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CHINA

China publishes Global Security Initiative Concept Paper

On 22 February, China released a Concept Paper on the Global Security Initiative (GSI), which is Chinese President Xi Jinping's [flagship security proposal](#) that promotes a concept of "indivisible security". The [English translation](#) of the Paper available on the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website is a 3,472-word document and is divided into four sections. The proposed concept calls on the countries to adapt to the profoundly changing international situation and eliminate the root causes of conflict. Also, it lists respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, commitment to the principles of the UN Charter, sensitivity to legitimate security concerns of all countries and peaceful resolution of disputes with all countries through dialogue, as its core principles. It is noteworthy that the Paper was [released on the same day](#) as Wang Yi (China's top diplomat) visited Moscow and a few days ahead of Xi Jinping's peace speech, delivered on the first year anniversary of the Ukraine war. The Global Security Initiative was announced in April last year at the BOAO Forum and is considered by Western countries as [a tool to promote](#) Chinese global leadership.

China-Japan Security Dialogue

China and Japan [held](#) the 17th China-Japan Security Dialogue on 23 February. The Chinese side was led by Chinese Vice

Foreign Minister Sun Weidong while the Japanese side was represented by Shigeo Yamada. The last such Dialogue was held in 2019. According to a Chinese press release, Beijing [expressed concern](#) over Japan's military expansion, hyping of the "China threat" theory, strengthening of military and security ties with the US and repeated negative moves on Taiwan and the South China Sea. Reportedly, Japan too [expressed its concern](#) regarding Chinese spy balloons and intensifying military activities with Russia. Acknowledging the potential for development, the two sides agreed to continue to strengthen dialogue and communication for better bilateral relations.

PLA to Scuttle any Efforts at Taiwanese Independence

Defence spokesperson and Senior Colonel, Tan Kefei [asserted](#) during a regular press briefing that Taiwan is part of China and that Chinese people will resolve the Taiwan issue on their own discretion, without tolerating any foreign interference. Referring to ongoing discussions in the United States (US) about Chinese attacks on Taiwan, he remarked that the US will not be able to change the course of China's full reunification nor will it impact China's resolve to safeguard national reunification and territorial integrity. Moreover, if Taiwanese DPP authorities continue to collude with foreign forces and create provocations, the Chinese People's Liberation Army will take necessary action to safeguard national interests.

JAPAN

India-Japan Dharma Guardian hosted in Camp Imazu

The fourth edition of the India-Japan [Dharma Guardian](#) Exercise was conducted at Camp Imazu from 17 February to 2 March. The focus was on platoon-level joint training operations in jungle and semi urban/urban terrain. From the Indian Army side, the Garhwal Rifles Regiment participated in the Exercise. The aim was to share experiences and best practices in tactics, techniques and procedures of conducting tactical operations under a UN mandate, and augment interoperability in planning and execution between the two sides. In this edition of the Dharma Guardian Exercise, the priority was to engage in joint planning, joint tactical drills and the basics of establishing integrated surveillance grids, including employment of aerial assets. The previous edition of the Dharma Guardian Exercise was conducted during the Foreign Training Node in Karnataka between 27 February and 10 March 2022.

Chip 4 meeting held

With the aim of securing stable supply of semiconductors, the US, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan held their maiden [meeting of senior officials](#) under the Washington-led Chip 4 framework. On 16 February officials from industry organizations participated in the discussion, focussing on ways to preserve supply chain resilience amid natural disasters, and other

contingencies. The objective was to ease Chinese involvement. These four nations host the world's leading chipmakers and suppliers of relevant materials and equipment.

In September 2022, Washington organised a preliminary meeting of the group, following a global chip shortage caused by the pandemic. Additionally, there were apprehensions regarding a Taiwan contingency, and what could unfold in case Beijing attempts to take Taiwan. Meanwhile, the US had already imposed some export control measures high-end semiconductors and chip technologies that China could use to improve its military systems.

TAIWAN

Increase in Taiwan's missile production

Reportedly, Taiwan's [missile production is steadily increasing](#). Last year, Taiwan produced over 800 missiles. It is estimated that the number will reach 1000 in 2023. The National Chung Shan Institute of Science and Technology (NCSIST) leads Taiwanese missile production. On the maritime side, the Taiwanese Navy is reportedly "[planning to spend NT\\$10.1 billion \(US\\$332.77 million\) on a submarine rescue vessel](#)." Taiwan [signed two contracts](#) with the US for the maintenance of F-16 fighter jets. These deals will cost NT\$2.56 billion (US\$85.32 million). Separately, the US Marine Corps Commandant, David Berger, who proposed the establishment of "[multiple](#)

[marine littoral regiments](#)” in 2020, remarked last month that “[the 12th Marine Littoral Regiment could be deployed to the Taiwan Strait in case of a conflict](#).” Missiles and drones will be the mainstay of these units in place of heavy artillery and armour.

THE KOREAN PENINSULA

South Korea and the United States conduct Combined Air Drills

On 3 February, South Korea and the US conducted joint air drills using F-22 and F-35B stealth fighters. Reportedly, the [drills were carried](#) out over the Yellow Sea, only two days after the two countries staged air manoeuvres involving B-1B strategic bombers and F-22 and F-35B jets. According to a press release, the air exercises demonstrated America's invariable will and capability to keep its security commitment to South Korea. During both drills, South Korea used its [F-35A jets](#) to improve the combined operational capabilities and interoperability between the South Korean and US air forces. A day prior to the exercise, North Korea reportedly issued a warning, stating that it would react strongly to any military action by the US under the principle of "nuke for nuke and an all-out confrontation for an all-out confrontation." However, it is speculated that the drills were partly [conducted to put pressure](#) on Beijing to do more to restrain North Korean provocations because they were conducted over the Yellow Sea, which is not far from Chinese shores.

North Korea tests a Hwasong-15 Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)

In order to demonstrate North Korea's military readiness, Pyongyang tested a *Hwasong-15* intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) in a "sudden launching drill" on 18 February. According to [Al Jazeera](#), North Korea launched this missile after warning South Korea and the United States of an unprecedentedly strong response on 17 February. It further stated that the launch was carried out in accordance with an emergency firepower combat standby command, issued at dawn and a written directive from Kim Jong Un. Reportedly, the [missile flew 989 kilometres](#) (614 miles) for 4,015 seconds, reaching a maximum altitude of 5,768 kilometres (3,584 miles) before accurately hitting a pre-set area in open waters. In response to North Korea's ballistic missile launch, South Korea and the United States conducted a combined air drill involving a US strategic bomber, on 19 February.