

EAST ASIA MILITARY MONITOR

VOLUME 8 | ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2025



- **China Amends Military Regulations**
- **Xinjiang Military Region Conducts Aerial Patrols of the Border**
- **JMSDF Participates in Pacific Steller with France, US**
- **India, Japan Navies Participate in Komodo 2025**
- **Defence and Security Reforms and Capability Enhancement in Taiwan**
- **Report on North Korean Soldiers**
- **Investigation of Proclamation of Martial Law in South Korea**



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE
STUDIES AND ANALYSES

No. 1, Development Enclave,

Rao Tula Ram Marg, Delhi Cantt., New Delhi-110 010

Telephone: 91-11-26717983; Fax: 91-11-26154191, Website: www.idsa.in

CHINA

China Amends Military Regulations

Towards the end of February, President Xi Jinping also the Chairman of the Central Military Commission signed the [order to implement](#) newly revised “Internal Regulations of the People’s Liberation Army of China”, “Discipline Regulations of the People’s Liberation Army of China” and “Formation Regulations of the People’s Liberation Army of China. These revised regulations that are set to come into effect in April, urges the military to focus more on war preparation and readiness. The revised guidelines emphasise that [winning wars](#) should be the top priority of the army and that the PLA should single-mindedly focus on “preparation and readiness for combat”. They also call for management of overseas missions, discipline within the military, different categories of military honours, categorizing disciplinary measures for combat missions, and safeguarding military secrets. In the wake of emergence of corruption cases within the PLA, the Chinese leadership has been strengthening the military legal regulations. The amendments are part of Beijing’s efforts to align PLA with the objectives of the party and steer the army towards following the rules and regulations in terms of war preparations and combat readiness.

Xinjiang Military Region Conducts Aerial Patrols of the Border

In late February, a border defense regiment and an aviation brigade of the Xinjiang Military Region [jointly](#) organized aerial patrol of the entire border and especially of

the parts that cannot be accessed on ground. Reportedly, PLA helicopters patrolled a thousand-mile border across the snowy ridge canyon in Tibet. At the Tibet Military Region HQs, the officers used various equipment to observe the border line from all directions, checking the presence of foreign personnel, livestock and vehicles near the border. Liu Hua from a border defense regiment of the Xinjiang Military Region [stated](#): "We adopt an integrated air-ground patrol method to conduct all-round and multi-angle reconnaissance and patrol of the defense zone, aiming to improve the quality and efficiency of border defense forces in border management and control." The patrol mission lasted two days, with a total flight time of 7 hours and a flight distance of more than 1,500 kilometers.

JAPAN

JMSDF Participates in Pacific Steller with France, US

The Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Forces (JMSDF) [participated](#) in Pacific Steller 2025, a multilateral exercise held in the Celebes Sea and its environs from 8 to 18 February 2025. The exercise saw the involvement of vessels from the United States (US), France and Japan, with the US dispatching the aircraft carrier USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN-70) alongside its carrier strike group composed of the cruiser USS *Princeton* (CG-59), destroyers USS *Sterett* (DDG-104) and USS *William P. Lawrence* (DDG-110) and their support ships. The air arm was represented by a P8I maritime patrol aircraft. From the French side, the aircraft carrier FS *Charles de Gaulle* (R91)

was joined by its strike group complement of one destroyer (FS *Forbin*, D620), two frigates (FS *Provence* and FS *Alsace*, D652 and D656 respectively) and support ships. The JMSDF despatched to the exercise the ‘destroyer carrier’ JS *Kaga* (DDH-184), the destroyer JS *Akizuki* (DD-115) and a P3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft. The weeklong exercise saw the three maritime forces participate in anti-submarine warfare drills, air defence exercises, cross-deck exercises and replenishment at sea exercises.

India, Japan Navies Participate in Komodo 2025

Indian and Japanese maritime forces participated in Komodo 2025, a multinational exercise, held in Bali, Indonesia from 15 to 22 February 2025. The Indonesian Navy [reported](#) that 38 countries and 19 warships participated in the exercise, where the Indian Navy was [represented](#) by the tank-landing ship INS *Shardul* (L16) and a P8I Pegasus long-range maritime surveillance aircraft. The JMSDF on its part was [represented](#) by the destroyer JS *Asahi* (DD-119). The exercises, conducted under the theme of ‘Maritime Partnership for Peace and Stability’ started with an International Fleet Review in the presence of President Prabowo Subianto, following which at-sea training on tactical maneuvering was done. This was followed by humanitarian and disaster response activities, a maritime security symposium and an environmental conservation programme. The aim of the exercise was to enhance interoperability and regional security cooperation.

TAIWAN

Defence and Security Reforms and Capability Enhancement in Taiwan

The Taiwanese media [reported](#) three key priorities with regard to defence that Taipei would pursue in the coming period. These are: pursuing defence reforms, which would comprise a special budget taking defence spending to “at least 3 percent of GDP,” reforming security set up “to enhance social resilience in the face of China’s ‘united front’ tactics, infiltration and cognitive warfare,” and integrating Taiwan with the global high-tech industry... [and] establish a supply chain between democratic countries.” Further it was also reported that a Taiwanese Indigenous Defense Fighter (IDF) jet [used](#) the Hsiung Feng-III (HF-3) missile in an exercise. The missile developed by Taiwan’s Chungshan Institute of Science and Technology was “an air-launched variant”, which is “smaller than the ship-based and land-based variants.” The media report noted that its small size enables it “to be mounted under the wings of the fighter jet.” It also informed that the removal of its side boosters has reduced its weight, thus, potentially increasing the long-range strike capabilities of the IDF.

THE KOREAN PENINSULA

Report on North Korean Soldiers

In February 2025, the Korea Institute for National Unification, a government-funded think-tank in South Korea, released a [report](#) on the situation and poor training conditions of the North Korean soldiers.

According to another report, the number of [casualties](#) among the North Korean soldiers in Russia, who are fighting against Ukraine was stated to be very high. As a result, the North Korean soldiers were reported to have been “[withdrawn](#)” from the frontline due to their heavy casualties. It was also reported that North Korean soldiers had “[disappeared](#)” amid their high rate of casualties. Also, in February, the Ukrainian Ambassador to South Korea, Dmytro Ponomarenko talked about the possibility of [transferring](#) North Korean soldiers captured by Ukraine to South Korea. Seoul also agreed to [accept](#) all North Korean POWs captured by the Ukrainian forces. The National Intelligence Service (NIS) of South Korea [stated](#) that North Korea had dispatched about 1,000 more soldiers to Russia, in addition to 11,000 soldiers sent last year. On the other hand, the North Korean media reported that hundreds of students in North Korea [wanted](#) to join army.

Investigation of Proclamation of Martial Law in South Korea

In February 2025, it was reported in the South Korean media that a former head of the Army Special Warfare Command recorded his [statement](#) regarding the sudden declaration of the martial law in South Korea on 3 December 2024 by President Yoon Suk Yeol, which was later nullified by the resolution passed by the National Assembly. This former military commander alleged that President Yoon had ordered the military to forcibly take out the lawmakers from the National Assembly during the martial law. The other former

senior members of the South Korean army were also [questioned](#) over the sudden proclamation of martial law. It was reported that the former Defense Minister Kim Yong-hyun had ordered for the [destruction](#) of the documents related to the botched martial law implementation. Reportedly, the South Korean Defence Ministry would [create](#) “an internal reporting system” to look into the issues related to the martial law declaration in the country.