

Far and Wide

Every week we share selection of six news from six continents that we believe will impact our world in the near or distant future

April 2024 | Issue #46



Could India's homemade BrahMos missiles make it Asia's top defence supplier?

Welcome to the latest edition of Far and Wide, where we embark on a journey to explore intriguing stories and global developments.

India has taken a significant stride towards bolstering its defence exports and achieving self-reliance in **defence manufacturing by delivering BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles** to the Philippines, marking a milestone in **India's 'Make-in-India' initiative and its aspirations to become a key defence supplier in Asia.**

The **\$375 million deal reflects deepening military ties between India and Manila** amid concerns over China's assertiveness. With **over 76% of BrahMos missiles now indigenously manufactured, India aims for 100% indigenization by 2026**, showcasing its technological prowess. The BrahMos missile, a joint venture between India's DRDO and Russia's NPOM, is the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile, capable of being launched from multiple platforms. Its versatility and unmatched speed have attracted interest from **over 12 countries, with India projected to export \$3 billion worth of BrahMos missiles by 2026.**

India is also exploring opportunities to export its Tejas fighter jets, aligning with its vision to enhance defence export potential. Collaborative efforts with Russia and the US on hypersonic technology highlight India's commitment to advancing its defence capabilities. Despite promising growth in defence exports, challenges such as expediting 'Make in India' projects and attracting more foreign investment remain.

Nevertheless, India's strides in defence manufacturing, exemplified by the success of the BrahMos missile, underscore its growing stature as a defence exporter and a key player in the global defence market, symbolizing its quest for self-reliance and strategic autonomy.

INSIDE

Stories in Focus



Sustainability

Exploring Clean Hydrogen Tax Credits in North America

New EU rules to reduce, reuse and recycle packaging

Japan and Brazil to sign decarbonization deal at May summit



Global Trade & Economy

Can homemade BrahMos propel India to become Asia's top defence supplier?

China, Australia discuss FTA implementation



Health

WHO Global Malaria Programme launches new operational strategy



Europe

New EU rules to reduce, reuse and recycle packaging



The recently approved regulation, aimed at addressing the escalating waste crisis, standardizing **market regulations**, and **advancing the circular economy**, received strong support with **476 votes in favor, 129 against, and 24 abstentions**. The regulation focuses on reducing packaging waste and restricting certain types, with targets set for **reductions by 2030, 2035, and 2040, particularly in plastic packaging**. Notable provisions include **banning specific single-use plastic packaging** types by 2030 and limiting "forever chemicals" in food contact packaging.

Additionally, the regulation **encourages the adoption of reuse and refill options** for consumers and mandates recyclability criteria for most packaging materials. It also sets minimum recycled **content targets for plastic packaging** and mandates increased waste collection and recycling efforts

Source: European Parliament News

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20240419IPR20589/new-eu-rules-to-reduce-reuse-and-recycle-packaging>

The rapporteur, Frédérique Ries, **emphasized the groundbreaking nature of the regulation** and highlighted its exemptions for micro-enterprises. The agreement awaits formal approval by the Council before implementation. The regulation signals a significant step forward in the EU's commitment to combating excessive packaging and promoting sustainable practices across industries.



North America

Exploring Clean Hydrogen Tax Credits in North America

The move towards **clean hydrogen in North America** is gaining traction, buoyed by recent legislative support such as the **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in the US**, and Canada's Clean Hydrogen Investment Tax Credit (ITC). These measures have spurred a wave of **hydrogen initiatives across the region**. In the US, the IRA introduced the **Section 45V Clean Hydrogen Production Tax Credit, incentivizing domestic clean hydrogen production for a decade**. The credit varies based on **projects' lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions**, with green hydrogen receiving the highest credit.

However, proposed regulations on the tax credit, focusing on incrementality, deliverability, and temporal matching, have sparked industry debate. **Canada's strategy revolves around a refundable investment tax credit** outlined in Budget 2023, offering varying support levels based on project cleanliness.

The Canadian **Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association** welcomed the initiative but **called for further clarity**. The **3rd annual World Hydrogen North America Congress**, slated for May 21 to May 23, 2024, in Houston, Texas, aims to unite stakeholders to address challenges, foster partnerships, and accelerate the energy transition, featuring discussions on hydrogen derivatives, end-use, and hubs.



Source: Renewables Now

<https://renewablesnow.com/news/exploring-clean-hydrogen-tax-credits-in-north-america-855561/>



South America

Japan and Brazil to sign decarbonization deal at May summit

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is set to visit Brazil in May to sign a cooperation agreement on decarbonization, focusing on biofuel technologies and deforestation combat. This marks the first Japanese leader's visit to Brazil since 2016. The deal, part of the Green Partnership Initiative, aims to boost bilateral cooperation in green technologies. Kishida will lead a delegation of over 40 companies to explore investment opportunities in Brazil.

As Brazil chairs the G20 this year and hosts COP30 in 2025, it's prioritizing climate action and sustainable development. Biofuels are central to the agreement, with Japan eyeing increased imports from Brazil, the world's second-largest bioethanol producer. Japanese companies, including Toyota and Mitsui & Co., are ramping up investments in Brazil's biofuel sector.

Source: NIKKEI ASIA

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Japan-and-Brazil-to-sign-decarbonization-deal-at-May-summit>

The initiative aligns with Japan's Strategic Energy Plan and Brazil's goal of environmentally conscious growth, including efforts to protect the Amazon and curb deforestation.



Asia

Can homemade BrahMos propel India to become Asia's top defence supplier?

India's delivery of **BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles** to the Philippines underscores its commitment to enhancing defence exports and achieving self-reliance, marking a milestone in military cooperation amid regional tensions.

With over **76% of BrahMos now indigenously manufactured** and plans to reach 100% by 2026, India showcases its technological prowess and commitment to the 'Make in India' initiative. The BrahMos missile, a joint venture between **India's DRDO and Russia's NPOM**, is hailed as a technological marvel, attracting interest from over 12 countries for potential exports.

India's partnership with **Russia in the BrahMos joint venture**, along with collaborations with the US on hypersonic technology, demonstrates its **strategic alliances and potential to emerge as a key player** in the global defence market.

Despite promising growth in defence exports, India faces challenges **such as expediting 'Make in India' projects and attracting more foreign direct investment**. However, with **ongoing technological advancements and strategic alliances**, India is poised to become a significant defence supplier in Asia, symbolizing its **quest for self-reliance and strategic autonomy in the defence sector**.



Source: Economic Times

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/can-homemade-brahmos-propel-india-to-become-asias-top-defence-supplier/articleshow/109532839.cms?from=mdr>



Australia

China, Australia discuss FTA implementation

Senior trade officials from **China and Australia** have pledged to enhance the effectiveness of the **China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** and deepen **economic and trade cooperation between the two nations**. During the second meeting of the **China-Australia FTA Joint Committee in Canberra**, both sides recognized the achievements made under the agreement and emphasized its significant role in **fostering bilateral economic relations**.

Discussions at the meeting covered the implementation of the FTA across various sectors such as **goods, services, investment, finance, and sanitary measures**. Both parties engaged in detailed discussions on mutual concerns and explored future plans for the agreement.

Source: Daiji World

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=1185658>

The meeting, co-chaired by **Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Li Fei** and **Deputy Secretary of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade George Mina**, aimed to strengthen collaboration and advance economic ties between China and Australia.



Africa

WHO Global Malaria Programme launches new operational strategy

The WHO Global Malaria Programme released a **new operational strategy ahead of World Malaria Day**, outlining priorities and **activities up to 2030** to address stalled progress in combating malaria, which still claims hundreds of thousands of lives annually, with **young children in Africa disproportionately affected**.

The strategy focuses on four key objectives: developing norms and standards, introducing new tools and innovation, promoting strategic information for impact, and providing technical leadership. Emphasizing equity, the strategy highlights country ownership and resilient health systems as essential for success, with a focus on ensuring equitable access to quality health services, particularly in vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations.

This **equity-centered approach aligns with the theme of World Malaria Day 2024** and the Yaoundé Declaration, signed by African Ministers of Health, which aims to ensure all at-risk populations receive necessary tools and interventions, even in conflict and humanitarian settings.



Source: WHO

<https://www.who.int/news/item/23-04-2024-who-global-malaria-programme-launches-new-operational-strategy>