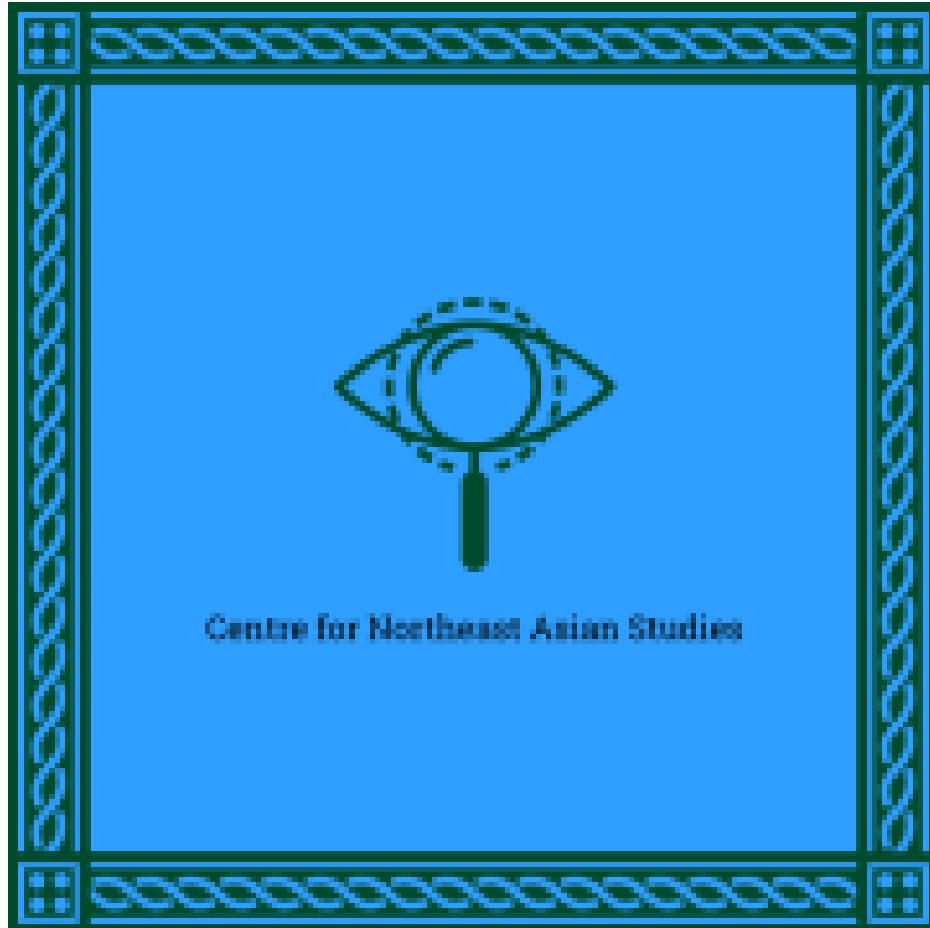


CENTRE FOR NORTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES
O P JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY



Centre for Northeast Asian Studies

Director

Sriparna Pathak

About CNEAS

The 21st century, oft referred to as the Asian century in international politics is so called owing to the rise of powerful economies from what was once seen as the ‘Orient’. Countries in Northeast Asia, be it the People’s Republic of China (PRC), Japan, Republic of China (ROC)/ Taiwan, South Korea or North Korea exert myriad types of influences on the international system. The various types of relationships among the countries of the Northeast Asian region also impact international politics as these range from conflicts over disputed islands, espionage, perceived historical injustices such as the Nanjing massacre to rising volumes of trades in the region to potential nuclear crises to balancing between acts of cooperation and conflict.

The history, culture, society and politics, all of which are different from that of the Western world become interesting aspects of study as all of this impact the posturing of the countries of the region in their respective foreign policies. Given the fact that India has active conflicts as well as partnerships with countries of the region, a better understanding of Northeast Asia from the lenses of

security to economics to diplomacy to culture becomes pertinent.

The Center for Northeast Asian Studies looks at the countries of the region with fine lenses to offer understandings beyond what is provided by Western literature and theories of international politics. Tools such as track 2 discussions, seminars, lectures, primary research, historical and archival studies, along with a reliance on the languages of the region are used to understand international relations.

About the Newsletter

The newsletter encompasses of six silos covering the issues under Economic & Trade, Foreign Policy & International Relations, Defence, Culture & Soft Power, Climate Change, Covid-19, Human Rights and Science & Technology

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Defense

US and Japan Military Alliance

December 2021 witnessed 2+2 meeting of Japanese and American military and foreign ministers sending the message of two allies marching in lockstep. An agreement, on Japanese host nation support for American forces stationed in Japan, for a shared approach to regional stability in the Indo-Pacific, a tough approach toward China, increased joint training and operations planning, and cooperation on modern weapons development were all highlighted in the joint statement.

The major issue with the alliance is the debate on whether Japan should spend on systems and troops for self-defense and offensive strikes against foreign targets or on longer-range ballistic and cruise missiles that can attack North Korean or even Chinese launch facilities. The American defensive experts favor the defensive system and give importance to "access denial" that will prevent the Chinese naval and air forces from accessing the waters around Japan. Also, protect Senkakus and the Ryuku Islands from the threat of Russian aggression.

The nations also stressed on the importance of a trilateral relation with South Korea for bringing in stability in the Indo-pacific region.

Asia Times

Vaishnavi Agarwal

South Korean Military to expand missile command in the face of NK missile threats

On February 10, South Korea's defense ministry made a public notice on its push for legislation to rename the current Army Missile Command to the Army Missile Strategic Command and expand its

headquarters and subordinate units. The renaming will be followed by reorganisation of the command with its commander's rank to be elevated to lieutenant general from the current major general. South Korean officials says that the raison d'etre for South Korea's military seeking to rename and reorganisation of its Army's missile unit is to better cope with North Korea's evolving missile threats. The reorganization is set for April this year.

Military officials have clarified that the call for reorganisation was taken after the growing demands by the public to secure strategic deterrence capabilities to proactively respond to "omnidirectional security threats." The decision to change organisation structure of South Korean missile command should be seen within the context of growing North Korean missile launches, including those involving a hypersonic missile and an intermediate-range ballistic missile since January this year.

Korea Herald

Anubhav S. Goswami

No additional THAAD deployment in South Korea: defense ministry

On February 7, Seoul's defense ministry told that South Korea and the United States are not considering the deployment of an additional THAAD anti-missile system in South Korea. The deployment of an additional THAAD system has become an issue of heated debate after Yoon Suk-yeol, the presidential candidate of the conservative main opposition People Power Party, pledged last month to push for an "additional THAAD deployment" following a series of North Korean missile tests. This position is in stark contrast to Presidential candidate of the ruling Democratic Party Lee Jae-myung who believes an additional THAAD deployment

would draw the ire of China, South Korea's largest trading partner.

The issue sprang up after media reported on government-commissioned research in 2015 that called for South Korea's military to acquire its own THAAD battery separately from the one currently run by the US Forces Korea (USFK). Defence ministry official commenting on the report stated that additional THAAD system is not required as South Korea's military has been developing its own interception system, called L-SAM (Long-range Surface-to-Air Missile), to establish a multi-layered, low-tier missile defense system.

Korea Herald

Anubhav S. Goswami

South Korea succeeds in developing adaptable Counter Missile System for large to small aircrafts



The South Korean state-run agency stated the nation has successfully developed and tested a missile defense system which enables

military aircrafts to dodge or disable missiles fired from portable surface-to-air. The system works with directional infrared countermeasures (DIRCM) which uses a laser beam to blind heat-sensitive missiles away from their targets. The technology is revolutionary as it reduces the response time to ensure protection against surface-to-air missiles from a close range. The Agency for Defense Development (ADD) in a statement mentioned "The system is significant that it has drastically shortened the response time, enabling aircraft to guard against portable surface-to-air missiles from a close range". The technology can also be installed in a larger aircraft but will have to be complemented with an enhanced system of stronger laser output.

Korea Times

Aditi Maurya

Culture & Soft Power

China attempts to promote human rights issues riddled Xinjiang as a winter wonderland



As Beijing Olympics kicked off in 2022, Chinese government has decided to build on Xinjiang as a nascent winter sports destination looking at a US \$157 billion

industry. Xinjiang has long been involved in human rights issues pertaining to detainment of more than one million individuals in internment camps and practice of forced labor. Beijing denies all allegations and claims the move to be "politicizing" of sports. A "ski fever" as mentioned by state media reports points to the quadrupled number of ski resorts from 2015 since Beijing won its bid to host the Winter Games. Xinjiang currently hosts around 72 ski resorts. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian stated, "China's policy of vigorously developing ice and snow sports and promoting people's health is benefiting people of all ethnic groups." Claims have been made that around 300 million Chinese have participated in winter activities and this number has been enthusiastically reiterated by President Thomas Bach of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Hong Kong Free Press
Aditi Maurya

COVID-19

Taiwan on the verge of dropping zero-covid policy; curbs to relax

On February 14, Taiwan government declared that it will soon aim to ease its strict COVID-19 quarantine policy from next month as the country needs to gradually resume normal life and reopen to the world. Premier Su Tseng-chang stated that the government was "quite confident" in its anti-pandemic measures.

The latest developments, thus, indicates relaxation of Taiwan's commitment to Covid-zero policy. Taiwan has maintained an isolationist policy to keep Covid cases from entering its borders. Since the pandemic

began two years ago, "Taiwan has succeeded in keeping reported cases of COVID-19 below 20,000, having enforced a blanket two-week quarantine for everyone arriving on the island even as large parts of the rest of the world have ditched theirs". With new measures to kick soon, Taiwanese health officials have said that he had asked the Central Epidemic Command Centre to "consider whether reasonable and appropriate adjustments" should be made to the quarantine policy and entry of businesspeople. Currently, plans are on to cut quarantine to 10 days before the middle of March.

Channel news asia News.com.au
Anubhav S. Goswami

The "3T" strategy of South Korea abandoned as infections soar



The government of South Korea has been forced to abandon the lauded COVID-19 "3T" strategy of testing, tracing and treatment dubbed as "K-quarantine" as the nation's sees soaring infections of Omicron variant. The government began discarding previous tactics to implement new measures from late January creating a focus on vulnerable groups. There is an adoption of a wider utilization of rapid antigen tests and limiting PCR tests for high-risk groups.

The health ministry plans to implement better measures as it has resulted in longer waiting

time and confusion at screening centers. Patients are now requested to “self-contact trace” system where they can fill out a questionnaire about their visits and contacts. Authorities are also contemplating whether to scrap the system of QR codes and visitor logs which helped in speeding up tracing at multiuse facilities. Daily check-ups are now being provided only to those aged 60 and above with a history of chronic illness. The government has also recommended citizens to prepare a home kit consisting of necessary medications and instruments like fever reducers and thermometers as such resources will only be provided to high-risk patients.

Korea Times
Aditi Maurya

Science & Technology

Developing Artificial Sun

By 2026, the Korean government plans to build technology for Korea's first artificial sun, the 'KSTAR,' which will maintain a temperature of 100 million degrees for 300 seconds. The minimal time necessary for the commercialization of nuclear fusion technology is 300 seconds.

On the 30th, the Ministry of Science and ICT reported that the 16th National Fusion Committee was held at the Korea Institute of Fusion Energy to conclude the '4th fundamental plan of nuclear fusion energy development (2022-2026).' Every five years, the science ministry establishes goals and directions for nuclear fusion energy development.

The underlying principle by which the artificial sun generates light and heat is nuclear fusion. By artificially implementing this principle on Earth through KSTAR, the

government hopes to produce power such as electricity.

In 2018, a Korean research team was the first to keep KSTAR at 100 million degrees for 1.5 seconds. Last year, it was able to maintain a temperature of 100 million degrees for 20 seconds, and this year, it was able to do it for 30 seconds. Following up on last year's record, Korea has set a new world record this year. If KSTAR's record-setting high temperature is any indication, it's still possible for humans to make nuclear fusion

[Phy.org](https://www.phy.org)
Vaishnavi Agarwal