

# Nuclear, Missile & Space Digest

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A Fortnightly Newsletter from the MP-IDSA

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## A. India

### India Successfully Carries Out Launch Of Agni-4 Ballistic Missile From Integrated Test Range At Chandipur

*News on AIR, September 7, 2024*

India has carried out a successful launch of an Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile, Agni-4, from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha. The Defence Ministry said the launch successfully validated all operational and technical parameters. It was conducted under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command. The launch marks another milestone in strengthening India's defence capabilities.

In April this year, India successfully tested the new-generation nuclear-capable Agni-Prime ballistic missile from the Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. It met all the trial objectives, validating its reliable performance. Strategic Forces Command (SFC), along with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), had conducted that successful flight test. The Agni missiles are long-range, nuclear weapons-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missiles developed by India.

<https://www.newsonair.gov.in/india-successfully-carries-out-launch-of-agni-4-ballistic-missile-from-integrated-test-range-at-chandipur-odisha/>

### India, China, Russia to jointly build massive nuclear power plant on moon to establish a future human lunar colony

*The Economic Times, September 9, 2024*

India and China, two historically rival nations, are set to collaborate with Russia in establishing a nuclear power plant on the Moon. This development, reported by EurAsian Times and sourced from Russia's state-owned news agency Tass, was announced by Alexey Likhachev, head of Rosatom, Russia's state nuclear energy corporation. The initiative aligns with India's plans for a manned lunar mission by 2040 and the establishment of a lunar base.

Speaking at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Likhachev underscored the international nature of the project. "With the involvement of the international community, our Chinese and Indian partners are very interested in this," he said, highlighting the collaborative spirit driving the venture.

According to Tass, the lunar power project, led by Rosatom, aims to build a small nuclear power plant capable of generating up to half a megawatt of energy. This output is expected to support the operations of a lunar base. Likhachev confirmed that both China and India are eager to participate in developing this innovative lunar energy solution. Roscosmos, Russia's space agency, announced in May that work on the nuclear power plant was already underway, with plans for its deployment on the Moon. The plant is intended to power a lunar base, a project involving collaboration between Russia and China, with India's participation potentially aligning with its lunar base ambitions.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/india-china-russia-to-jointly-build-massive-nuclear-power-plant-on-moon-to-establish-a-future-human-lunar-colony/articleshow/113182566.cms?from=mdr>

### Pixxel becomes first Indian space startup to grab order from Nasa

*Business Standard, September 9, 2024*

Bengaluru-based space technology startup Pixxel, which specialises in cutting-edge hyperspectral earth-imaging technology, has won the largest supplier deal by an Indian company from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). It has become part of NASA's \$476-million commercial smallsat data acquisition program.

This is the first deal by an Indian startup, after the sector was opened to private companies in 2020. This contract period for the program runs through November 2028. Pixxel will provide NASA, the US government and academic partners with hyperspectral earth observation data. This

will further empower the administration's earth science research and application activities.

With the ability to capture data across hundreds of narrow wavelengths, Pixxel's datasets can unravel granular insights on climate change, agriculture, biodiversity and resource management, among others.

[https://www.business-standard.com/companies/start-ups/pixxel-becomes-first-indian-space-startup-to-grab-order-from-nasa-124090901128\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/companies/start-ups/pixxel-becomes-first-indian-space-startup-to-grab-order-from-nasa-124090901128_1.html)

### **India, UAE ink agreement on operating nuclear plants in Gulf nation**

*Business Standard, September 10, 2024*

India and the UAE have inked a pact that provides a framework for giving services for operation and maintenance of nuclear plants in the emirate. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Bhuwan Chandra Pathak, Chairman and Managing Director of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), and Mohamed Al Hammadi, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC) of the UAE. "The MoU provides a general framework for the possible collaboration between the NPCIL & ENEC in the relevant fields, which inter alia include developing supply chains, sharing experience and providing services for Operation & Maintenance of Nuclear Energy Plants, providing nuclear consulting services, human resources development & training, research and development etc," a statement by the NPCIL said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/india-uae-ink-agreement-on-operating-nuclear-plants-in-gulf-nation-124091001206\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/india-uae-ink-agreement-on-operating-nuclear-plants-in-gulf-nation-124091001206_1.html)

### **Future of Indian space exploration: Public-private partnerships, says Pawan Chandana**

*India Today, September 14, 2024*

Skyroot is gearing up to launch Vikram-1 by the end of this year.

The company successfully tested its Vikram-S rocket in November 2022, marking a significant milestone as India's first privately developed rocket to reach the edge of space.

Chandana highlighted the innovative design of the Vikram rockets, particularly the Vikram-S, which is constructed from carbon fiber, making it five times stronger than traditional materials like steel and aluminum.

This lightweight design not only reduces fuel consumption but also allows for larger payload capacities. He emphasised the use of advanced manufacturing techniques, such as 3D printing, to produce rocket components layer by layer, significantly speeding up production times for complex parts that would typically take months to manufacture.

The Vikram-1 rocket, standing at seven stories tall, is set to launch satellites into orbit.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/science/story/future-of-indian-space-exploration-public-private-partnerships-says-pawan-chandana-2599727-2024-09-14>

### **B. Pakistan**

### **US imposes sanctions on Chinese suppliers to Pakistan's ballistic missile program**

*Reuters, September 12, 2024*

The U.S. State Department on Thursday imposed sanctions on a Chinese research institute and several companies it said have been involved in supplying Pakistan's ballistic missile program.

Washington similarly targeted three China-based companies with sanctions in October 2023 for supplying missile-applicable items to Pakistan.

Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said in a statement that the Beijing Research Institute of Automation for Machine Building Industry had worked with Pakistan to procure equipment for testing rocket motors for the Shaheen-3



and Ababeel systems and potentially for larger systems.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/us-imposes-sanctions-suppliers-pakistans-ballistic-missile-program-2024-09-12/>

### **C. China**

#### **Chinese, Singaporean warships launch harbor phase of joint drill**

*Global Times, September 1, 2024*

Warships of the Chinese and Singaporean navies have launched the harbor phase of a joint exercise ahead of the sea phase off the southern Chinese coast, a move experts said displays how China and Southeast Asian countries can have military cooperation that contributes to peace and stability. After the frigate Sanya and the minesweeper Hejian of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy as well as the frigate RSS Stalwart of the Singaporean navy assembled at a naval port in Zhanjiang, South China's Guangdong Province for the China-Singapore Exercise Cooperation 2024 joint maritime exercise scheduled till September 5, these vessels, together with the PLA Navy's destroyer Zhanjiang, opened to the public as a part of the harbor phase of the exercise on Saturday, China Central Television (CCTV) reported.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202409/1319045.shtml>

#### **China and the Philippines trade blame for the latest sea collision**

*The New York Times, September 1, 2024*

China and the Philippines traded new accusations of deliberately ramming into each other's coast guard vessels near a disputed atoll in the South China Sea where the two countries are engaged in an escalating standoff. The confrontation near the atoll, Sabina Shoal, on Saturday came after multiple others in the area between the two countries in the past two weeks. It also comes days after the Biden administration's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, held talks with senior Chinese leaders in Beijing

and raised America's defence treaty with the Philippines.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/01/world/asia/china-philippines-south-china-sea-collision.html>

#### **The only choice for Manila is to withdraw its ship, personnel from Xianbin Jiao**

*Global Times, September 2, 2024*

On August 31, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) vessel MRRV-9701, which has been illegally anchored in the lagoon of China's Xianbin Jiao (also known as Xianbin Reef) for a long time, provoked troubles in an unprofessional and dangerous way and intentionally rammed into the Chinese Coast Guard (CCG) ship 5205, which was lawfully implementing control measures. As a result, a collision happened between the two vessels. However, the Philippines shifted the blame to the CCG ship, accusing the latter of "dangerous maneuver." The US Department of State immediately issued a statement to accuse the CCG vessel of "deliberately colliding" with the PCG ship and put the labels of the "dangerous and escalatory actions" onto China

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202409/1319056.shtml>

#### **Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson on China-Philippines clashes in the South China Sea**

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The People's Republic of China, September 2, 2024*

Xianbin Jiao is part of China's Nansha Qundao. On August 31, the Philippine Coast Guard vessel, which has been illegally anchoring in the lagoon of Xianbin Jiao for weeks now, acted unprofessionally and dangerously by deliberately ramming China Coast Guard vessel which was there to safeguard China's sovereignty and lawful rights, resulting in the collision of the vessels. The Chinese side responded

with necessary measures in accordance with the law, which was fully justified, lawful and beyond reproach.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202409/t20240902\\_11483545.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202409/t20240902_11483545.html)

### **Despite new nuclear submarine, India still lags China in naval strength**

*South China Morning Post, September 3, 2024*

Despite these advancements, the Chinese navy remains far superior, particularly in submarine capabilities, Bhaskar said. He stressed that India should work to acquire longer-range submarine-launched missiles to keep pace. "China's nuclear arsenal is much greater in quantity, more potent in quality and is growing ... Against this backdrop, the INS Arighaat and the INS Arihant will serve to enhance India's second-strike capability but in a very modest manner," Bhaskar said, referring to the ability of a country to counter a first-strike nuclear threat.

<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3276920/despite-new-nuclear-submarine-india-still-lags-china-naval-strength>

### **IAEA official hails China's progress in nuclear industry**

*China Daily, September 3, 2024*

The International Atomic Energy Agency's senior communication official hailed the "significant progress" China has made in nuclear development and said the IAEA looks forward to deepening the collaboration with the country, as this year marks the 40th anniversary of China's accession to the international organization. Sophie Boutaud de la Combe, director of the Office of Public Information and Communication of IAEA, made the remarks during an international media tour organized by the China Atomic Energy Authority's news office, themed Atoms for Better Home.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202409/03/WS66d6f0d3a3108f29c1fc9edb.html>

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<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202409/03/WS66d6f0d3a3108f29c1fc9edb.html>

## China to implement near-earth asteroid defence with combined observation, impact

*Xinhua, September 5, 2024*

China's first near-Earth asteroid (NEA) defence mission is expected to observe an asteroid closely before impacting it to alter its orbit around 2030, according to a key engineer in the country's space industry. The blueprint for the country's asteroid defence involves two spacecraft – an impactor and an observer – launched into space with one rocket, said Tang Yuhua, deputy chief designer of Chang'e-7 Mission. The observer will first move around the small asteroid to be targeted, for the purposes of detection, before guiding the impactor from afar to strike it. After the kinetic impact, the observer will further have an accompanying flight with the very asteroid that changes its orbit, according to Tang.

<https://english.news.cn/20240905/55d33f16e54e4b62ab9331cf93a26dfc/c.html#:~:text=China%20to%20implement%20ear%20Dearth%20asteroid%20defence%20with%20combined%20observation%2C%20impact,-Source%3A%20Xinhua&text=HEFEI%2C%20Sept,in%20the%20country's%20space%20industry>

## China plans to return Martian soil to Earth by 2028, invites global scientists to collaborate

*China Daily, September 5, 2024*

China is aiming to bring Martian soil back to Earth by 2028, with a historic mission encouraging foreign scientists to take part in the ambitious project. Liu Jizhong, chief planner of China's Martian soil-return mission and a leading scientist in the country's deep-space exploration programs, said that the mission, Tianwen 3, will be the third in China's interplanetary exploration schedule. Speaking at the Second International Deep Space Exploration Conference in Tunxi, Anhui province, Liu said the primary scientific goal of the mission is to search for signs of life on Mars. Chinese researchers are developing key technologies

for the mission, including sampling and lifting off from the Martian surface.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202409/05/WS66d96dd3a3108f29c1fca6b1.html>

## The U.S. is losing a new nuclear arms race

*TIME, September 5, 2024*

Today, the U.S.' most formidable adversary, China, is growing its nuclear arsenal by rapidly churning out launch platforms and warheads faster than America's aging forces can be replaced. A revisionist power like China is most effectively deterred when confronted by an opponent with the resolve and capability to balance out their forces in peacetime and, should deterrence fail, deny them victory in wartime. Satellite imagery of China's nuclear forces shows that this balance is deteriorating.

<https://time.com/7016509/us-losing-nuclear-edge-china/>

## Understanding China's perceptions and strategy toward nuclear weapons: A case study approach

*Asia Society Policy Institute, September 5, 2024*

The nuclear arsenal of the People's Republic of China (PRC) is undergoing significant transformation, as reported by the 2022 U.S. Department of Defence (DoD) report on China's military power. In 2021, Beijing accelerated its nuclear expansion, with estimates placing its current stockpile at over 400 warheads, and it is projected to reach 1,500 warheads by 2035, based on a DoD report on China's military power from 2021. In addition, Beijing is also reportedly consolidating its nuclear triad of bombers, submarines, and intercontinental ballistic missiles, as well as moving to a launch-on-warning posture.

<https://asiasociety.org/policy-institute/understanding-chinas-perceptions-and-strategy-toward-nuclear-weapons-case-study-approach>



## China seeks partners for Martian soil retrieval

*China Daily, September 6, 2024*

China is likely to bring Martian soil back to Earth in the near future, and is encouraging foreign scientists to take part in this ambitious interplanetary endeavor. Liu Jizhong, a leading scientist in China's deep-space exploration programs and chief planner of the Martian soil-return project, said China is open to cooperation with foreign scientists in the Tianwen 3 program, encouraging them to take part in payload design, sample and data analysis, and long-term planning for a Martian scientific outpost.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202409/06/WS66da5a7da3103711928a6660.html>

## China's Sharp Sword combat drones cutting into US airpower

*Asia Times, September 7, 2024*

China is ramping up development of its GJ-11 Sharp Sword, a stealthy flying-wing uncrewed combat air vehicle (UCAV) with the potential to reshape the future of drone warfare, The Warzone reported. Planet Labs satellite imagery reviewed by The Warzone shows two GJ-11s active at Malan Air Base in western Xinjiang province, a known Chinese hub for uncrewed platform testing. The GJ-11, designed for strike missions and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) tasks, has been increasingly linked to future operations with crewed J-20 stealth fighters and potential deployment from People's Liberation Army-Navy (PLA-N) aircraft carriers.

<https://asiatimes.com/2024/09/chinas-sharp-sword-combat-drones-cutting-into-us-airpower/>

## Egypt Orders J-10C Fighters to Replace Ageing F-16s

*Military Watch Magazine, September 7, 2024*

The Egyptian Defence Ministry has reportedly placed its first ever order for Chinese fourth generation fighters, with an unspecified number of J-10C fighters

reported to have been ordered on August 19. This development comes as Cairo has continued to strengthen strategic and economic ties with Beijing, and follows its admission to the Chinese-led BRICS bloc earlier this year. The acquisition makes Egypt the second client for the J-10C after Pakistan, although unconfirmed reports indicate that neighbouring Sudan had reached an agreement on acquisitions before the outbreak of an insurgency in the country in April 2024 delayed talks for a purchase.

<https://militarywatchmagazine.com/article/egypt-j10c-f16s-reports>

## Private satellite network launches first global communication services

*Global Times, September 8, 2024*

As a Chinese commercial aerospace company provided, for the first time, global low-Earth orbit (LEO) satellite communication services, experts said that the launch of China's private satellite network for global communications demonstrates the country's advancing telecom capabilities, with private companies now positioned to compete globally. The third orbital plane of Chinese private automaker Geely's Future Mobility Constellation was launched from Taiyuan, North China's Shanxi Province, with 10 satellites entering their intended orbits and functioning normally. The launch brought Geely's Future Mobility Constellation to 30 satellites, covering 90 percent of the world with near-constant communication.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202409/1319460.shtml>

## China's Type 094 Jin-Class missile submarines can 'hit' America with nukes

*The National Interest, September 8, 2024*

China's Jin-Class Type 094 submarines, an upgrade from the unreliable Xia-class, face challenges in fulfilling their strategic deterrence role. Despite being armed with

JL-2 and possibly JL-3 missiles, capable of reaching U.S. territories like Hawaii and Alaska, the submarines are hindered by significant noise levels, making them detectable and undermining their stealth. Technological and doctrinal limitations, such as separating nuclear warheads from delivery systems during peacetime, further weaken their effectiveness. While China is developing the Type 096 to address these shortcomings, the Jin-class submarines currently struggle to provide the reliable global nuclear deterrence China seeks.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/chinas-type-094-jin-class-missile-submarines-can-hit-america-nukes-208821>

### **Theatre commanders of Chinese, US militaries hold talks**

*Global Times, September 10, 2024*

The theatre commanders of the Chinese and US militaries had a video teleconference, marking the resumption of all military communication mechanisms agreed upon by the heads of state of the two countries at the San Francisco meeting in November 2023. According to the consensus reached by the heads of state of China and the US at the San Francisco meeting, Wu Ya'nan, commander of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command, and Samuel Paparo, commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command, held a teleconference in which they exchanged views on issues of mutual concern, China's Ministry of National Defence said in a press release.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202409/1319575.shtml>

### **Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson on China's position on Ukraine war**

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The People's Republic of China, September 10, 2024*

China's position on the Ukraine crisis is consistent and very clear. China is committed to promoting peace talks, and supports all efforts for peace. We stand ready to continue working with the

international community to accumulate conditions for the political settlement of the crisis and play a constructive role for peace.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202409/t20240910\\_11488370.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202409/t20240910_11488370.html)

### **Russian and Chinese strategic missile defence: Doctrine, capabilities, and development**

*Atlantic Council, September 10, 2024*

China may also be interested in strategic BMD as one solution to long-standing concerns about its resilience to a first strike by the United States or Russia and the growing sophistication of India's nuclear arsenal. While a defence against the United States or Russia would only be very limited for the foreseeable future, China may view it as beneficial for complicating a possible strike on Beijing or its ICBM silos. Noted expert on Chinese nuclear forces Tong Zhao has suggested that one explanation for the relatively dense arrangement of China's newly constructed ICBM silos could be to facilitate a possible area defence for those weapons. Other possible targets to be defended might include military command and control locations during an ongoing conflict or critical infrastructure, such as the Three Gorges Dam.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/issue-brief/russian-and-chinese-strategic-missile-defence-doctrine-capabilities-and-development/>

### **China Takes Over P5 Process, Repeats No-First-Use Call with African States**

*Arms Control Association, September 12, 2024*

At the Sep. 4 plenary session of the UN General Assembly, China announced it has taken over the role of coordinating the P5 process from Russia in line with the group's rotating schedule. China "looks forward to continuing dialogue and cooperation among the P5 on the basis of their 2022 joint statement on the

prevention of nuclear war and exploring feasible initiatives to reduce nuclear risks,” said the Chinese delegation. The P5 process is a multilateral discussion forum involving the five nuclear powers recognized by the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

The Chinese delegation to the General Assembly also reiterated China’s traditional call for the P5 to “negotiate and conclude the treaty of no-first-use of nuclear weapons against each other or issue a relevant political statement.” This no-first-use treaty proposal was also invoked at the Sep. 4-6 Beijing Summit and the ninth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

In an action plan document, China, 53 African countries, and the chairperson of the African Union Commission called on nuclear-weapons states to adopt the no-first-use policy, to issue a relevant declaration, and “to support the negotiation of international legal instruments on providing negative security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon states.” They highlighted, in particular, the African nuclear-weapon-free-zone and the proposed Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction free zone. The document also reaffirmed all states’ inalienable right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

<https://www.armscontrol.org/blog/2024-09/nuclear-disarmament-monitor>

#### **D. Afghanistan**

### **Taliban Wants To Build Afghanistan’s Air Defenses With Russia’s Help**

*Forbes, September 10, 2024*

Amidst warming ties between its regime and Russia, the Taliban have expressed its intent to build Afghanistan’s air defenses with Russian equipment. And while Moscow has appeared willing to arm the Houthis in Yemen and even Hezbollah in Lebanon with advanced missiles in recent months, it may not prove so willing for the current ruling regime in Kabul.

In early 2023, less than two years after

reconquering Afghanistan amidst a chaotic U.S. withdrawal, the Taliban allotted the largest share of Afghanistan’s budget to defense, expressing its aim to build air defenses.

“Anti-aircraft missiles are the need of countries,” Qari Fasihuddin Fitrat, a Taliban commander and chief of army staff, was quoted as saying by Reuters in April 2023.

“There is no doubt that Afghanistan is trying, and doing its best, to have it,” he added but did not elaborate on how the Taliban could acquire such missiles.

However, in an Aug. 29 interview with Russia’s state-run Tass news agency, General Sayed Abdul Basir Saberi, head of the logistics department of Afghanistan’s Taliban-controlled Ministry of Defense, was much more direct.

“I think we need air defense and airspace control equipment. We have ground equipment. I think we will purchase [such products] from you at the international level, when there are [international legal] conditions for this,” Saberi said.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/pauliddon/2024/09/10/taliban-wants-to-build-afghanistans-air-defenses-with-russias-help/>

#### **E. Russia**

### **Ukraine war briefing: Russia says it will change nuclear doctrine due to western ‘escalation’ in Ukraine**

*The Guardian, September 2, 2024*

Russia will make changes to its doctrine on the use of nuclear weapons in response to what it regards as western escalation in the war in Ukraine, state media quoted deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov as saying on September 01, 2024. The existing nuclear doctrine, set out in a decree by President Vladimir Putin in 2020, says Russia may use nuclear weapons in the event of a nuclear attack by an enemy or a conventional attack that threatens the existence of the state. The decision was “connected with the escalation course of

our western adversaries" in connection with the Ukraine conflict. Polish and allied aircraft were activated early on September 02, 2024 to ensure the safety of Polish airspace after Russia launched air strikes on Ukraine, the Operational Command of the Polish armed forces said.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/sep/02/ukraine-war-briefing-russia-says-it-will-change-nuclear-doctrine-due-to-western-escalation-in-ukraine>

### **UN Nuclear Head Says Discussed Kursk Plant Safety With Zelensky**

*The Moscow Times 3, 2024*

UN nuclear chief Rafael Grossi said he discussed the safety of Russia's Kursk nuclear plant with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Tuesday, four weeks after Ukraine launched its unprecedented cross-border incursion.

Ukraine sent thousands of troops into the Kursk region on Aug. 6, triggering fighting less than 50 kilometers (30 miles) away from the nuclear plant.

Grossi, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), visited the plant last week, warning that its proximity to ongoing fighting in the Kursk region was "extremely serious."

Traveling to Ukraine this week, Grossi met Zelensky on Tuesday before he was due on Wednesday to again visit the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in southern Ukraine, which Russia captured shortly after invading its neighbor in February 2022.

"We had a general evaluation of what I saw [at the Kursk nuclear plant]... For me, it was important to transmit the impressions I got and, of course, to reiterate the importance of avoiding a situation there that would lead to a radiological emergency," Grossi told reporters after meeting Zelensky.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2024/09/03/un-nuclear-head-says-discussed-kursk-plant-safety-with-zelensky-a86245>

### **Putin Slams United States for 'Provoking' Arms Race**

*The Moscow Times, September 10, 2024*

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday accused the United States of provoking an arms race by increasing its military presence near Russia's borders.

"Under the pretext of countering alleged Russian threats and deterring the People's Republic of China, the U.S. and its allies are increasing their military presence near Russia's western borders, in the Arctic and in the Asia-Pacific region," Putin said.

The Kremlin leader made his remarks during the start of week-long strategic naval exercises, during which Moscow plans to "expand cooperation with the naval forces of partner countries." Hundreds of warships, submarines and support vessels are expected to be deployed across the Pacific and Arctic oceans, as well as the Mediterranean, Caspian and Baltic seas, between Sept. 10 and Sept. 16.

Earlier, U.S. Army officials said they were interested in deploying Typhoon missile systems to Japan for joint military exercises. In April, the U.S. deployed the same midrange missile system for joint military exercises in the northern Philippines.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2024/09/10/putin-slams-united-states-for-provoking-arms-race-a86325>

### **Russia views Finland's military exercise near its border an element of NATO's hybrid war**

*TASS, September 10, 2024*

Russia views Finland's military exercise near its border as an element of NATO's hybrid war, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko told TASS.

"This is a part of the general program of Finland's integration into NATO, its



integration into this military organization, and, at the same time, an attempt by NATO to project its force on the Russian Federation. This kind of exercise are an element of the hybrid war being waged against us," he noted.

Previously, the Bild newspaper reported that German Eurofighter planes were relocated to Finland to practice short-distance landing mere 180 km away from the Russian border.

<https://tass.com/politics/1841147>

### **Russia simulates firing Kalibr missiles in Lake Ladoga during massive naval maneuvers**

*TASS, September 12, 2024*

A strike group comprising the Grad and Naro-Fominsk corvettes has carried out electronic launches of Kalibr missiles against conventional enemy targets in Lake Ladoga during Russia's Ocean-2024 strategic naval exercise, the Defense Ministry said.

"The exercise was performed amid heavy jamming caused artificially to complicate the task facing crews of the naval strike group," the ministry explained.

Also, the warships practiced causing jamming during the maneuvers, the ministry said.

Units from coastal forces of the Caspian Flotilla deployed Bal coastal systems with X-35 missiles to provide coastal support to the convoy of vessels during the exercise. Units from the flotilla "protected the infrastructure of bases in areas exposed to potential air assaults along the shore," the ministry added.

<https://tass.com/defense/1842189>

### **Russia will be 'at war' with NATO if Ukraine long-range missile restrictions lifted, Putin warns**

*CNN, September 13, 2024*

Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned NATO alliance leaders that a move to lift restrictions on Ukraine's use of longer-

range Western missiles to strike deep inside his country would be considered an act of war.

"This will mean that NATO countries – the United States and European countries – are at war with Russia. And if this is the case, then, bearing in mind the change in the essence of the conflict, we will make appropriate decisions in response to the threats that will be posed to us," Putin told reporters on Thursday.

Putin's comments come as US and NATO allied partners appear increasingly open to the possibility of allowing Ukrainian forces to use Western-provided long-range weapons systems to strike at Russian military targets, something which Kyiv has openly pressed for as the war continues deep into its second year.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/09/12/europe/putin-warns-nato-missiles-hnk-latam-intl/index.html>

## **F. Europe**

### **Germany receives first IRIS-T antimissile system for its own forces**

*Defense News, September 5, 2024*

Germany's military has received the first IRIS-T SLM air defense system for its own forces after prioritizing the weapon's production for Ukraine since the Russian invasion in 2022.

"A new chapter of European air defense is shaping up," Chancellor Olaf Scholz said at an inauguration ceremony for the equipment on a military base in Todendorf, northern Germany. "This is, without exaggeration, about maintaining security and peace in Europe," he added, using the occasion to defend a decision from the summer to deploy American intermediate-range missiles to Germany.

The system inaugurated on Wednesday marked the first of six IRIS-T SLMs to be delivered to the Bundeswehr. It is part of an effort by the German government to fill

in a longstanding gap in the air defense capabilities of the country's military – and the European continent more broadly.

IRIS-T has proven itself in Ukraine, the chancellor said, where “it has served as a bulwark against the countless missiles that Russia shoots at Ukraine every day,” having shot down over 250 projectiles of various sorts. Scholz claimed a hit rate of 95% and expressed hope that the system would become the backbone of European air defense beyond Germany's borders.

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2024/09/05/germany-receives-first-iris-t-antimissile-system-for-its-own-forces/>

### **UK to send hundreds more missiles to Ukraine**

*BBC, September 6, 2024*

The UK will send hundreds more short-range missiles to Ukraine, it was announced ahead of a summit where Volodymyr Zelensky asked for authorisation to strike targets deep inside Russia with Western-supplied weapons.

The Ukrainian president made another impassioned plea for further military support during the opening stages of the summit at the Ramstein air base in Germany on Friday.

He said the eastern region of Donetsk, where Kyiv's forces are facing Russian attacks, in particular depended on the swift delivery of aid.

Also at the summit is UK Defence Secretary John Healey who will confirm the £162 million package, which includes the supply of 650 Lightweight Multirole Missiles (LMM).

He said the new package would give an “important boost” to Ukraine's air defences and show the government was “stepping up” its support.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cjw3x8926l6o>

### **France, Germany and UK condemn Iranian missile exports to Russia**

*French Embassy in London, September 10, 2024*

The governments of France, Germany and the United Kingdom strongly condemn Iran's export and Russia's procurement of Iranian ballistic missiles. This is a further escalation of Iran's military support to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and will see Iranian missiles reaching European soil, increasing the suffering of the Ukrainian people. This act is an escalation by both Iran and Russia, and is a direct threat to European security.

The E3 has privately and publicly been clear that we would take new and significant measures against Iran if the transfers took place. We now have confirmation that Iran has made these transfers. We will be taking immediate steps to cancel bilateral air services agreements with Iran. In addition, we will pursue the designations of significant entities and individuals involved with Iran's ballistic missile programme and the transfer of ballistic missiles and other weapons to Russia. We will also work towards imposing sanctions on Iran Air.

The E3 are closely coordinating our strong response to these transfers with our European and international partners. We call on Iran to immediately cease all support to Russia's war against Ukraine and halt the development and transfers of its ballistic missiles.

<https://uk.ambafrance.org/France-Germany-and-UK-condemn-Iranian-missile-exports-to-Russia>

### **Armenia interested in buying more ATAGS artillery systems from India**

*Armenpress, September 12, 2024*

Armenia is interested in buying additional ATAGS 155mm artillery systems from

India, Sputnik Armenia news agency reported citing Indian Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses Director Sujan Chinoy. "ATAGS is highly maneuverable," Chinoy told Sputnik Armenia. "They are made in India and have been highly successful. The Armenian side bought six of these systems and was satisfied." Chinoy mentioned Armenia's previous acquisition of the Swathi Weapon Locating Radar systems and Pinaka MRLS. He said that Armenia has potential to develop its defence industry, which is now focused on startups. "Armenia has three such companies, which isn't few given the country's size and population. India has 120 such companies. Therefore Yerevan and Delhi can establish active cooperation in the area of military technologies, especially in issues concerning startups," Chinoy said.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1199651>

### **Spain confirms the immediate transfer of a MIM-23 HAWK missile battery to the Ukrainian Armed Forces**

*Zona Militar, September 15, 2024*

The last Ukraine Defense Contact Group (UDCG) meeting was held at Ramstein Air Base, in Germany, and new announcements were made regarding the transfer and provision of equipment for the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Among them, Spain, through its Minister of Defense, Margarita Robles, confirmed the immediate shipment of a battery of MIM-23 HAWK anti-aircraft missiles.

In July, during a videoconference meeting between the Defense Ministers of Spain and Ukraine, the Spanish government committed to a forthcoming shipment of HAWK anti-aircraft missiles that had been decommissioned by the Spanish Army.

Following the conclusion of the UDCG meeting, Spain's Ministry of Defense announced: *"In response to President Zelensky's explicit request for air defense systems, Minister Robles announced the immediate delivery of a complete HAWK battery, including the 6 missile launchers also*

*donated by Spain and already positioned in Poland."*

<https://www.zona-militar.com/en/2024/09/15/spain-confirms-the-immediate-transfer-of-a-mim-23-hawk-missile-battery-to-the-ukrainian-armed-forces/>

### **UK's Starmer Seeks Italy's Support for Missiles to Ukraine**

*Bloomberg, September 15, 2024*

Italy and the UK are poised to reaffirm their pledge to defend Ukraine as Prime Minister Keir Starmer travels to Rome to seek support for a proposal to let Kyiv use non-US long-range weapons against Russia.

Starmer and Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, who are due to meet on Monday, will discuss a proposal for Ukraine to use British long-range Storm Shadow cruise missiles on Russian territory, people familiar with the matter said. They're also due to discuss deepening economic ties and tackling illegal migration, the UK prime minister's office said in a statement.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-09-15/uk-s-starmer-seeks-italy-s-support-for-missiles-to-ukraine>

### **G. The United States of America**

### **US arms advantage over Russia and China threatens stability, experts warn**

*The Guardian, September 5, 2024*

The US and its allies are capable of threatening and destroying all of Russia and China's nuclear launch sites with conventional weapons, creating what two experts describe as a potentially unstable geopolitical situation. Prof Dan Plesch and Manuel Galileo, from Soas University of London, describe a "quiet revolution in military affairs" reflecting increased US military power relative to Moscow and Beijing, particularly in missile technology. They argue that this could create the conditions for a fresh arms race as China and Russia try to respond – and even

create a risk of miscalculation in a major crisis as either country could resort to launching nuclear weapons to get ahead of the US. In a paper published on September 05, 2024, Plesch and Galileo write that the US has “a plausible present day capacity with non-nuclear forces to pre-empt Russian and Chinese nuclear forces” – giving it a military edge over the two countries.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/sep/05/us-arms-advantage-over-russia-and-china-threatens-stability-experts-warn>

## **U.S., Imposing Sanctions, Accuses Iran of Sending Missiles to Russia**

*The New York Times, September 10, 2024*

Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken accused Iran on Tuesday of shipping short-range ballistic missiles to Russia for use in Ukraine and said that the Biden administration was imposing more sanctions against Tehran. The penalties include measures against Iran Air, the country’s main airline, he said.

Russia is likely to use the missiles “within weeks in Ukraine against Ukrainians,” Mr. Blinken said at a news conference in London with the British foreign secretary, David Lammy. He added that dozens of Russian soldiers have been training in Iran to use the missiles, the Fath-360 model with a range of 75 miles, and that the United States had shared intelligence in recent days with its allies on Iran’s aid.

That supply from Iran could greatly aid Russia’s war effort, Mr. Blinken said, allowing it to deploy some of its longer-range missiles against deeper targets in Ukraine rather than using them for short-range attacks.

Mr. Blinken’s remarks were the first public comments by a U.S. or allied official on the missile aid from Iran.

“This is a troubling pattern that we’re seeing from Iran,” Mr. Lammy said in answering a reporter’s question. “It is definitely a

significant escalation, and we are coordinating actions.”

The two diplomats also said they would make a joint visit to Ukraine on Wednesday as a show of solidarity with Kyiv, the first such wartime visit by the United States and an allied nation.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/10/world/europe/us-iran-russia-missiles-sanctions.html>

## **No new pledge on Ukraine missiles after Starmer-Biden talks**

*BBC, September 14, 2024*

UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer has held “productive” talks with US President Joe Biden about Ukraine – but he did not signal any decision on allowing Kyiv to fire long-range missiles into Russia.

Sir Keir said the talks in Washington concentrated on “strategy”, rather than a “particular step or tactic”.

The White House said the pair had also expressed “deep concern about Iran and North Korea’s provision of lethal weapons to Russia”.

Early on Friday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russia had launched over 70 Iranian-made drones across Ukraine overnight, and that his country needed more air defence and long-range capabilities “to protect life and our people”.

“We are working on this with all Ukrainian partners,” he said.

Ahead of the talks at the White House, Russian President Vladimir Putin warned Western nations not to let Ukraine fire long-range missiles at Russia.

Putin said such a move would represent Nato’s “direct participation” in the Ukraine war.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cnvdyd4nnzro>



## West Asia

### H. Iran

#### **Iran's UN envoy warns Israel's nuclear arsenal poses serious threat to entire world**

*Presstv, September 5, 2024*

Iran has issued a stern warning about the risk posed to the entire world by Israel's nuclear arsenal, calling for international supervision over the regime's nuclear facilities. Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Amir Saeid Iravani made the statement in an address to the UN General Assembly on the International Day against Nuclear Tests on September 4. "The current situation is alarming, as the Israeli regime is threatening other regional countries with nuclear annihilation, and its nuclear arsenal poses a significant threat to both regional and global peace and security," he said. He added that the international community should make the Israeli regime accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) "without any precondition" and to place all of its nuclear facilities under the full-scope IAEA safeguards. Israel is estimated to possess 200 to 400 nuclear warheads in its arsenal, making it the sole possessor of non-conventional arms in West Asia. It has refused to either allow inspections of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency or sign the NPT. Tehran says Israel's nuclear weapons are the biggest threat to peace and security in West Asia and the world.

<https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2024/09/05/732695/Iran-Israel-Amir-Saeid-Iravani-UN-General-Assembly-International-Day-Nuclear-Tests-annihilation-arsenal-NPT-IAEA-safeguards-CTBT>

#### **Chamran 1 satellite stabilized in orbit, moving in its path: Iranian official**

*Islamic Republic News Agency, September 14, 2024*

Iranian defence ministry official Commodore Amir Rastegari has said that Chamran 1 research satellite has been

stabilized in orbit and is moving in its path. The domestically-built satellite, which weighs 60 kg, was successfully placed at an orbit of 550 km on September 14. Rastegari, the managing director of Iran Electronics Industries – affiliated to the defence ministry – said during a TV interview on September 14, night that Chamran 1 has been monitored four times since it was launched earlier in the day. The monitoring shows that the satellite has been stabilized and is moving in its path, he added. The official said that Chamran 1 is the first Iranian-made spacecraft whose orbit can be changed after launch. "The satellites that we have so far launched into space were mainly active in the field of imaging and telecommunications, and when they were placed in orbit, we were not able to change and move the orbit and we did not have orbital maneuverers for the sent satellites", he explained. Chamran 1 was put into orbit using the Qaem-100 satellite carrier, a solid-fueled space launch vehicle developed by the aerospace experts of the Islamic Revolution Gards Corps (IRGC).

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85596518/Chamran-1-satellite-stabilized-in-orbit-moving-in-its-path>

### I. Iraq

#### **Iraq ministry of defence orders 12 airbus H225M helicopters**

*Times Aerospace, September 9, 2024*

The contract was signed in Baghdad by the Minister of Defence of Iraq Thabet al-Abbassi in the presence of the French Ambassador Patrick Durel. These helicopters will be operated by the Iraqi Army Aviation command replacing older Mi-17s for a wider range of missions: counter-terrorism, special operations, tactical troop transport, attack, ground fire support, MEDEVAC and combat search and rescue. Deliveries will start in 2025. Iraq already operates a fleet of Airbus helicopters from the H125, H135 and H145 families. "We are very pleased to welcome a new member in the H225M family," said Bruno Even, CEO of Airbus Helicopters. "The H225M is a combat-proven platform used around the world by many operators,

including the French Air Force, for combat search and rescue missions. It has proven its worth and saved many lives since entering into service," he added. "The H225M is unmatched in terms of range, payload and also mission systems. It has been designed to operate challenging missions in the most demanding environments. We are looking forward to seeing the H225M contribute to Iraq's safety and sovereignty."

<https://www.timesaerospace.aero/news/defence/iraq-ministry-of-defence-orders-12-airbus-h225m-helicopters>

### **Iraq to purchase eight South Korean M-SAM air defence systems worth \$2.63 billion**

*Global Defense News, September 12, 2024*

According to Defence Arabic on September 9, 2024, Iraqi Defence Minister Thabet Al-Abbasi announced that the contract for the South Korean Cheongung-II (M-SAM II) air defence missile system has been finalized and will be signed next week. According to Heo Baek-yoon, the contract involves eight batteries of this system, also known as the "Korean Patriot," and is expected to be worth around 3.5 trillion Korean won, or approximately \$2.63 billion. This marks another step in expanding South Korea's defence exports in the Middle East, following previous deals with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia. The KM-SAM is part of a multi-layered defence strategy, targeting both aircraft and ballistic missiles with guidance systems that combine inertial navigation, midcourse updates, and terminal active radar homing.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/army-news/army-news-2024/iraq-to-purchase-eight-south-korean-m-sam-air-defense-systems-worth-2-63-billion-next-week>

#### **J. Israel**

### **Israeli defence companies showcase in India advanced tech to counter drone threats**

*The Economic Times, September 5, 2024*

An event in New Delhi saw nine Israeli defence companies showcasing advanced

technologies to counter drone threats. The seminar, held from September 2 to 4, aimed to enhance security cooperation between Israel and India. Representatives from both countries' defence ministries and industries participated, focusing on addressing the growing threat of drones in security and criminal aspects. Israel, India strengthens security ties through advanced cooperation against drone threats. Seeking to enhance security cooperation between Israel and India in combating drone threat, an event was held here during which nine Israeli defence companies showcased advanced technologies to counter such threats, according to an official statement issued on September 5. The seminar from September 2 to 4 featured participation from the representatives and senior officials from Israel's Ministry of Defence, economic and security attaches, and representatives from India's Ministry of Defence, and defence and civilian industries from both countries, the statement issued by the Israeli Embassy here said. The seminar focused on "addressing the growing threat of drones", both in security and criminal aspects, which poses a significant challenge to the security forces worldwide due to their ability to be used for intelligence gathering, weapon carrying and precise attacks, it added. Throughout the seminar, nine Israeli defence companies showcased advanced technologies to counter the drone threat.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/israeli-defence-companies-showcase-in-india-advanced-tech-to-counter-drone-threats/articleshow/113102583.cms?from=mdr>

### **Ballistic missile fired from Yemen triggers sirens across central Israel**

*Times of Israel, September 15, 2024*

A surface-to-surface ballistic missile was fired at central Israel from Yemen by the Iran-backed Houthis on September 15. The missile attack set off sirens across central Israel at around 6:30 a.m., with alerts heard from the east of Tel Aviv to Modiin. The military made several

attempts to intercept the missile, the Israel Defence Forces said, though the results of the attempts were still being investigated. The IDF said the ballistic missile fell apart in the air over Israel, citing an initial probe. "From a preliminary examination, it appears that the missile apparently disintegrated in the air," the military said in a statement.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/ballistic-missile-fired-from-yemen-triggers-sirens-across-central-israel/>

### **PM said to warn Israel faces 'large-scale confrontation' with Hezbollah in near future**

*Times of Israel, September 15, 2024*

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was said to have warned security chiefs during a strategic discussion on September 12, that Israel was facing a "large-scale confrontation" with Hezbollah in the north of the country, a possibility that he contended would not diminish the military pressure on Hamas in Gaza. According to Channel 13 news, Netanyahu believes that Israel is headed for an inevitable all-out confrontation with Hezbollah, as a diplomatic solution that could bring an end to the near-daily cross-border clashes with the Lebanese terror group remains elusive. Citing an unnamed Netanyahu associate, Channel 13 reported that no timeline had been established for the expected confrontation, which has been promised by top officials for months, and as such, it could be in weeks or months from now.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/pm-said-to-warn-israel-faces-large-scale-confrontation-with-hezbollah-in-near-future/>

### **K. Jordan**

### **JODDB partners with UK's SAE media group to hold 1st counter-drone technology conference in July**

*Jordan News Agency, September 4, 2024*

The spokesperson for the Jordan Design and Development Bureau (JODDB), Head of Sales and Business Strategy Department,

Ratib Abu Al-Ragheb, announced a Jordanian-British partnership to hold a conference and exhibition for counter-drone technology, the first of its kind in the region, through a partnership between JODDB and UK's SAE Media Group in July. Abu Al-Ragheb said that the conference was held in two countries, the United States of America and the UK, and will be held for the first time in the Middle East in Jordan under the patronage and support of the Jordan Armed Forces (JAF) - Arab Army, and the JODDB. Abu Al-Ragheb added, "We, in JODDB, seek to be leaders in organizing such events and highlighting the development in the Kingdom with this technology and the development in the defence and technological industries in general," pointing out that such events contribute effectively to economic, tourism, and investment development." He said that the conference will discuss all existing challenges, given the great acceleration in technology and challenges, and the emergence of new types of wars such as hybrid warfare, sixth wars and cyber warfare, due to the presence of drones that have changed the nature of these wars.

[https://www.petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=63166&lang=en&name=en\\_news](https://www.petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=63166&lang=en&name=en_news)

### **L. Bahrain**

### **Foreign Minister highlights Bahrain-US strategic agreement's impact**

*Bahrain News Agency, September 13, 2024*

Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani emphasised the positive outcomes of the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement between Bahrain and the United States, one year after its signing. He highlighted its role in strengthening the strategic partnership between the two nations, fostered under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and US President Joe Biden. Dr. Al Zayani noted the agreement's strategic benefits, particularly in defence and security

cooperation. He commended the efforts of His Highness Lieutenant-General Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, National Security Advisor and Royal Guard Commander, in overseeing its implementation. The agreement has also enhanced economic cooperation, trade, technology, and cybersecurity, with a focus on digital infrastructure and the “Cloud Computing First” policy.

<https://www.bna.bh/en/news?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwIzON1%2BDup%2FTeZVMAQxcxpCjvM4FEU%3D>

### **Bahrain secures USD 16.65 million in investments from Indian companies**

*Business Standard, September 13, 2024*

With the support of Team Bahrain, the Bahrain Economic Development Board (Bahrain EDB) has secured investment commitments valued at USD 16.65 million from three leading India-based companies across the sectors of manufacturing, renewable energy, and ICT. The announcements were made during Bahrain EDB’s ongoing week-long visit to Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai, designed to strengthen bilateral economic ties and attract foreign direct investment to Bahrain

[https://www.business-standard.com/content/press-releases-ani/bahrain-secures-usd-16-65-million-in-investments-from-indian-companies-124091300887\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/content/press-releases-ani/bahrain-secures-usd-16-65-million-in-investments-from-indian-companies-124091300887_1.html)

### **M. Cyprus**

### **Cyprus and the US sign a defence deal outlining ways to tackle regional crises**

*Arab Times, September 10, 2024*

Cyprus and the United States have signed a defence cooperation framework agreement that outlines ways the two countries can enhance their response to regional humanitarian crises and security concerns, including those arising from climate change. Cyprus Defence Minister Vassilis Palmas and US Assistant Secretary of Defence for International Security Affairs Celeste

Wallander hailed the agreement on September 9, another milestone in burgeoning Cypriot-US ties in recent years that saw the lifting in 2022 of a decades-old US arms embargo imposed on the east Mediterranean island nation. “The Republic of Cyprus is a strong partner to the United States, in Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean, and plays a pivotal role at the nexus of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East,” Wallander said after talks with Palmas.

<https://www.arabtimesonline.com/news/cyprus-and-the-us-sign-a-defence-deal-outlining-ways-to-tackle-regional-crises/>

### **N. Kuwait**

### **Kuwait concludes naval drill aimed at repelling hostile acts**

*Kuwait News Agency, September 13, 2024*

The Ministry of Interior on September 13, declared conclusion of the naval drill, “bahri-5,” that involved boats of the coast guards, the navy and police aircraft. The exercise aimed at elevating level of the combat preparedness of the naval forces and bolstering their capacities to safeguard the territorial waters, marine regions and robustly resist any threat from hostile forces and foiling smuggling bids. Participating personnel fired live ammunition, deployed light and heavy arms during the drill.

<https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=3181305&Language=en>

### **Kuwait to join IAEA “Rays of Hope” initiative as regional center**

*Kuwait News Agency, September 15, 2024*

Kuwait has reached an initial agreement to join as a regional center for the Rays of Hope initiative launched by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to help low- and middle-income countries and enhance their ability to obtain cancer treatment. In remarks to KUNA September 15, the Head of the Radiotherapy and Oncology Department at the center and the head of the Kuwaiti



delegation to Vienna, Dr. Yasser Hassan, confirmed that the visit aimed to meet with technical officials from the IAEA to discuss the development of radiotherapy techniques, the importance of this step in establishing new partnerships that work to expand capabilities in the field of radiotherapy. He noted that the preliminary agreement allows Kuwait, represented by the Department of Radiotherapy and Oncology, to join as a representative center in the region within the innovative initiative of the Atomic Energy Agency (Rays of Hope).

<https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=3182474&language=en#>

### **Kuwait naval deputy chief commander meets UAE, Saudi peers**

*Kuwait News Agency, September 15, 2024*

The Ministry of Defence announced, Sunday that Rear Admiral of the Naval Force Saif Al-Hamlan made two official visits to the sisterly UAE and Saudi Arabia. During the visits, Al-Hamlan met with Commander of the UAE Naval Forces, Rear Admiral Pilot Sheikh Saeed bin Hamdan Al-Nahyan of the UAE, and Commander of the Eastern Fleet of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces, Rear Admiral Sajer Al-Enezi. A Ministry statement said the visits; that took place last week, came within the framework of strengthening joint military cooperation, during which training and exchanging experiences were discussed, in addition to coordination among GCC naval commands to enhance joint maritime operational capabilities.

<https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=3182501&language=en>

### **O. Lebanon**

### **Hezbollah rains rockets on Israeli base near Tiberias after Kfar Rumman airstrike**

*Naharnet, September 15, 2024*

Hezbollah said September 14, that it fired dozens of Katyusha rockets at an Israeli artillery and precision missile base in Yiftah Elifelet northwest of Lake Tiberias, deep in

northern Israel. It said the attack was a response to an overnight Israeli airstrike that wounded ten people in the Nabatieh district town of Kfar Rumman. Hezbollah had earlier said that it fired Katyusha rockets at an Israeli base in Ami'ad near Safad in response to a deadly strike on the West Bekaa town of al-Ahmadiyah. The group also targeted a tank in the occupied Shebaa Farms in response to that attack. An Israeli drone meanwhile targeted the southern border town of Mays al-Jabal after an overnight Israeli airstrike on the forest of the town of Kounine. The Israeli army for its part said that it attacked rocket launchers that were used to target northern Israel overnight and on Saturday morning, describing the empty building targeted in Kfar Rumman as a "military building." It also said that it fired artillery shells at several areas in south Lebanon.

<https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/308002-hezbollah-rains-rockets-on-israeli-base-near-tiberias-after-kfar-rumman-airstrike>

### **P. Oman**

### **Oman signs technical cooperation framework document with IAEA**

*Times of Oman, September 11, 2024*

The Sultanate of Oman and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) signed in Vienna the Technical Cooperation Framework document for the period 2024-2029. The cooperation framework, the third document signed by Oman, comprises cooperation programmes in the fields of radiation safety, agriculture, food safety, human health, water resources, environment and cultural heritage. The step reflects keenness to meet the objectives of Oman Vision 2040. The document was signed by Yousef Ahmed Al Jabri, Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the International Atomic Energy Agency, and Hua Liu, Deputy Director General of the IAEA Technical Cooperation.

<https://timesofoman.com/article/149748-oman-signs-technical-cooperation-framework-document-with-iaea>

## **Indian Army contingent departs for India- Oman joint military exercise Al Najah v**

*Ministry of Defence, September 12, 2024*

The Indian Army contingent departed the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of India-Oman Joint Military Exercise al najah. The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 13<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at Rabkoot Training Area in Salalah, Oman. Exercise al najah has been held biennially since 2015, alternating between India and Oman. Last edition of the same exercise was conducted at Mahajan in Rajasthan. The Indian Army contingent comprising 60 personnel is being represented by a Battalion of the Mechanised Infantry Regiment along with personnel from other arms and services. The Royal Army of Oman contingent also comprising of 60 personnel will be represented by the troops of Frontier Force. Aim of the Joint Exercise is to enhance joint military capability of both sides to undertake counter terrorism operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. The exercise will focus on operations in the Desert environment.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2054052>

### **Q. Saudi Arabia**

## **Saudi Arabia and South Africa are close to signing MoU in space industry**

*Saudi Gazette, September 12, 2024*

South Africa's Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Dr Bonginkosi Blade Nzimande announced that his country and Saudi Arabia are close to signing a new memorandum of understanding in the field of space industry, which will be implemented by the space agencies from both the countries. Speaking to Asharq Al-Awsat, he said that South Africa is keen to expand cooperation with the Kingdom in the field of developing joint satellites. He pointed out that this cooperation coincides with Saudi Arabia's efforts to enhance its capabilities in space sciences, including the recent establishment

of the Space Weather Center in South Africa.

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/645479>

## **Saudi Arabia, Qatar sign agreement to exchange security information**

*Saudi Gazette, September 12, 2024*

Saudi Arabia and Qatar have signed a cooperation agreement to exchange personal data and information for security purposes. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has also been signed between the ministries of Interior in the two countries for cooperation in the field of scientific, training and research activities. Saudi Interior Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud and Sheikh Khalifa Al Thani, Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force in Qatar, held official talks at the Qatari Ministry of Interior in Doha. Several topics of common interest were discussed, and cooperation between the two countries in the security fields and ways to support and develop them were reviewed.

<https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/645473>

### **R. Turkiye**

## **Turkey advances plan for a national air-defence shield**

*Defense News, September 11, 2024*

Turkey has finalized key plans for its Çelik Kubbe – Steel Dome – air defence system, a project designed to enhance the nation's airspace security with advanced, multilayered defence capabilities. The decision came during the second meeting of the Defence Industry Executive Committee (SSIK), chaired by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan last month. The Steel Dome aims to integrate a wide range of air defence assets, creating a real-time operational picture and enabling centralized control with the help of artificial intelligence. The Steel Dome is a domestic initiative developed by Aselsan in collaboration with Roketsan and Turkish government research institute

Tubitak Sage. It brings together existing and future sensors, communication networks, and weapons under one system for comprehensive airspace protection. The project's goal is to establish a unified defence network capable of defending Turkey against emerging aerial threats like drones and missiles.

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2024/09/11/turkey-advances-plan-for-a-national-air-defense-shield/>

### **S. Southeast Asia**

#### **China holds intensive naval interactions with ASEAN members**

*Global Times, September 8, 2024*

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) recently held intensive naval interactions including joint exercises and warship visits with several ASEAN member states, a move experts said has enhanced regional security cooperation amid tensions stirred up by the Philippines. A China-Singapore joint flotilla recently held a farewell ceremony in waters near Zhanjiang, South China's Guangdong Province, wrapping up the successful Exercise Cooperation 2024, the PLA Navy said. Warships from the two sides practiced joint strikes against maritime targets as well as search and rescue, and enhanced their tacit understandings.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202409/1319473.shtml>

#### **Vietnam weighs resuming nuclear power development plans**

*Reuters, September 13, 2024*

Vietnam is considering resuming plans to develop nuclear power to ensure national energy security and to support economic growth, according to a government document reviewed by Reuters. The Southeast Asian country, a regional industrial hub heavily reliant on coal for power generation, is also seeking to boost its cleaner energy production to meet its net zero target by 2050. "The Ministry of Industry and Trade is to conduct research on the nuclear power development

experience of other countries and make a proposal to develop nuclear power in Vietnam," according to the document.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/vietnam-consider-nuclear-power-development-govt-office-document-2024-09-13/>

#### **IAEA Mission to Thailand Finds a Robust Framework for Nuclear Security Arrangements, Encourages Improvements**

*IAEA, September 13, 2024*

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) completed an advisory service mission to Thailand focused on assessing the country's nuclear security regime for nuclear and other radioactive material out of regulatory control (MORC). The INSServ team said the country has established a robust framework to manage MORC and provided recommendations and suggestions on how specific aspects of the national nuclear security regime implementation, such as a risk-informed national detection strategy, coordination among stakeholders and the nuclear security culture, could be more effectively addressed.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-mission-to-thailand-finds-a-robust-framework-for-nuclear-security-arrangements-encourages-improvements>

#### **Indonesia to establish nuclear organization this year**

*Xinhua, September 10, 2024*

Indonesia will establish the Nuclear Energy Program Implementation Organization (NEPIO) this year, the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry announced. The plan to establish NEPIO, which targets building a 250-megawatt nuclear power plant by 2032, will be presented by the ministry to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria next week. "NEPIO will be responsible for planning identification, overseeing construction, and developing regulations for the security of nuclear facilities to ensure their optimal



operation,” said Eniya Listiani Dewi, director general of New Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation at the ministry.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20240910/c98ae6de85a443c8aa7ae2b91a02fbf3/c.html>

### **T. Africa**

#### **NEA visits Kenya to explore co-operation, participates in discussions on advancing nuclear energy programmes in Africa**

*Nuclear Energy Agency, September 6, 2024*

An NEA delegation led by Director-General William D. Magwood, IV visited Kenya on 21-30 August 2024 to see firsthand the progress made in developing the country's nuclear energy programme, which foresees the construction and commissioning of its first nuclear power plant as well as a research reactor in the next decade. An NEA delegation led by Director-General William D. Magwood, IV visited Kenya on 21-30 August 2024 to see firsthand the progress made in developing the country's nuclear energy programme, which foresees the construction and commissioning of its first nuclear power plant as well as a research reactor in the next decade. During a meeting with James Keter and Omondi Anyanga, Director General and Chairman of the Kenya Nuclear Regulatory Authority (KNRA) respectively, Director-General Magwood exchanged views on opportunities and challenges associated with nuclear energy development in the country and discussed potential co-operation, especially in the areas of capacity building and knowledge sharing.

[https://www.oecd-neo.org/jcms/pl\\_95900/nea-visits-kenya-to-explore-co-operation-participates-in-discussions-on-advancing-nuclear-energy-programmes-in-africa](https://www.oecd-neo.org/jcms/pl_95900/nea-visits-kenya-to-explore-co-operation-participates-in-discussions-on-advancing-nuclear-energy-programmes-in-africa)

#### **Nuclear energy still a 'critical component' of SA energy mix**

*South African Government News Agency, September 12, 2024*

There is global affirmation that nuclear energy has a part to play in responding to

the question of climate change. This is according to Deputy Minister of Energy and Electricity Samantha Graham-Maré who was speaking during the Nuclear Seminar hosted by the department in Tshwane on September 12, 2024. “It is clear that nuclear is a critical component of South Africa's energy mix – offering a low carbon, reliable source of energy that can contribute significantly to the country's energy security and climate goals, she said. The Deputy Minister added that although new nuclear build is urgent for ensuring energy stability, the Ministry will not compromise on “public participation, adherence of statutory regulatory requirements and openness and transparency in decision making, procurement and the implementation of our new nuclear build”.

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/nuclear-energy-still-critical-component-sa-energy-mix>

#### **China shifts gear in Africa as it looks to a green future**

*BBC News, September 7, 2024*

While the influence of others on the continent is questioned - for instance, France and the rest of the EU are being shunned by the Sahelian military juntas, and Russia's mercenary-security “offer” is regarded with deep mistrust by pro-Western African governments - China has navigated a middle way. Delegations from more than 50 states from across the African continent decided it was worth making the trip to Beijing for the latest China-Africa summit - known as the Forum on China-Africa Co-operation (Focac) - this September. Dozens of leaders turned up - as well as UN chief António Guterres. For African governments resentful of the pressure to take sides in international disputes, China now appears as a refreshingly reliable partner, ready to collaborate without discrimination both with the allies of Moscow and with civilian-ruled states that are closer to Europe and the US.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy0r74j7j1wo>



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