

US set to restart some bio labs in Ukraine, says Russia’s top brass

TASS, October 31, 2023

The United States keeps control of some Ukrainian biological sites and intends to restart their activity after the end of the conflict, Chief of Russia’s Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Protection Troops Lieutenant-General Igor Kirillov said on Tuesday.

“The US administration retains control over some Ukrainian biosites, expecting to resume their activities once the conflict is over. In December 2022, in a letter to Ukrainian contractors, the US-based CH2M Hill confirmed its intention to continue collecting dangerous pathogens in the western regions of the country while reducing the number of laboratories storing such specimens,” he said.

<https://tass.com/world/1699455>

C. China

China ought to expand broader applications of space technology innovations, fend off space challenges

Global Times, October 17, 2023

China is set to ramp up research and development into advanced space technology that will boost the country’s economy and national security. The country’s lunar mission to bring back the first samples ever collected from the moon’s far side is on schedule in 2024, and it is also planning to send Chinese astronauts to the

moon by 2030 and build an international lunar research station there.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202310/1300001.shtml>

China elaborates on its position on nuclear disarmament

China Military Online, October 18, 2023

Wu Jianjian, Counselor of the Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of China to the United Nations, elaborated on China’s policy and position on the issue of nuclear disarmament at the meeting held by the Disarmament and International Security (First Committee), 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, on October 16. Wu said the global security situation is currently undergoing the most profound changes since the end of the Cold War.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA_209163/TopStories_209189/16259648.html

How China aims to counter US ‘containment’ efforts in tech

The Washington Post, October 19, 2023

The US is engaged in what it terms “strategic competition” with China, a full-throttled campaign to prevent the world’s No. 2 economy from gaining an edge in state-of-the-art technology that could threaten both jobs and national security. On one track, President Joe Biden is using massive subsidies to support domestic industries seen as drivers of growth and innovation. Meanwhile, his administration is working to hobble China’s efforts with trade restrictions, blacklists and investment curbs. In response, Chinese President Xi Jinping is harking back to the country’s tradition of central planning, marshaling private companies and trillions of dollars in public money to drive research and development.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/energy/2023/10/19/explainer-how-china-aims-to-counter-us-containment-efforts-in-tech/ebdb4e96-6e72-11ee-b01a-f593caa04363_story.html

DOD's new China report details CCP's growing military arsenal

Air and Space Forces Magazine, October 19, 2023

China's military continues to expand its reach around the globe, building up strategic and tactical capabilities, especially its missile programs, according to a Pentagon report released Oct. 19. The updated annual China Military Power Report says the People's Liberation Army is developing: Air-to-air missiles that can strike from beyond visual range; Conventionally-armed intercontinental missile systems; and Increased numbers of nuclear warheads. While the 2021 edition of the China Military Power Report cited the PL-15 missile, a beyond-visual-range munition often compared to the U.S.'s AIM-120 AMRAAM, the update did not.

<https://www.airandspaceforces.com/new-dod-report-china-growing-military-missile/>

China expanding ways to target continental U.S., Pentagon report says

Nikkei Asia, October 19, 2023

China is expanding the ways it can hit the continental U.S., the Pentagon's annual report to Congress has revealed, including what would be the world's first conventionally armed intercontinental missile and submarine-launched weapons that can be fired from the safety of its littoral waters. Typically, an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) is designed for the delivery of nuclear weapons. If a conventionally armed version was to be developed and fielded, such capabilities would allow China "to threaten conventional strikes against targets in the continental United States, Hawaii and Alaska," the report warns.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/US-China-tensions/China-expandingways-to-target-continental-U.S.-Pentagon-report-says>

Report: Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China

US Department of Defence, October 19, 2023

The PRC's national strategy is to achieve "the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation" by 2049. The strategy is a determined pursuit of political, social, and military modernity to expand the

PRC's national power, perfect its governance, and revise the international order in support of the PRC's system of governance and national interests. The PRC views the United States as deploying a whole-of-government effort meant to contain the PRC's rise, which presents obstacles to its national strategy.

<https://media.defense.gov/2023/Oct/19/2003323409/-1/-1/1/2023-MILITARY-AND-SECURITY-DEVELOPMENTS-INVOLVING-THE-PEOPLES-REPUBLIC-OF-CHINA.PDF>

US puts sanctions on three Chinese companies for missile parts supplies to Pakistan

Reuters, October 20, 2023

The United States is imposing sanctions on three China-based companies that it said have worked to supply missile applicable items to Pakistan's ballistic missile program. A U.S. State Department statement identified the firms as General Technology Limited, Beijing Luo Luo Technology Development Co Ltd, and Changzhou Utek Composite Company Ltd. It said General Technology had worked to supply brazing materials used to join components in ballistic missile rocket engines and in the production of combustion chambers; Beijing Luo Luo had worked to supply mandrels and other machinery, which can be used in the production of solid-propellant rocket motors, the U.S. said.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us-sanctions-three-china-based-companies-over-supplyingmissiles-pakistan-2023-10-20/>

D. Pakistan

After Nawaz Sharif's son-in-law, woman lawmaker in Pakistan threatens Israel with its Islamic atom bomb

Firstpost, October 17, 2023

Amid the Israel-Hamas war, a Pakistani woman lawmaker has urged the cash-strapped country's prime minister to give a "stern warning" to Israel to "end the atrocities on Palestine" or else it would be "erased from the map of the world."

In the viral video, the woman lawmaker from Pakistan could be seen making a strong statement in the country's Assembly. In her statement, she made a remark about Pakistan's nuclear capabilities and the country's commitment to protecting Muslims. In the undated video, the Pakistani woman lawmaker is heard saying: "Pakistan is an atomic power. These atom bombs have not been kept to show but to protect Muslims and Pakistan."

<https://www.firstpost.com/world/after-nawaz-sharifs-son-in-law-woman-lawmaker-in-pakistan-threatens-israel-with-its-islamic-atom-bomb-watch-13260252.html>

Pakistan test-fires Ababeel nuclear missile

Defense News, October 21, 2023

Pakistan has test-fired an Ababeel missile capable of carrying multiple warheads that can attack different targets. Pakistan last tested the multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles-capable weapon on Jan. 24, 2017.

The military's media branch, Inter Services Public Relations Pakistan, stated Wednesday's test was meant to revalidate "various design, technical parameters, and performance evaluation of different sub-systems" and was "aimed at strengthening deterrence and enhancing strategic stability in the region."

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/asia-pacific/2023/10/21/pakistan-test-fires-ababeel-nuclear-missile/>

Pakistan launches Ghauri ballistic missile in test of readiness

Defense News, October 24, 2023

Pakistan has successfully conducted a training launch of a Ghauri medium-range ballistic missile. The military's media branch, Inter Services Public Relations Pakistan, said Tuesday's test was intended to determine the "operational and technical readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command." ASFC operates Pakistan's land-based, nonconventional ballistic and cruise missiles, most of which can be armed with nuclear warheads. The Ghauri missile's survivability on a battlefield is unlikely given it would have to move with a convoy of support vehicles that provide fuel and prepare it for launch; that grouping of platforms would make it vulnerable to detection.

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/asia-pacific/2023/10/24/pakistan-launches-ghauri-ballistic-missile-in-test-of-readiness/>

E. Europe

Nuclear fusion: New initiatives outlined at IAEA's FEC 2023 conference

World Nuclear News, October 16, 2023

The first edition of World Fusion Outlook and plans to form a World Fusion Energy Group - as well as updates on progress across the industry and new investment from the UK hosts - have been unveiled at the 29th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference. The event, being held in the UK for the first time since 1984, was opened by International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi who began by wishing a "happy 40th anniversary" to the soon-to-close JET (the Joint European Torus), "the first tritium experiment in Europe, breaker of scientific records, producer of generations of accomplished scientists and engineers, and a true magnet for international collaboration".

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Nuclear-fusion-IAEA-sets-out-new-initiatives-at-FE>

EU ministers reach agreement on draft CfD rules for nuclear power

Power Technology, October 18, 2023

EU energy ministers have agreed draft rules for using CfDs after political disagreement had previously prevented power market reform. The European Parliament will begin discussing the reform on Thursday and ministers hope to reach an informal deal by the end of the year. Late on Tuesday evening, Teresa Ribera, the Spanish Energy Minister, told reporters: "We have achieved an agreement that would have been unimaginable only a couple of years ago. Thanks to this agreement, consumers across the EU will be able to benefit from much more stable prices of energy, less dependency on the price of fossil fuels and better protection from future crises. We will also accelerate the deployment of renewables, a cheaper and cleaner energy source for our citizens." Due to large fixed-capital costs that cannot be recovered once outlaid, investment in nuclear energy is considered risky.

<https://www.power-technology.com/news/europe-propose-draft-agreement-on-cfds/?cf-view>

France and Germany claim EU deal on electricity market a success despite unresolved nuclear questions

Clean Energy Wire, October 19, 2023

The EU member states' agreement on reforming the bloc's electricity market has been hailed as a success from ministers in France and Germany, whose dispute over the role of nuclear power in European climate action has dominated negotiations for months. While France achieved a general inclusion of nuclear power in future state-supported models, Germany insists that the deal will not lead allow unfair competition through publicly funding ageing reactors abroad. After receiving the green light from member states, the proposal now moves on to the European Parliament, where concessions for nuclear and coal power could ultimately be cut again. France and Germany claim an agreement by EU states

on reforming the bloc's electricity market is a reward for national efforts to put a check on each other's demands in the energy sector.

<https://www.cleanenergywire.org/news/france-and-germany-claim-eu-deal-electricity-market-success-despite-unresolved-nuclear-questions>

France: •1.7 billion investment on uranium to cut ties with Russia

Euronews, October 20, 2023

On Thursday, Orano's board approved a 30% production capacity increase for its Tricastin factory, in Southern France – Europe's largest nuclear technology site.

The project and its consequent financing will allow France to move away from its reliance on Russia. "In the current geopolitical context, the purpose of this increase in enrichment capacities is to strengthen Western energy sovereignty in France," said Claude Imauven, Orano's board of directors chairman, in a statement. The French multinational company, specialised in the nuclear fuel cycle, said their increased uranium production capacities will allow them to supply energy to 120 million households.

<https://www.euronews.com/business/2023/10/20/france-17-billion-investment-on-uranium-to-cut-ties-with-russia>

Georgian authorities develop contingency plan for nuclear war, State Security Service says

TASS, October 20, 2023

The Georgian government has developed in conjunction with specialized institutions a detailed contingency plan to be implemented in case of a nuclear war in the region, Georgian State Security Service Head Grigol Liluashvili told reporters.

"You know that the existing challenges do not exclude the use of nuclear weapons. I am not talking about our country, but about the entire region. Under the leadership of the government, with the

participation of the emergency services and our State Security Service, an action plan has been developed and approved, according to which for each agency there is a scenario of actions that we would have to implement, God forbid," he said.

<https://tass.com/defense/1694091>

Parliament adds nuclear to EU's net-zero industry shortlist

Euractiv, October 25, 2023

The European Parliament's industry committee voted on Wednesday (25 October) to put nuclear back on the list of technologies eligible for preferential treatment as Europe looks to reshore production of technologies deemed crucial for a net-zero world. The European Commission tabled its Net-Zero Industry Act in March this year as a response to the US Inflation Reduction Act, which provides billions in subsidies for clean industries. The law singles out key technologies that will be eligible to receive faster permits and looser state aid oversight from EU competition authorities to ensure a share of production takes place in Europe. "Europe is finally getting serious on industrial policy," said Christian Ehler, a German conservative lawmaker who is the Parliament's speaker on the proposal. The committee backed this approach with 43 votes in favour and 12 against.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/eu-parliament-adds-nuclear-to-clean-industry-shortlist/>

Bulgaria starts nuclear project with US technology

Euractiv, October 26, 2023

The Bulgarian government has started constructing Unit 7 at the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant, using US technology that is unique to Europe, and with an initial government investment of •250 million, according to Prime Minister Nikolay Denkov. Bulgaria will use the new technology of the US nuclear company Westinghouse, which hopes to enter the EU market through the Bulgarian project.

There are currently only two operating nuclear power plants using Westinghouse's AP1000 technology in the world – one is in China, and the other is in the US, while Ukraine has expressed interest as well.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/bulgaria-starts-nuclear-project-with-us-technology/>

Switzerland's Once-a-Decade Nuclear Ritual

Bloomberg, October 28, 2023

Switzerland is in the middle of a ritual it performs once a decade: distributing a fresh round of iodine pills to protect its people should something go wrong with one of its nuclear power plants. Residents who live within 50 kilometers of one of the nation's three nuclear power plants will find an orange package with a dozen tablets in their mailbox by next April. The delivery replaces the lilac box of thyroid cancer prevention medication that the government handed out 10 years ago. The campaign may seem like a Cold War relic to some – newly arrived expatriates are often startled to be handed a voucher for their pills when they first register at the town hall. But the idea is that sirens would sound in the event of a nuclear accident so that people could take a dose before any fallout reaches them.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2023-10-28/switzerland-s-once-a-decade-nuclear-ritual#xj4y7vzkg>

Westinghouse, EDF and KHNP submit final Czech bids

World Nuclear News, October 31, 2023

EEZ subsidiary Elektrárna Dukovany II (EDU II) has received final bids from the three potential suppliers for a new nuclear unit at Dukovany, as well as non-binding offers for three more future reactors. The bids, from US-Canadian Westinghouse, France's EDF and South Korea's KHNP, were submitted electronically ahead of the deadline of 11.00am local time on 31 October. EDU II will evaluate the bids from

an economic, commercial and technical point of view using a model based on International Atomic Energy Agency recommendations. Its report will then be submitted to the Czech government “early next year” with the intention of having the contracts finalised within the next year.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Westinghouse,-EDF-and-KHNP-submit-final-Czech-bids>

F. Ukraine

IAEA chief notes decrease in incidence of attacks on Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant

TASS, October 19, 2023

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi has noted a decrease in the number of attacks in the vicinity of the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP).

He noted that the IAEA is fulfilling a containing role, acknowledging, however, that it had failed to achieve the more ambitious goal of completely demilitarizing the area around the ZNPP.

“At the UN Security Council, I set forth five principles, including non-aggression against the nuclear power plant, its ‘non-militarization’ and continued supplies. And to this day, these principles have been observed,” Grossi noted in an interview with Italy’s La Repubblica newspaper.

<https://tass.com/defense/1693529>

Ukraine war: Russians likely targeted Khmelnytsky nuclear plant - Zelensky

BBC, October 26, 2023

A Russian drone attack on western Ukraine likely targeted a nuclear power plant, President Volodymyr Zelensky says. Iranian-designed Shahed drones struck the area around the power plant in the western Khmelnytsky region early on Wednesday, he said. The attack injured 20 people and

caused light damage, including broken windows. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said the plant’s operations were unaffected. “Powerful explosions shook an area near Ukraine’s Khmelnytsky Nuclear Power Plant,” IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi said in a statement. The blasts highlight “the dangers to nuclear safety” posed by the war, he added. The Khmelnytsky plant has two reactors. One is operating and one has been in planned outage since August. Fears of fighting affecting a nuclear power plant have been omnipresent since Russia first invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-67226741>

G. IAEA

IAEA Concludes International Physical Protection Advisory Mission in the Netherlands

IAEA, October 16, 2023

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has completed an International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission in the Netherlands. This peer review mission aimed to assess the country’s nuclear security regime and provide recommendations to enhance its effectiveness. The thirteen day mission was carried out at the request of the Government of the Netherlands and hosted by the Dutch Authority for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (ANVS). It is the fifth such mission in the Netherlands. The team reviewed the nuclear security regime for nuclear and other radioactive material and associated facilities and activities, including computer security. It also assessed the Netherlands’ implementation of the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-concludes-international-physical-protection-advisory-mission-in-the-netherlands>

IAEA Safety Mission Highlights Germany Has Addressed Recommendations of Prior Review, Encourages Continued Improvements

IAEA, October 17, 2023

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team of experts said Germany implemented all six recommendations and all but two out of 25 suggestions made during a 2019 evaluation of the country's regulatory framework for nuclear and radiological safety. The team encouraged Germany to continue efforts to address the remaining matters for continuous improvement. The Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) follow-up team yesterday concluded a mission to Germany, conducted at the request of the country's Federal Government. Using IAEA safety standards and international good practices, IRRS missions are designed to strengthen the effectiveness of the national regulatory infrastructure for nuclear and radiation safety while recognizing the responsibility of each country.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-safety-mission-highlights-germany-has-addressed-recommendations-of-prior-review-encourages-continued-improvements>

Update 189 - IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine

IAEA, October 20, 2023

Ukraine's Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) has increased the number of reactors in hot shutdown to two units and has also started operating mobile diesel boilers as part of efforts to generate more heating during the winter, including to the nearby town of Enerhodar, Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said today. The ZNPP ceased producing electricity for the national grid in September last year. Since April 2023, Europe's largest nuclear power plant (NPP) has kept five reactors in cold shutdown and just one in hot shutdown to generate steam to process liquid

radioactive waste and for other safety related functions.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/update-189-iaea-director-general-statement-on-situation-in-ukraine>

IAEA Mission Finds Progress in Nuclear and Radiation Safety in Australia, Notes Areas for Improvement

IAEA, October 24, 2023

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) mission said Australia has made significant progress in building a resilient and adaptable regulatory infrastructure for radiation safety. The team has also identified areas for potential enhancements, such as the completion of a national strategy on radiation safety. Noting ongoing activities to address consistency in the State and Territories radiation safety programmes, the team said further efforts were warranted in this area, which the establishment of a national strategy would support. The Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) team concluded a nine-day follow-up mission from 16 to 24 October to review progress of Australia's implementation of recommendations and suggestions made during an initial IRRS mission in 2018.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-mission-finds-progress-in-nuclear-and-radiation-safety-in-australia-notes-areas-for-improvement>

Update 190 - IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine

IAEA, October 25, 2023

Powerful explosions shook an area near Ukraine's Khmel'nitsky Nuclear Power Plant (KhNPP) overnight, shattering many windows at the site and temporarily cutting power to some off-site radiation monitoring stations, once again highlighting the dangers to nuclear safety and security during the ongoing military conflict, Director General Rafael Mariano

Grossi of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said today. IAEA experts present at the plant in western Ukraine said air raid sirens went off at 1:26am local time, followed later in the morning by the sound of two loud explosions. They were subsequently informed that two drones had been shot down at a distance of approximately five and 20 kilometres from the site, respectively.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/update-190-iaea-director-general-statement-on-situation-in-ukraine>

IAEA Task Force Says ALPS Treated Water Release is Progressing as Planned During First Mission to Japan Since Water Discharge Began

IAEA, October 27, 2023

The discharge of treated water from Japan's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (FDNPS) is progressing as planned and without any technical concerns, the Task Force set up by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed after its mission this week to review the safety of the discharge with reference to the international safety standards, two months after it began. During the mission from 24 to 27 October, the Task Force – comprised of IAEA and international experts – reviewed the facilities and equipment installed at the FDNPS site for the purposes of discharging the ALPS (Advanced Liquid Processing System) treated water.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-task-force-says-alps-treated-water-release-is-progressing-as-planned-during-first-mission-to-japan-since-water-discharge-began>

Update 191 - IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine

IAEA, October 27, 2023

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) experts have assessed the damage caused by this week's powerful explosions near Ukraine's Khmelnytsky Nuclear Power Plant (KhNPP), observing 26 broken windows but reporting no impact on nuclear safety and security at the site,

Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said today. The IAEA team present at the KhNPP has conducted a thorough walkdown at the site after blast waves early on Wednesday morning shattered windows in several of its buildings and briefly cut external power to two off-site radiation monitoring stations. Ukraine said it had shot down two drones five and 20 kilometres from the plant, respectively.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/update-191-iaea-director-general-statement-on-situation-in-ukraine>

IAEA Reviews Estonia's Nuclear Power Infrastructure Development

IAEA, October 30, 2023

Estonia has developed a comprehensive assessment of its nuclear power infrastructure needs to enable the government to decide whether to launch a nuclear power programme, an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team of experts said today. The IAEA team concluded an eight day mission to Estonia to review the country's infrastructure development for a nuclear power programme. The Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) was carried out at the request of the Government of Estonia. Estonia, seeking to reach net-zero emissions by 2050, is looking at nuclear power as a reliable and low carbon option to diversify its energy mix by 2035 when the country plans its phase-out of domestic oil shale.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-reviews-estonias-nuclear-power-infrastructure-development>

H. United States of America

US Air Force B-52 bomber makes landmark touchdown in South Korea after joint exercises

TASS, October 17, 2023

A US Air Force B-52 bomber capable of carrying nuclear weapons took part in exercises with the South Korean military and landed on the country's territory for

the first time, the Yonhap news agency reported. The US aircraft conducted a drill with South Korea's F-35A stealth fighter jets. It then flew over the site of the ADEX international aerospace and military exhibition on its opening day in Seongnam City. The bomber landed at the Cheongju Air Base. According to the agency, this is the first time a B-52 has landed on South Korean territory, although it has taken part in joint exercises over the Korean Peninsula on several occasions.

<https://tass.com/world/1692237>

The United States' Commitment to Countering Iranian Weapons Development and Proliferation

U.S. Department of State, October 18, 2023

Iran's development, procurement, and proliferation of missiles and missile-related technology remains one of the greatest challenges to international peace and security. We see the horrific impact of Iran's provision of missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to designated terrorist organizations and militant proxies that directly threaten the security of Israel and our Gulf partners. We see the destructive result of Iran's transfer of lethal UAVs to Russia to target critical civilian infrastructure and kill civilians in Ukraine. We remain focused on addressing Iran's destabilizing proliferation activities, in particular its missile and UAV programs and the threats they pose to the world.

<https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-commitment-to-countering-iranian-weapons-development-and-proliferation/>

Under Secretary Jenkins Travels to Brussels

U.S. Department of State, October 18, 2023

Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Ambassador Bonnie D. Jenkins will travel to Brussels, Belgium October 19-20, 2023, to continue to promote and discuss U.S. priorities on arms control, nonproliferation, and disarmament. While in Brussels, the Under Secretary will hold meetings at NATO Headquarters, co-

lead the NATO Arms Control, Disarmament, and Non-Proliferation Committee, and meet with the EU counterparts.

<https://www.state.gov/under-secretary-jenkins-travels-to-brussels/>

US conducts nuclear test in Nevada hours after Russian move to revoke global test ban

Fox News, October 19, 2023

The U.S. conducted a high-explosive experiment at a nuclear test site in Nevada hours after Russia revoked a ban on atomic-weapons testing, which Moscow said would put it on par with the United States. Wednesday's test used chemicals and radioisotopes to "validate new predictive explosion models" that can help detect atomic blasts in other countries, Bloomberg reported, citing the Department of Energy. "These experiments advance our efforts to develop new technology in support of U.S. nuclear nonproliferation goals," Corey Hinderstein, Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation at the National Nuclear Security Administration, said in a statement. "They will help reduce global nuclear threats by improving the detection of underground nuclear explosive tests.

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/us-conducts-nuclear-test-nevada-hours-russian-move-revoke-global-nuclear-test-ban>

China Continues Nuclear Buildup With 500 Warheads, US Says

Bloomberg, October 19, 2023

China continues efforts to modernize, diversify and expand its nuclear arsenal, with about 500 operational warheads today and more than 1,000 likely by 2030, the Pentagon said. In an annual report to Congress on military and security developments in China, the Defense Department said it expects China to continue its expansion and modernization efforts through 2035 in service President Xi Jinping's objective of achieving "world

class" status for the country's military by 2049.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-10-19/china-continues-nuclear-buildup-with-500-warheads-pentagon-says#xj4y7vzkg>

Pentagon says China set to have over 1,000 nukes by 2030

The Japan Times, October 20, 2023

China is continuing to rapidly modernize, diversify and expand its nuclear arsenal, possessing "more than 500 operational nuclear warheads as of May 2023 – on track to exceed previous expectations," the Pentagon has said in a major report on Chinese military power. According to the U.S. Defense Department's annual congressionally mandated report released Thursday in Washington, the Pentagon estimates that China will probably have "over 1,000 operational nuclear warheads by 2030," many of which "will be deployed at higher readiness levels." "What they're doing now, if you compare it to what they were doing about a decade ago, it really far exceeds that in terms of scale and complexity," a senior U.S. defense official told a briefing on condition of anonymity. "They're expanding and investing in their land-, sea-, and air-based nuclear delivery platforms, as well as the infrastructure that's required to support this."

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/10/20/asia-pacific/chinese-nuclear-weapons-report/>

United States Sanctions Entities Contributing to Ballistic Missile Proliferation

U.S. Department of State, October 20, 2023

The United States is committed to strengthening the global nonproliferation regime by taking action to disrupt procurement networks supporting proliferation activities of concern. Today, we are designating three entities pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13382, which targets proliferators of weapons of mass destruction

and their means of delivery. These three entities, based in the People's Republic of China (PRC), have worked to supply missile applicable items to Pakistan's ballistic missile program. The Department of State is designating General Technology Limited, Beijing Luo Luo Technology Development Co Ltd., and Changzhou Utek Composite Company Ltd. pursuant to E.O. 13382 for having engaged, or attempted to engage, in activities or transactions that have materially contributed to, or pose a risk of materially contributing to, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction or their means of delivery (including missiles capable of delivering such weapons), including any efforts to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use such items, by Pakistan.

<https://www.state.gov/united-states-sanctions-entities-contributing-to-ballistic-missile-proliferation/>

Assistant Secretary Stewart Travels to California

U.S. Department of State, October 23, 2023

Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Verification and Compliance, Mallory Stewart, will travel to San Francisco, Stanford University, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), and University of California, Berkeley, during the week of October 24-27.

While in the Bay Area, she will participate in industry and academic roundtables focusing on emerging technologies and arms control. Assistant Secretary Stewart will also discuss shared priorities in defense and global security topics with officials at the LLNL and give keynote remarks to a workshop at UC Berkeley. The workshop will examine the challenges and prospects for arms control and cooperation in the existing geopolitical environment.

<https://www.state.gov/assistant-secretary-stewart-travels-to-california/>

U.S.-Australia Technology Safeguards Agreement

U.S. Department of State, October 26, 2023

On October 26, 2023, the United States and Australia signed the Agreement on Technology Safeguards Associated with U.S. Participation in Space Launches from Australia, or the U.S.-Australia Technology Safeguards Agreement. The Agreement, upon entry into force, provides the legal and technical framework for U.S. space launches from Australian spaceports while ensuring proper handling of sensitive technology, consistent with our long-standing partnership as members of the Missile Technology Control Regime.

U.S. State Department Assistant Secretary for International Security and Nonproliferation C.S. Eliot Kang and Australian Ambassador to the United States Kevin Rudd signed the Agreement between the two countries.

<https://www.state.gov/u-s-australia-technology-safeguards-agreement/>

Joint Statement on the Second Annual Japan-U.S. Energy Security Dialogue

U.S. Department of State, October 26, 2023

The United States and Japan held the second annual Japan-U.S. Energy Security Dialogue (ESD) on October 16-18, 2023 in Palo Alto, California hosted by the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. California plays a leading role in advancing the policies and technologies driving the clean energy transition. Holding the ESD in California highlighted the cross-Pacific partnership and the positive role innovative private sector companies play in driving the energy transition in the United States, Japan, and the Indo-Pacific. U.S. Department of State Assistant Secretary for Energy Resources Geoffrey Pyatt met with Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Director General Kihara Shinichi and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Economic Affairs Bureau Deputy Director General Taketani Atsushi to strengthen our collective energy security,

accelerate the clean energy transition, and explore deeper cooperation in these fields.

<https://www.state.gov/joint-statement-on-the-second-annual-japan-u-s-energy-security-dialogue/>

Department of Defense Announces Pursuit of B61 Gravity Bomb Variant

U.S. Department of Defense, October 27, 2023

Today, the Department of Defense (DoD) announced that the United States will pursue a modern variant of the B61 nuclear gravity bomb, designated the B61-13, pending Congressional authorization and appropriation. The Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) would produce the B61-13. The decision to pursue this capability, which was undertaken in close collaboration with the NNSA, responds to the demands of a rapidly evolving security environment as described in the 2022 Nuclear Posture Review. "Today's announcement is reflective of a changing security environment and growing threats from potential adversaries," said Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy John Plumb. "The United States has a responsibility to continue to assess and field the capabilities we need to credibly deter and, if necessary, respond to strategic attacks, and assure our allies."

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3571660/department-of-defense-announces-pursuit-of-b61-gravity-bomb-variant/>

West Asia

I. Iran

Iran's Military Chief Urges Regional States to Block Transfer of US Military Equipment to Israel

Fars News Agency, October 19, 2023

Maj. Gen. Baqeri made the remarks in a phone call with Qatari Minister of State for Defense Affairs Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah on Thursday — a day after US

President Joe Biden capped a historic trip to Tel Aviv by sending an emphatic message of support to Israel, promising new aid to Tel Aviv. The American leader has stressed that Washington would provide Israel with everything it needed. The Iranian commander said the Palestinian resistance groups were entitled to self-defense in the face of Israel's aggression. "The recent battle of the Palestinian fighters was a response to Israel's oppression of the Palestinian people and its desecration of sanctities, particularly Al-Aqsa Mosque," he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020727000466/Iran's-Military-Chief-Urges-Regional-Saes-Blck-Transfer-f-US-Military>

UN Security Council officially terminates missile-related sanctions on Iran

Tehran Times, October 20, 2023

The UN Secretariat formally terminated the limits outlined in paragraphs 3, 4, and 6 (c) and (d) of Annex B to Resolution 2231 in a note addressed to all UN member states. The termination came into force on October 18, eight years after Iran signed a nuclear agreement with major world powers - the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - Germany and the European Union. The nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231. Until their expiry on October 18, the resolution put limitations on operations and transfers connected to ballistic missiles. In addition, it included sanctions on specific Iranian persons and companies. Rosemary A. DiCarlo, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, also confirmed the termination of sanctions.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/490347/UN-Security-Council-officially-terminates-missile-related-sanctions>

Iran's Air Defense Commander: Indigenous Drone Equipped with

Heat-Seeking Missile with 8km-Range

Fars News Agency, October 22, 2023

Commander of the Iranian Army Air Defense Force Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard said Sunday that the country's experts have managed to arm a domestically-developed jet-powered drone with a new air-based missile. Brig. Gen Sabahifard stated that the Iranian air defense technicians have furnished "Karrar" drone with a heat-seeking air-to-air missile with a range of 8 kilometers.

He added, after a year and a half of research and trial, the experts made a series of technical modifications to "Majid" surface-to-air missile and turned it into an air-based missile. The senior commander said the "Karrar" drone has been armed with "Majid" missile, whose warhead can detonate various aerial targets.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020730000686/Iran's-Air-Defense-Commander-Indigens-Drne-Eipped-wih-Heat-Seeking>

Iran breaking ground on new nuclear power plant

Tehran Times, October 25, 2023

Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), has announced the start of the construction of a new nuclear power plant in southwest Iran.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Eslami said, "In the implementation of the 20-year document of the Atomic Energy Organization, the nuclear fuel cycle and the development of mining industry activities are on the agenda. Yesterday, we started the operation of the 12th mine in West Azerbaijan." As regards the new power plant, which is called "Karun," the top nuclear official said, "The construction work of the Karun power plant has started and the contracts for the internal

construction of the equipment have been concluded.”

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/490579/Iran-breaking-ground-on-new-nuclear-power-plant>

Iran Army Holds Eghtedar-1402 Drills

Fars News Agency, October 27, 2023

Iran’s Army ‘Eqtedar 1402’ military exercise started on Friday with code name Ali Bin Musa Al-Reza (AS) in Nasrabad general area of Isfahan in Central Iran.

Brigadier General Karim Cheshak, the spokesman for the Eqtedar-1402 military exercise of the Iranian Army, said regarding the holding of this exercise that in this exercise, infantry, armored, missile, artillery, air force, drone, engineering, electronic warfare, modern warfare, cyber, ICT units participated in the exercise. Transport and support planes are present.

Brigadier General Cheshak added that Iran’s Army ground forces ‘Eqtedar-1402 military exercise, in accordance with the new organizational combat structure, emphasizes 4 characteristics of distance, accuracy, intelligence, automation, and network-oriented equipment, and these 4 characteristics are evaluated in the field in different stages of this exercise.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020805000440/Iran-Army-Hlds-Eghedar-402-Drills>

Iran’s Army Annihilates Mock-Up Targets with Advanced Missiles During Massive Drills

Fars News Agency, October 28, 2023

The Iranian Army Ground Force’s mobile assault brigades, armored divisions and squadrons of helicopters fired the upgraded versions a series of domestically-developed missiles, including Shafaq (Dawn), Almas (Diamond) and Dehlaviyeh missiles, to smash designated targets at a distance of 8 to 20 kilometers away during the main stage of the Eghtedar (Authority) 1402 wargame

which is underway in the Central province of Isfahan. The maneuver involves troops from all units of the Iranian Army Ground Force and will last for two days in a vast area of Isfahan Province. Dehlaviyeh twin-arm laser-guided missile launcher was recently installed on the M113 armored personnel carriers of the Army Ground Force.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020806000424/Iran's-Army-Annihilaes-Mck-Up-Targes-wih-Advanced-Missiles-Dring>

J. Israel

Israeli Navy’s New Missile Ships Carry Out Combat Operations

Israel Defense, October 17, 2023

The Israeli Navy carried out combat operations from the sea towards the Gaza Strip, employing its newest missile ships (‘Sa’ar 6’ class), the INS Oz, and the INS Magen. As part of these operations, targets related to the production of combat equipment, installations, and observation posts of the naval force of the Hamas terrorist organization were attacked. The development process of the ‘Sa’ar 6’ class ships, conducted over the past two years, has expanded the operational and offensive capabilities of the Navy and the IDF. The missile ships carry 18 advanced combat systems, which are among the most advanced in the world, and have precise firing capabilities.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59957>

Hezbollah Fires Kornet Anti-Tank Missiles at Israeli Targets

Israel Defense, October 18, 2023

Since the beginning of the war, the Hezbollah terror organization has launched a number of Kornet anti-tank missiles toward Israel, resulting in the killing and injuring of several soldiers and civilians, as well as damaging IDF vehicles and civilian vehicles. The Kornet missiles and launchers in the hands of Hezbollah and Hamas are of unknown quantity,

likely originating from Syria and/or Iran. These missiles are considered today to be the most advanced missiles held by the Hezbollah organization. The 9M133 Kornet (known as AT-14 Spriggan in NATO) is a second-generation anti-tank laser-guided missile manufactured in Russia.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59972>

K. Türkiye

Türkiye boosts defense budget by 150%, aims for greater self-sufficiency

Daily Sabah, October 18, 2023

Türkiye will allocate TL 1.13 trillion (around \$40 billion) to its defense budget in 2024, a presentation by Vice President Cevdet Yılmaz showed Tuesday, marking a 150% increase from this year's budget, indicating another move to bolster its defense capabilities in the ever-developing sector. This year, Türkiye allotted around \$16 billion for defense and security. Along with raising its budget, Türkiye seeks to boost exports, employment and localization in the defense and aerospace industry through the policies and measures to be implemented in the 2024-2028 period, according to the newly presented "12th Development Plan."

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiye-boosts-defense-budget-by-150-aims-for-greater-self-sufficiency>

Türkiye's sea-based combat drone completes high-speed roll test

Daily Sabah, October 25, 2023

Türkiye's pioneering drone maker said Wednesday it had successfully completed the latest high-speed roll test of its new unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV), which is tailored for the country's newly commissioned aircraft carrier.

TB3, a short-runway-capable version of Baykar's famed TB2 platform, rolled out on a runway in northwestern Türkiye, according to a video shared by Selçuk Bayraktar, the company's chief technology

officer (CTO). The video on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, showed TB3 briefly taking off before landing at the Çorlu Flight Training and Test Center.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiyes-sea-based-combat-drone-completes-high-speed-roll-test>

Sea-based drone completes maiden flight to mark Türkiye's centenary

Daily Sabah, October 27, 2023

Türkiye's new unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV), tailored for the country's newly commissioned aircraft carrier, on Friday successfully took to the sky for its inaugural flight, its developer announced.

The milestone comes as Türkiye celebrates its centenary, encouraged by the profound transformation achieved in its defense industry, marked by a range of homegrown air, land and marine platforms spearheaded by combat drones. "On the Republic of Türkiye's centennial, the Bayraktar TB3 unmanned aerial vehicle successfully completed its maiden flight," Selçuk Bayraktar, Baykar's chief technology officer (CTO), said in a video on the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/sea-based-drone-completes-maiden-flight-to-mark-turkiyes-centenary>

L. East Asia

'Nuclear war killer' US stirring pot with China and Russia by preparing for conflict, North Korea says | South China Morning Post

South China Morning Post, October 17, 2023

North Korea's nuclear programme is a self-defensive move to head off a nuclear war in the face of the US pursuit of "nuclear supremacy", state media KCNA said on Tuesday. Kim Kwang-myong, whom

KCNA described as a researcher at the Foreign Ministry's Institute for Disarmament and Peace, accused the US of stoking regional tension with its nuclear programme and blamed it for strategic instability destroying world peace. The comments come as nuclear-armed North Korea has raised alarm in the region with regular launches of missiles, including intercontinental ballistic missiles that can strike the continental United States.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/east-asia/article/3238176/nuclear-war-killer-us-stirring-pot-preparing-conflict-russia-and-china-north-korea-says>

U.S., South Korea and Japan conduct aerial drill amid North Korean nuclear threats

PBS, October 22, 2023

The South Korean, U.S. and Japanese militaries conducted their first-ever trilateral aerial exercise on Sunday in response to evolving North Korean nuclear threats, South Korea's air force said.

The training held near the Korean Peninsula was to implement the three countries' earlier agreement to increase defense cooperation and boost their joint response capabilities against North Korean threats, the air force said in a statement.

The drill involved a nuclear-capable B-52 bomber from the United States and fighter jets from South Korea and Japan, the statement said.

South Korea and Japan are both key U.S. allies in Asia, which together host about 80,000 American troops.

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/u-s-south-korea-and-japan-conduct-aerial-drill-amid-north-korean-nuclear-threats>

US-Japan-South Korea Drill a 'New Era' for Defense Ties

VOA News, October 23, 2023

The United States, South Korea, and Japan held their first ever combined aerial exercise

Sunday in an effort to send a tough message to North Korea. It's not new for the United States to hold aerial drills with Japan or with South Korea. But the three countries had never held such an exercise together until Sunday. That's when a U.S. B-52 bomber flew alongside Japanese and South Korean fighter jets just south of the Korean Peninsula. Philip Goldberg, the U.S. ambassador to Seoul, called it a "new era" in defense ties.

Though Japan and South Korea are both close U.S. allies, their bilateral ties are strained by historical disputes. But in August, the three countries agreed to hold more defense drills to counter North Korea.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/us-japan-south-korea-drill-a-new-era-for-defense-ties/7322195.html>

US, South Korea conduct anti-submarine warfare exercise near Guam

Defense News, October 24, 2023

The U.S. and the Republic of Korea's navies completed a combined theater anti-submarine warfare exercise this month aimed at improving submarine tracking and engagement, amid heightened nuclear threats from North Korea.

The exercise, known as Silent Shark, comes amidst ever-further engagement between the allies, with the aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan visiting Busan this month following a trilateral South Korean-U.S.-Japanese maritime drill. During Silent Shark, the U.S. Navy's fast-attack submarine Topeka and South Korea's diesel-electric submarine Jung Ji teamed up with maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft from the Navy's Patrol Squadron 8 and South Korea's Navy squadron 611, according to the U.S. Navy.

<https://www.defensenews.com/news/your-navy/2023/10/23/us-south-korea-conduct-anti-submarine-warfare-exercise-near-guam/>

South Korea, US and Japan condemn North Korea's alleged supply of munitions to Russia

AP News, October 26, 2023

South Korea, the U.S. and Japan strongly condemned what they call North Korea's supply of munitions and military equipment to Russia, saying Thursday that such weapons shipments sharply increase the human toll of Russia's war in Ukraine.

A joint statement by the top diplomats of South Korea, the U.S. and Japan came days after Russia's foreign minister scoffed at a recent U.S. claim that his country received munitions from North Korea, saying that Washington has failed to prove the allegation. "We will continue to work together with the international community to expose Russia's attempts to acquire military equipment from (North Korea)," said the joint statement by South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa.

<https://apnews.com/article/korea-us-japan-russia-munitions-ukraine-9e3b0195330581779ae69cd47da1d818>

Fukushima nuclear plant workers sent to hospital after being splashed with tainted water

The Guardian, October 27, 2023

Four workers at the Fukushima nuclear plant were splashed with water containing radioactive materials, with two of them taken to hospital as a precaution, according to the plant operator. The incident, which took place on Wednesday, highlights the dangers Japan still faces in decommissioning the plant. The reactor was knocked out by an immense tsunami in 2011 in the world's worst atomic disaster since Chernobyl in 1986. Five workers were cleaning pipes at the system filtering wastewater for release into the sea when two were splashed after a hose came off accidentally, according to a spokesperson for operator Tepco. Two others were contaminated when they were

cleaning up the spill, the spokesperson added.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/oct/27/fukushima-nuclear-plant-workers-hospitalised-after-being-splashed-with-tainted-water>

M. Australia

Australia needs 'drastic' renewables boost as nuclear not an option for decades, says centre-right thinktank

The Guardian, October 19, 2023

A centre-right thinktank is calling for "drastically accelerated deployment" of renewable energy, batteries and electricity transmission infrastructure and acknowledged there is no prospect of nuclear energy playing a role in Australia before 2040. The report by the Blueprint Institute, not yet released but seen in draft form by Guardian Australia, says the ban on nuclear energy should be repealed and argues small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs) could play a "small but vital role" in minimising costs in reaching net zero emissions in the power grid by 2050. The report, due to be published soon, is set to land during a polarised debate about the future of energy and the pace of decarbonisation.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/oct/19/australia-needs-drastic-renewables-boost-as-nuclear-not-an-option-for-decades-says-centre-right-thinktank>

Karlin Says U.S. Can Support AUKUS Submarine Builds

U.S. Department of State, October 25, 2023

The trilateral defense agreement among Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States is historic and is part of generational change that is occurring in the Indo-Pacific, said Mara Karlin who is performing the duties of the deputy undersecretary of defense for policy.

Karlin testified before the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces today. She said the AUKUS agreement is a priority for the region as nations look to strengthen deterrence in the face of Chinese efforts to undermine the rules-based international order that has done so much for peace in the Indo-Pacific.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3569119/karlin-says-us-can-support-aukus-submarine-builds/>

Australian PM tells US House speaker he hopes AUKUS legislation passes this year

Reuters, October 26, 2023

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese met the new speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday and said he hoped the U.S. Congress would pass legislation related to the AUKUS submarine project this year. Albanese, who held summit talks with U.S. President Joe Biden in Washington on Wednesday, met the new speaker, Mike Johnson, on Capitol Hill a day after Johnson's election following protracted wrangling among House Republicans. "We, of course, have important legislation required for AUKUS," Albanese told Johnson at the start of their meeting. "We are certainly hoping that the Congress can pass that legislation this year."

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/australian-pm-tells-us-house-speaker-he-hopes-aukus-legislation-passes-this-year-2023-10-26/>

Australia must lobby US for 'no first use' of nuclear weapons, says ex-minister Gareth Evans

The Guardian, October 31, 2023

Labor luminary and former foreign minister, Gareth Evans has urged Australia to lobby the US to promise "no first use" of nuclear weapons, warning that global arms control agreements "are now either dead or on life support". Evans says that in the wake of sealing the Aukus nuclear-powered

submarine deal, the Albanese government should give "some comfort to ALP members and voters that we are really serious about nuclear arms control". Evans told Guardian Australia it was "sheer dumb luck" that the world had avoided a nuclear attack in the 78 years since the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and "it is utterly wishful thinking to believe that this luck can continue in perpetuity".

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/nov/01/australia-must-lobby-us-for-no-first-use-of-nuclear-weapons-says-ex-minister-gareth-evans>

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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