

# The Indo-Pacific Bulletin

*The latest weekly developments in and around the region*

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## *At a Glance*

**CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS**

**SOUTH KOREA BEGINS THE HOGUK EXERCISE**

**NORTH KOREA FIRES ARTILLERY SHELLS**



## CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS

On 16th October 2022, 2300 delegates of the CCP met at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing for the 20th Party Congress to elect the Chinese Communist Party's top leadership, along with amending the Chinese constitution and approval of the China's policies for the next five years. The delegates of the CCP approved a reshuffle in some of the leadership positions although Xi's position remains absolutely intact. A new Central Committee was formed. During his speech, Xi defended China's zero COVID-19 policy, stating that this approach "puts the people and their lives above all else". On Taiwan, Xi stated that "The wheels of history are rolling on toward China's reunification and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Complete reunification of our country must be realized, and it can, without doubt, be realized." On China's global image, he stated that "A new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation is well under way, and a significant shift is taking place in the international balance of power, presenting China with strategic opportunities in pursuing development."



## SOUTH KOREA BEGINS THE HOGUK EXERCISE

On 17th October 2022, the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff announced that the armed forces of the Republic of Korea have begun the annual Hoguk theater-level field training exercises, with the goal to “master both wartime and peacetime mission performance capabilities by conducting real-world, day and night field training exercises which simulate countering North Korea’s nuclear, missile and other various threats.” The exercise will continue till 28th October, and will consist of the Navy, Army, Air Force and the Marine Corps. The Korea Herald reported that the US forces are also set to join this exercise to enhance further interoperability. The DPRK has responded by saying that this reckless and provocative drill would escalate military tensions on the Korean Peninsula.



## NORTH KOREA FIRES ARTILLERY SHELLS

On 14th October 2022, North Korea fired 560 artillery shells and a short range ballistic missile. The artillery firings took place in two waves, with 170 rounds fired in the middle of the night and another 390 in the late afternoon. In addition to this, on 19th October 2022 North Korea launched more artillery shells near its sea boundaries with South Korea, two days after South Korea began its annual Hoguk field training exercise. South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that North Korea fired about 100 shells off its west coast and 150 shells off its east coast. In addition to this, it was also stated that on both October 14th and 19th, the shells landed in the maritime buffer zones between North and South Korea.

