

The Indo-Pacific Bulletin

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At a Glance

North Korea Launches Ballistic Missiles

Taiwan Announces Plans to Boost Defence Capability

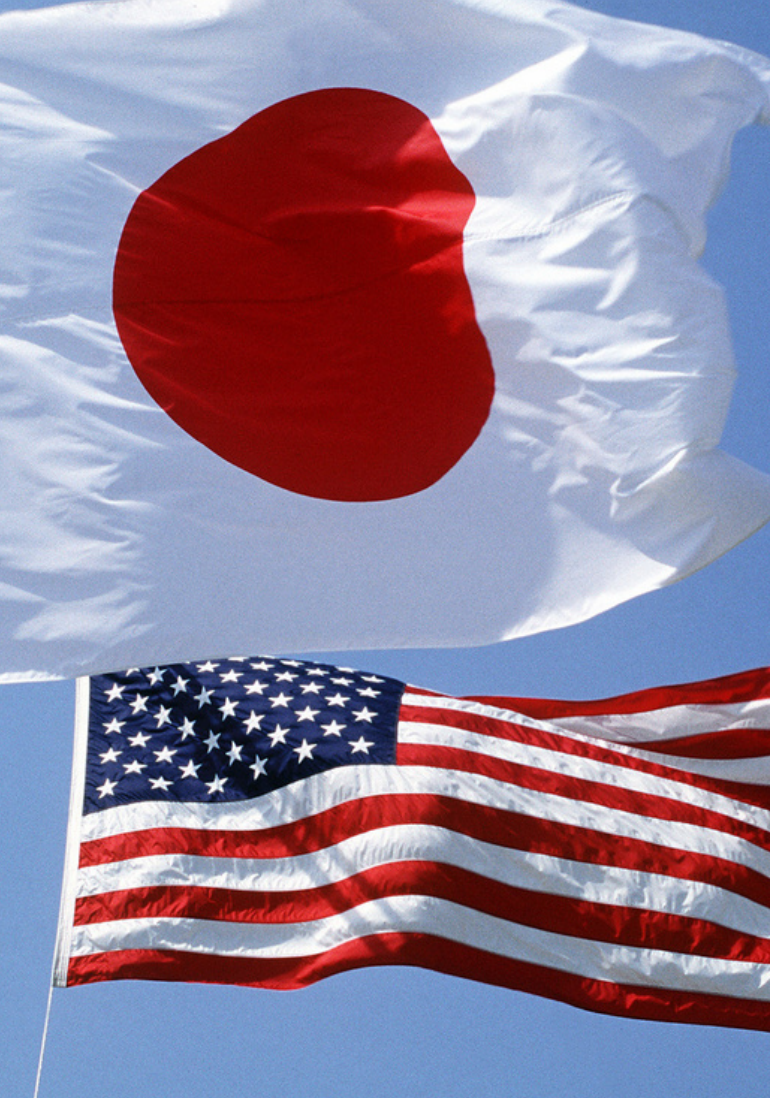
US and Japan Conduct Military Exercises



North Korea Launches Ballistic Missiles

On 9th October 2022, North Korea launched two short range ballistic missiles into the East Sea. The missiles were launched from Munchon in Kangwon Province. Both missiles travelled for a distance of 350 kilometres, with the maximum altitude of 90 km and speed of Mach 5. In addition to this, on 12th October, North Korea tested a pair of long range strategic cruise missiles. The missiles travelled for 2000 km, over the East Sea. The North Korean state media Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said that the goal of this test was to enhance the combat efficiency and might of the cruise missiles deployed to the Korean People’s Army for the operations of tactical nukes. According to KCNA, the North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has said that the tests were a warning to the enemies of North Korea. He also said that the DPRK should continue to expand the operational sphere of the nuclear forces to resolutely deter any crucial military crisis at any time.





US and Japan Conduct Military Exercises

The Japanese Defence Ministry announced that in light of the security environment, Japanese and American are holding a two week joint military exercises from October 1, 2022 onwards. The exercise consists of 2100 Japan's Ground Self Defence Forces and 1400 US Marines, along with US Marines' High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) and six MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft. The Japanese side firing 24 rockets travelling at a target of 13km away. The Japanese Joint Chief of Staff stated that "This bilateral exercise reaffirms the cooperation of GSDF and US Armed Forces, demonstrating the strong will, close and seamless cooperation between Japan and the US in responding to any situation, and further strengthens the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-US alliance."

Taiwan Announces Plans to Boost Defence Capability

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen negated armed confrontation with the People's Republic of China in her speech on the National Day of Taiwan on 10th October, while also announcing plans to mass-produce precision missiles and high-performance navy vessels, saying that Taiwan is fully prepared to respond to external military threats. She underlined that Chinese military activities in the South China Sea, East China Sea and the Taiwan Strait undermine peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. She also said that Taiwan would actively collaborate with countries across the Indo-Pacific region. The Taiwanese Defence Ministry has announced that they intend on building a new anti-submarine frigate and a similar vessel with anti-aircraft capabilities, which could be ready by 2026.

