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## **SOUTH KOREA KICKS OFF MILITARY DRILLS AMID TALK OF NORTH KOREAN NUCLEAR TEST**

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South Korea's troops kicked off their annual Hoguk defence drills on Monday (Oct 17), designed to boost their ability to respond to North Korea's nuclear and missile threats amid simmering tension over both sides' military activities.

The drills, due to end on Saturday, are the latest in a series of military exercises by South Korea in recent weeks, including joint activities with the United States and Japan.

The latest field training came as North Korea has been carrying out weapons tests at an unprecedented pace this year, firing a short-range ballistic missile and hundreds of artillery rounds near the heavily armed inter-Korean border on Friday.

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