



CLAWS Newsletter



Türkiye Defence Dispatch

by Aishwarya Airy



About us

The Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) is an independent think tank based in New Delhi, India, dedicated to strategic studies and land warfare in the Indian context. Established in 2004 and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, CLAWS operates as a membership-based organization governed by a Board of Governors and an Executive Council, under the Aegis of the Indian Army.

With a futuristic outlook and a policy-oriented approach, CLAWS focuses on national security issues, conventional military operations, and sub-conventional warfare. The Centre closely monitors regional conflicts and military developments within India's strategic frontiers, particularly in South Asia.

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The CLAWS Newsletter is a newly fortnightly series under the leadership of Dr. Tara Kartha, Director Research & Academics. The newsletter features insightful content curated by CLAWS researchers, each specializing in their respective verticals. This initiative aims to provide in-depth analysis, strategic insights, and updates on key issues.

TURKEY DEFENCE DISPATCH

Newsletter (February 01-15)

DEFENCE & SECURITY

1. Aselsan Elektronik Sanayi to Expand Overseas via M&A Push (Feb 4, [Bloomberg](#))

Turkey's Aselsan Elektronik Sanayi plans to expand into at least five new countries in 2026, driven by rising exports and strong investor interest that has pushed its shares to record highs. The company, Turkey's largest defence electronics manufacturer, is bidding for projects across Europe and within the NATO sphere, reflecting the growing international footprint of Turkey's defence industry.

Speaking to Bloomberg on the sidelines of the Global Defense Industry Strategies Conference in Antalya, Aselsan Chief Executive Officer Ahmet Akyol said the company aims to move away from its long-standing reliance on joint ventures and instead pursue mergers and acquisitions abroad. According to Akyol, both Aselsan and the broader Turkish defence sector have reached a scale that can support such overseas expansion plans. Aselsan reported a sharp rise in overseas sales, which increased 89% to \$958 million in 2025 from \$508 million in 2024, according to Chief Executive Officer Ahmet Akyol, speaking ahead of the company's official earnings announcement expected in late February. New export contracts signed during 2025 more than doubled year-on-year, reaching a total value of \$2.69 billion.

Separately, Aselsan is planning to establish a new production facility in Ankara with an estimated investment of \$1.5 billion. The facility is expected to employ approximately 10,000 workers and form part of the company's efforts to scale up manufacturing capacity alongside rising domestic and international demand.

2. Türkiye–Egypt Sign \$350 Million Defense Deal, Formalise Military Framework (Feb 10, [Defense News](#), [Military Africa](#))

Türkiye and Egypt have signed a \$350 million defence cooperation package following Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's official visit to Cairo, marking a significant expansion of bilateral military ties after years of strained relations. The agreements were concluded during the second meeting of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council, co-chaired by Erdoğan and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, at the Al Ittihadiya Palace.

At the core of the reset is a Military Framework Agreement signed by Turkish Defense Minister Yaşar Güler and his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Megeed Saqr, establishing a long-term structure for defence and security cooperation.

Parallel to the framework agreement, Türkiye's state-owned Mechanical and Chemical Industry Corporation (MKE) finalized a \$350 million defence export and industrial cooperation deal with Egypt's Ministry of Defense. The package includes the export of the TOLGA close-in air defence system, valued at around \$130 million, to counter drones, loitering munitions, and cruise missiles. This marks TOLGA's second international sale after Qatar. The remaining portion of the deal covers joint manufacturing projects, including the construction of facilities in Egypt for 155mm long-range artillery ammunition and 7.62mm and 12.7mm small-caliber ammunition. The agreement also provides for technology transfer and the establishment of a joint venture to manage production and support exports to regional markets.

3. Turkish Naval Drone Conducts Live Strike in NATO Exercise (Feb 15, [Army Recognition, A News](#))

The Bayraktar TB3 unmanned combat aerial vehicle carried out its first operational demonstration abroad during NATO's Steadfast Dart 2026, launching from TCG Anadolu in the Baltic Sea. The TB3 took off autonomously from Anadolu's short runway, struck designated surface targets with a twin-salvo of MAM-L guided munitions, and safely recovered back on board, according to Turkish defence officials. The mission marked the first time a Turkish shipborne UCAV executed a complete operational strike profile outside national waters and the mission took place during NATO's largest exercise of the year, involving around 10,000 troops and multiple naval assets testing the Allied Reaction Force's rapid deployment. Turkish forces deployed about 2,000 personnel, including Anadolu, the TCG Istanbul, and TCG Oruçreis. Officials said the sortie confirmed Türkiye's transition to an operational naval drone capability within NATO frameworks.

4. World Defense Show (WDS) 2026 in Saudi Arabia

More than 60 military and defence agreements worth SR33 billion (\$8.8 billion) were signed at the third edition of the World Defense Show, which concluded on Thursday in Riyadh. The five-day exhibition, organised by the General Authority for Military Industries, forms part of Saudi Arabia's efforts to expand its domestic military industries sector. According to official figures, the event hosted 1,486 exhibitors from 89 countries and attracted 137,000 visitors. A total of 220 agreements were signed, including 93 government-to-government deals and 127 partnership agreements with companies. The agreements include technology transfer and local manufacturing projects. Displays featured 63 aircraft and over 700 military systems, including maritime and unmanned platforms.

Turkey at WDS

- **ULAQ and SAMI Autonomous Sign Unmanned Naval Systems Deal (Feb 12, [Anadolu Agency](#))**

Turkish firm ULAQ Global Autonomous Systems, developer of Türkiye's first unmanned surface vehicle (USV), has signed a cooperation agreement with SAMI Autonomous Company, a subsidiary of Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, to strengthen collaboration in unmanned naval systems. The deal was signed at the World Defense Show 2026. The agreement establishes a framework covering design, development, production, system integration, and maintenance of unmanned maritime systems in Saudi Arabia. It includes technology transfer and know-how sharing to support domestic USV production and aligns with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 objectives. ULAQ Global board member Kerem Kalafatoglu said they are pursuing projects in Europe and the United States and aims to export its USVs beyond Saudi Arabia as part of its global expansion strategy.

- **Türkiye–Saudi Arabia Sign Gökbeý Helicopter Joint Production MoU (Feb 13, [Global Defense Corp](#))**

Türkiye and Saudi Arabia signed a MoU at the World Defense Show 2026 covering joint production of the indigenous Gökbeý multirole helicopter, marking the platform's first overseas manufacturing agreement. The MoU was signed between Turkish Aerospace Industries, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Investment, and the General Authority for Military Industries. The agreement envisages long-term joint production with technology transfer. Saudi authorities will consolidate military and civilian demand, after which TAI will partner with a local manufacturer to produce helicopters in the Kingdom. The scope and technical details will depend on demand volume. Helicopters produced under the partnership are also expected to be marketed to regional customers.

- **ROKETSAN Signs Missile and Laser Weapons Deals at WDS 2026 (Feb 11, [X/Roketsan, Turdef](#))**

ROKETSAN announced two agreements with Saudi Arabia's SAMI and its land systems arm SAMI Land during the World Defense Show 2026, covering joint production of cruise missiles and anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs). The cruise missile deal with SAMI focuses on joint production, while the ATGM agreement with SAMI Land includes both production and sales. ROKETSAN did not disclose specific missile types. Its cruise missile portfolio includes SOM, SOM-J, ÇAKIR, and ATMACA, while its ATGM range spans systems such as KARAOK, OMTAS, and UMTAS. Separately, ROKETSAN signed a cooperation agreement with Australian firm EOS for joint development of laser weapon systems. The partnership is expected to combine EOS's high-power laser capabilities with ROKETSAN's compact ALKA system architecture.

- **MKE Signs Saudi Joint Production Deals at WDS 2026 (Feb 13, [Rally News](#))**

MKE signed multiple agreements at the World Defense Show 2026 to expand joint production and technology transfer with Saudi partners. The agreements include cooperation with Saudi entities to establish local production of the TOLGA and 122mm multiple launch rocket systems in Saudi Arabia. The deals provide for joint manufacturing, system integration, and technology transfer, supporting Saudi Arabia's localization objectives. MKE also signed agreements covering ammunition, cartridge, and energetic material production with Saudi partners, including cooperation with Saudi Arabian Military Industries and Saudi Chemical Company Limited. MKE officials said the agreements build on earlier exports to Qatar and Egypt and are intended to create long-term industrial partnerships in the Gulf. Separately, MKE highlighted continued export interest in its BORAN system, which has previously been delivered to Bangladesh and North Macedonia.

- **Turkish Aerospace Industries Showcases Autonomous Wingman Concept (Feb 09, [Turkiye Today](#))**

TAI presented its Autonomous Wingman Flight concept at the World Defense Show on February 8, 2026, using a fully digital demonstration instead of static models. The presentation showed the KAAN operating in formation with two ANKA III aircraft, conducting coordinated manoeuvres and attack missions. TAI General Manager Mehmet Demiroglu said digital environments allow scenarios to be displayed close to real conditions. He noted the concept emerged from efforts to present products more effectively, quickly, and comprehensively, with artificial intelligence planned for future integration.

- **Saudi Decision on KAAN Fighter Participation Nearing (Feb 12, [Breaking Defense](#))**

A senior executive of Turkish Aerospace said a decision may be approaching on Saudi Arabia's potential participation in Turkey's next-generation KAAN fighter program. Speaking to Breaking Defense, Turkish Aerospace General Manager Mehmet Demiroglu said discussions are in the "final stages of decision-making process," with a "milestone" possible in 2026, [the]start of a program at any level. Options under consideration include a limited purchase of around 20 aircraft or broader industrial cooperation, potentially involving shared production. Demiroglu said feasibility studies indicate that establishing a final assembly line in Saudi Arabia would require production of at least 50 aircraft. Discussions have covered timelines, costs, benefits, and industrial models, with Turkish Aerospace awaiting a decision from Saudi authorities.

- **Roketsan Unveils Eren Glide Munition at World Defense Show (Feb 10, [Daily Sabah](#))**

Roketsan showcased its new high-speed, multipurpose glide munition Eren for the first time internationally at the WDS 2026. Developed from concept to operational product in under one year, Eren has been tested on the Bayraktar Akinci unmanned combat aerial vehicle and is expected to enter mass production this year. The munition can be launched from UAVs, helicopters, ground vehicles,

naval platforms, and ground-based systems. It is designed to engage low-speed aerial targets as well as armoured and unarmoured ground targets, with a reported operational range exceeding 100 kilometres. Roketsan CEO Murat Ikinci said Eren integrates advanced guidance, artificial intelligence algorithms, flight control sensors, and a turbojet engine, with ongoing integration efforts across unmanned, armored, and air defence platforms.

- **TITRA Showcases Indigenous Swarm Warfare Systems at World Defense Show (Feb 11, [Yeni Safak](#))**

TITRA Technology showcased its indigenous unmanned swarm systems at the WDS 2026. Company co-founder and board member Muhammed Selman Donmez said swarm technology reshapes modern warfare by saturating air defenses with multiple unmanned platforms, reducing the strategic impact of individual losses. He said TITRA's platforms operate within a unified command and intelligence architecture, enabling real-time data sharing. Donmez highlighted resilient communications and artificial intelligence as core enablers, adding that TITRA is developing swarm systems capable of operating without satellite navigation and Turkiye is now exporting these capabilities to allied countries.

5. Turkey Emerges in US Navy Shipbuilding Talks (Feb 3, [Middle East Eye](#), [The Maritime Executive](#))

Turkey has emerged as a potential partner in early talks with the United States on naval shipbuilding cooperation, as Washington looks to expand its fleet amid growing competition with China, officials told Middle East Eye. Ankara's shipyards can build more than 30 vessels simultaneously and have developed indigenous designs under the Milgem project, positioning Turkey as a major naval production hub. US representatives have explored whether Turkish shipyards could supply components or assist in frigate construction, according to officials. While US law restricts overseas warship production, President Donald Trump has indicated openness to working with allies to address shipbuilding shortages. A delegation from the US Naval Sea Systems Command recently visited Istanbul Naval Shipyard Command. A US spokesperson described Turkey as a "deeply valued NATO ally," noting strong naval cooperation. Analysts say Turkey's concentrated, modular shipbuilding capacity and skilled workforce could help ease US production bottlenecks, though any deeper cooperation would face legal and political hurdles.

6. Turkey Has No Plans to Withdraw Troops From Syria, Says Defense Minister (Feb 10, [Welat](#))

Turkish Defense Minister Yaşar Güler said Turkiye has no plans to withdraw its forces from Syria at the present stage, stressing that Turkish monitoring and control mechanisms will continue to operate. Speaking to the newspaper *Hürriyet* on February 9, Güler said Turkish troops will remain until

stability is ensured and security conditions are fully met. Commenting on discussions over integrating the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) into the Syrian army, Güler said Ankara is preparing for multiple scenarios. He said there are currently no signs of a resurgence of terrorism, but underlined that foreign elements must leave the region. Güler added that Türkiye's military presence in both Syria and Iraq is directly tied to national security and regional stability. Any future withdrawal, he said, would be a sovereign decision taken solely by Ankara. His remarks come amid reports of a ceasefire and integration framework agreed between Damascus and the SDF.

7. Turkish Firm SYS Group Eyes US Market With 30mm Revolving Cannon (Feb 12, [Anadolu Agency](#))

Turkish defence manufacturer SYS Group plans to introduce a medium-caliber revolving cannon to the United States market, targeting a segment currently dominated by chain and Gatling guns. The company showcased its portfolio at the World Defense Show 2026 in Riyadh through its subsidiaries CANiK, AEI Systems, and UNIROBOTICS. SYS Group-CANiK CEO Urku Aral said the firm will demonstrate its 30×113-millimeter revolving cannon in the US this year in cooperation with General Dynamics. He described the European-style weapon as a unique option for land vehicle integration. Aral said SYS Group's Florida facility is expanding output, with US production expected to reach up to 100,000 units in 2026. He added the system is compatible with M789 ammunition, easing logistics for potential customers, including Saudi Arabia, where the firm is pursuing vehicle modernization projects.

8. Turkish Special Forces Set Record With Giant Flag Parachute Jump in Northern Cyprus (Feb 6, [IHA](#))

Turkiye's Special Forces Command set a new national record after a freefall parachute jump carrying a giant Turkish flag in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The Ministry of National Defense said Senior Staff Sergeant Ertan Üstündağ completed the jump over the Geçitkale area with a flag measuring 661.5 square meters, surpassing the previous national record set in 2005. According to the ministry, the flag is larger than a standard basketball court, and the tandem parachute system weighed 203 kilograms, including a 50-kilogram lead plate used for balance.

DIPLOMACY & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

9. Erdogan Visits Riyadh as Türkiye–Saudi Cooperation Expands in Energy and Defence (Feb 5, [The Arab Weekly](#))

Erdogan visited Riyadh on February 3, his first trip to Saudi Arabia in more than two years, as ties between Ankara and Riyadh continue to strengthen. Erdogan held talks with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, with discussions covering regional conflicts, energy cooperation, and defence ties, according to the Saudi Press Agency. Erdogan was accompanied by his wife, first lady Emine Erdogan, Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek, Defense Minister Yasar Guler, and other ministers. During the visit, the two sides signed a multi-billion-dollar agreement to develop solar power projects in Türkiye with a total installed capacity of 5,000 megawatts. The deal was signed by Saudi Energy Minister Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud and Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Alparslan Bayraktar. The projects will be implemented in two phases, with the first phase valued at around \$2 billion, and are expected to supply electricity to more than 2 million households. Power will be purchased under 30-year contracts by a Turkish state utility, with provisions for maximum use of local equipment and services. Erdogan said Türkiye aims to take relations “to a higher level” in renewable energy and the defence industry, adding that joint investment with Saudi Arabia in Türkiye’s indigenous fifth-generation fighter jet, KAAN, could take place at any time. The leaders also discussed Yemen, Sudan, Gaza, Syria, and Somalia, and Erdogan said both sides oppose a new war or escalation involving Iran. Talks also covered expanding trade, advancing free trade negotiations with the Gulf Cooperation Council, and cooperation in oil, petrochemicals, electricity, and renewables.

10. Türkiye, Jordan Pledge Closer Ties as King Abdullah Visits Istanbul (Feb 7, [Anadolu Agency](#))

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met Jordan’s King Abdullah II in Istanbul on Saturday, with both leaders agreeing to deepen bilateral cooperation and strengthen long-standing ties. Erdogan received King Abdullah at Dolmabahçe Palace for a one-on-one meeting followed by delegation-level talks attended by senior Turkish officials. After the meeting, King Abdullah awarded Erdogan the Order of Al Hussein bin Ali, Jordan’s highest state decoration, citing his efforts to reinforce the two countries’ historic relationship. Erdogan said the leaders took important decisions to strengthen friendship and shared views on regional peace, security, and stability, while expressing appreciation for Jordan’s role in safeguarding holy sites in East Jerusalem. King Abdullah described the talks as highly productive and said they marked a step forward in cooperation across trade, industry, education, transportation, and defence.

11. Israeli Defense Official Urges Monitoring of Turkey, Egypt Over Nuclear Risks (Feb 15, [YNet Global](#))

Israel must remain vigilant not only toward Iran but also toward potential nuclear ambitions by regional powers such as Turkey and Egypt, according to Yuval Steinitz, chairman of Rafael Advanced Defense Systems. Speaking to ynet ahead of renewed U.S.–Iran nuclear talks in Geneva, Steinitz said Israel must “carefully watch” Middle Eastern countries. “A country like ours has to worry about everything, and we must carefully watch other Middle Eastern countries, such as Turkey or Egypt, to ensure they are not secretly developing nuclear weapons,” he said. Steinitz reiterated Israel’s long-standing position that a nuclear-armed Iran would pose a greater threat than its missile arsenal, saying even a single nuclear weapon would be unacceptable. He said Israel is preparing for scenarios in which diplomacy with Tehran fails and warned of possible escalation.

12. Turkey Advances Regional Defence Platform With Saudi Arabia and Pakistan (Feb 12, [Nikkei Asia](#))

Türkiye is deepening defense ties with Saudi Arabia and Pakistan as part of efforts to build a regional security platform that Ankara hopes could later expand to include countries such as Egypt, according to officials and analysts. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited Saudi Arabia and Egypt in early February, underscoring Ankara’s push for closer military and strategic coordination. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan confirmed trilateral talks last month, while Pakistan’s defence production minister said discussions have been underway for nearly a year. Officials stress that the initiative is separate from the Saudi Arabia–Pakistan mutual defence agreement signed in 2025 and does not constitute a NATO-style collective defence pact. Instead, Turkish officials describe it as a “moderate” framework focused on regional ownership, coordination, and defence-industrial cooperation. Analysts say the effort reflects Turkey’s growing role in regional reordering, backed by its NATO-scale military and expanding defence industry. Recent steps include defence agreements with Saudi Arabia and Egypt and talks on potential cooperation involving Türkiye’s KAAN program.

13. Türkiye, EU Reaffirm Strategic Partnership in Ankara Talks (Feb 6, [EU-Turkey Joint Statement](#))

Hakan Fidan and Marta Kos met in Ankara on 6 February 2026, reaffirming Türkiye’s EU candidate status and the strategic importance of Türkiye–EU relations amid shifting regional and global dynamics. Both sides welcomed renewed engagement across multiple areas and agreed to translate dialogue into concrete outcomes, noting five high-level dialogues over the past year, continued EU support for refugees in Türkiye, and eased access to Schengen multiple-entry visas for Turkish citizens. The talks highlighted Türkiye’s role as a central geopolitical actor in regional security and

connectivity, with both sides stressing closer coordination on energy, transport, digitalization, and trade across the Black Sea, South Caucasus, and Central Asia. Fidan called for overcoming long-standing blockages in bilateral ties and underlined the urgency of modernising the EU–Türkiye Customs Union to address evolving trade dynamics and supply-chain risks. Both sides welcomed the gradual resumption of European Investment Bank operations in Türkiye, including a €200 million loan for green-transition-focused SMEs, and reiterated commitment to economic integration, resilience, and stability.

14. Israeli Media Warn of ‘New Axis’ as Turkey Deepens Ties With Saudi Arabia, Egypt (Feb 6, [Middle East Monitor](#))

Israeli media have warned of the emergence of a “new axis” in the Middle East following Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s recent visits to Saudi Arabia and Egypt and the signing of multiple cooperation agreements. Yediot Aharonot reported that Erdogan’s back-to-back trips to Riyadh and Cairo signal a marked improvement in Ankara’s ties with both capitals, at a time when Israel–Saudi normalization appears stalled and Israel–Egypt relations are under strain. The paper cited Institute for National Security Studies researcher Galia Lindstrauß, who said Turkey has pursued regional rapprochement since 2021, with Egypt being the most complex case. She noted that Turkey’s rise as a defense supplier—especially in drones, including joint production with Saudi Arabia—reflects a regional shift toward diversifying arms partners. The report said Gaza has been a key driver of closer Cairo–Ankara ties and urged Israel to view the evolving alignment as a new regional reality.

15. China–Turkey

- **Türkiye–China Business Conference Focuses on Trade Expansion and Cooperation (Feb 8, [CGTN](#), [Xinhua](#))**

The third China–Türkiye Business Conference was held in Istanbul, bringing together more than 300 representatives from government bodies, business associations, and companies from Türkiye and China to explore new avenues for economic cooperation. The conference was organised by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and Türkiye’s Foreign Economic Relations Board. CCPIT Chairman Ren Hongbin led a delegation of Chinese entrepreneurs to the event. In his address, Ren said China and Türkiye have a strong foundation for cooperation and significant future potential. He cited ongoing cooperation such as China–Europe freight trains transiting Türkiye, the Ankara–Istanbul high-speed railway jointly built by Chinese and Turkish companies, and the growing presence of Turkish products, including pistachios, in the Chinese market. Ren said the CCPIT is willing to work closely with Turkish partners to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation and support sustained bilateral relations. Turkish Trade Minister Omer Bolat said bilateral trade stands at around \$50 billion annually and described China as one of Türkiye’s top three trading partners. He

acknowledged a long-standing trade imbalance and said Türkiye has proposed establishing a joint trade committee and convening the China–Türkiye Joint Economic Commission. Bolat also said supply chains and tourism offer significant cooperation potential, and described the Belt and Road Initiative as an important framework for transport and connectivity cooperation. During the conference, CCPIT renewed memorandums of understanding with DEİK and the Turkish Industry and Business Association. The China International Exhibition Center Group promoted the fourth China International Supply Chain Expo, scheduled for June in Beijing, and signed a cooperation memorandum with Ata Holding. The event also featured thematic panels and business matchmaking sessions on artificial intelligence, tourism, aviation, energy, and technology cooperation.

- **Türkiye and China Hold High-Level Talks on Energy, Industry, and Investment Cooperation (Feb 8, [The Hurriyet Daily News](#), [The Caspian Post](#), [TOBB](#))**

Turkish Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Alparslan Bayraktar met Ren Hongbin, Chairman CCPIT, during his visit to Türkiye to discuss bilateral cooperation in the energy and natural resources sectors. Bayraktar said talks focused on existing cooperation, strengthening private-sector contacts, and developing reciprocal investment opportunities. He said Türkiye values dialogue aimed at building long-term, balanced, and mutually beneficial economic ties, adding that energy cooperation could support the sector's transformation. Bayraktar also highlighted Türkiye's infrastructure, production capacity, and regional position as creating opportunities for concrete and sustainable cooperation with China. Separately, Industry and Technology Minister Mehmet Fatih Kacır met Ren Hongbin in Istanbul. Kacır said discussions covered cooperation in industry and technology, value-added investments, enhanced private-sector communication, and efforts to build a more balanced and sustainable Türkiye–China trade partnership as the two countries mark 55 years of diplomatic relations. In addition, M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye, met Ren Hongbin and his delegation at the TOBB Twin Towers to discuss Türkiye–China economic and trade relations and cooperation opportunities.

- **China–Türkiye Relations Mark 55 Years, Enter Mature Phase: Chinese Ambassador (Feb 5, [Daily Sabah](#))**

China's Ambassador to Türkiye Jiang Xuebin said China–Türkiye relations have entered a more mature, stable, and mutually beneficial phase as the two countries mark the 55th anniversary of diplomatic ties. In a written statement, he said political trust and multi-sector cooperation have steadily expanded since relations were established in 1971, with ties elevated to a strategic cooperative relationship in 2010. He said bilateral trade has grown from a few million dollars to nearly \$50 billion, while mutual investments have reached about \$3.6 billion, including more than \$3.2 billion in Chinese direct investment in Türkiye. Jiang noted that Chinese firms operate across various sectors and have generated employment. He said Chinese tourist arrivals to Türkiye have surpassed 400,000. Highlighting energy and infrastructure cooperation, Jiang cited the Emba Hunutlu

Thermal Power Plant as China's largest direct investment in Türkiye. He said China would continue to pursue high-quality development, promote green transformation and technological integration, and expand opening-up in the services sector.

- **Turkish Airlines to Launch Flights to China's Urumqi (Feb 10, [Anadolu Agency](#))**

Turkish Airlines announced it will launch scheduled flights to Urumqi in northwestern China, subject to market conditions and regulatory approvals, according to a filing on Türkiye's Public Disclosure Platform. The move expands the carrier's China network as it continues to grow its global footprint. In December 2024, Turkish Airlines earned a Guinness World Record for flying to the highest number of countries, reaching 131 destinations worldwide. The airline carries more than 85 million passengers and around 2 million tonnes of cargo annually. As of end-January, its fleet stood at 522 aircraft.

- **Chinese contractor bags contract for Turkish Floater (Feb 5, [Upstream Online](#))**

China's Offshore Oil Engineering Company (COOEC) has won the commissioning contract for the newbuild floating production unit (FPU) for Phase 3 of Turkish Petroleum's Sakarya gas field development offshore Turkey. No further details were shared.

16. Pakistan Turkey

- **Türkiye–Pakistan Trade Ties Highlighted at “We Exhibit 2026” in Sialkot (Feb 13, [Urdu Point](#))**

The fourth edition of We Exhibit 2026 was inaugurated in Sialkot by Mehmet Eymen Simsek, Consul General of Türkiye in Pakistan, and Dr Mariam Siddiq, President of the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sialkot (WCCIS). Addressing the event, Simsek said Türkiye–Pakistan relations rest on strong political, defense, and cultural ties, adding that bilateral trade—currently at \$1.2–1.3 billion—has a \$5 billion target that cannot be achieved without women entrepreneurs. He said Turkish Airlines' interest in Sialkot reflects the city's economic importance. Dr Siddiq said We Exhibit 2026 celebrates women's economic leadership and features around 170 exhibitors, including an export pavilion supported by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan. TDAP officials highlighted Sialkot's role as Pakistan's only export-oriented city and emphasized women-led businesses as key contributors to exports and employment. Commercial Attaché Turkish Consulate Lahore Nurettin Demir, President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Syed Ahtesham Mazhar, Senior Vice President (SVP) SCCI Muhammad Murad Arshad, Vice President SCCI Salman Sheikh, Senior Director General TDAP Fouzia Parveen Chaudhary, Director TDAP Dr. Shumila Sikandar, Deputy Director TDAP Marina Ghalib, Senior Vice President (SVP) WCCIS Gulzaib Waqas Awan, Vice President (VP) WCCIS Rubina Naveed, WCCIS Executive Committee Members and others were also present.

- **Pakistan, Türkiye Discuss Deeper Agriculture Cooperation in Islamabad (Feb 12, [Business Recorder](#))**

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met a delegation from Türkiye's Agricultural Technologies Cluster (TÜME) in Islamabad on Feb 11 to discuss expanding bilateral cooperation in agriculture and livestock. The four-member delegation was led by TÜME Board Chairman Abdulkadir Karagöz. According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office, Sharif said Pakistan aims to transform its agricultural sector by adopting modern Turkish technologies and strengthen economic cooperation with Türkiye. He said both countries have the potential to become significant players in the global food value chain, stressing that technology integration is key to improving productivity and fully utilising Pakistan's agricultural resources. Karagöz briefed the prime minister on TÜME's advanced agricultural technologies and expressed interest in expanding cooperation with Pakistan, describing bilateral ties as a foundation for closer business engagement. The meeting was attended by Turkish Ambassador İrfan Neziroğlu and senior Pakistani ministers, including Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

- **Pakistan, Türkiye Sign MoUs to Boost Agriculture and Livestock Cooperation (Feb 14, [The News Pakistan](#))**

Pakistan and Türkiye have signed new agreements to expand cooperation in agriculture and livestock, with the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) facilitating technology-focused partnerships to modernise key economic sectors. Two memoranda of understanding were concluded between Türkiye's Agricultural Technologies Cluster (TÜME) and Pakistan's Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, as well as the Green Corporate Livestock Initiative. The TÜME-PARC agreement establishes cooperation in agricultural research, innovation, and technology transfer, covering areas such as advanced livestock breeding, precision and smart agriculture, climate-resilient farming, food processing, value addition, and technical training. A separate MoU with GCLI focuses on developing modern corporate livestock farming, sustainable production systems, and export-oriented value chains to improve productivity and competitiveness. The agreements were signed in the presence of senior Pakistani officials and the Turkish ambassador. Officials said the deals support Pakistan's shift toward technology-driven, private-sector-led agriculture while strengthening economic ties with Türkiye in food security, exports, and long-term growth.

About the Author

Aishwarya Airy is a Research Assistant at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies, focusing on West Asia. She can be reached at aishwarya.claws@gmail.com.

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