

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. Despite the fact that power competition has historically been the most familiar way of interaction between states, for several centuries there has been a search for a more disciplined order. Moreover, such a task became urgent after the emergence of the “nuclear world order”, the central systemic feature of which is the insurmountable military superiority of a narrow group of states over the rest. It is insurance against the outbreak of destructive wars, but at the same time it guarantees that the conflict between the nuclear powers will be the last in the history of mankind. This makes it necessary to search and establish relatively stable rules, at least at the highest level, regulating the inevitable competition. The question is, to what extent are such rules really necessary for the survival of those who can create them?

Source: <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2021/10/04/are-rules-of-the-game-possible-in-the-era-of-nuclear-weapons/> 05 October 2021

2. Asha Asokan, Rotarian, Nonviolent Peaceforce member, and director of NuclearBan.US, recently came to Midland to both educate and challenge attendees to think about the presence and impact of nuclear weapons in our world. The presentation was sponsored by Midland Rotary and Nonviolent Peaceforce Midland Chapter (NPMC). The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a coalition of non-governmental organizations promoting adherence to and implementation of the United Nations nuclear weapon ban treaty. They are focused on mobilizing civil society around the world to support the objective of prohibiting and eliminating nuclear weapons. The 2017 Nobel Peace Prize was presented to ICAN to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and ICAN’s ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.

Source: <https://www.ourmidland.com/news/article/Midland-event-focuses-on-impact-of-nuclear-16507286.php> 05 October 2021

3. North Korea's test of a hypersonic missile last week sparked new concerns about the race to acquire the alarming technology that is hard to defend against and could unsettle the global nuclear balance.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/news/world/hypersonic-missiles-the-alarming-must-have-in-military-tech-11633391326451.html> 05 October 2021

4. On their way from Tel Aviv airport to Jerusalem in 1977 then Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Yigael Yadin asked President Anwar Sadat, the first Arab leader to ever officially visit Israel, why the Egyptian military had not moved deeper into the Sinai during the 1973 Middle East war. “You have nuclear arms. Haven’t you heard?” Mr. Sadat replied. Mr. Sadat’s strategic calculations in the war, the last all-out military confrontation between Israel and Arab states, takes on renewed significance coupled with a recent report that asserts that Iranian nuclear advances are irreversible and have reached a stage at which Iran needs only one month to produce enough weapons-grade uranium for a single bomb.

Source: <https://www.eurasiareview.com/05102021-concern-about-iran-prompts-israel-to-weigh-acknowledgement-of-its-own-nuclear-weapons-analysis/> 05 October 2021

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. India has expressed deep concern over the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems that could endanger peace and security, saying the possibility of terrorists acquiring such weapons necessitates the global community to work together to address this grave danger. Ambassador Pankaj Sharma, Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament (CD), Geneva, said India has been drawing the attention of the world towards these threats and the need to strengthen international cooperation to address them through its annual consensus UNGA resolution titled ‘Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction’.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/deeply-concerned-over-proliferation-of-weapons-of-mass-destruction-their-delivery-systems-india-at-un/article36834037.ece> 05 October 2021

2. India has called on the UN committee dealing with disarmament to condemn Pakistan for its “nefarious and vicious” attempts to disrupt its work. “This Committee should not only categorically reject Pakistan’s nefarious and vicious designs but collectively condemn Pakistan for its repeated efforts to politicise its work and hijack its mandate,” an Indian delegate said on Monday at the UN General Assembly’s (UNGA) First Committee, which deals with disarmament. He was replying to Pakistan’s Permanent Representative Munir Akram’s attack on India that went outside the committee’s framework by raising the Kashmir issue.

Source: <https://www.thestatesman.com/world/india-asks-un-panel-condemn-pakistans-attempts-disrupt-disarmament-efforts-1503014691.html> 05 October 2021

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Source: <https://www.eurasiareview.com/05102021-concern-about-iran-prompts-israel-to-weigh-acknowledgement-of-its-own-nuclear-weapons-analysis/> 05 October 2021

4. Two weeks ago, Australia and the US announced a deal for the funding of a fleet of new nuclear-powered attack submarines for patrolling the Indo-Pacific, all part of the new AUKUS defence pact that has caused diplomatic havoc in Europe and beyond. The announcement reignited the age-old debate between the pro- and anti-nuclear energy lobbies in Australia. On one reading, it’s a moot trial. It’s currently illegal to build or operate a nuclear power reactor: the only nuclear reactor in Australia is ANSTO’s OPAL reactor, which is used purely for research purposes, to create nuclear medicine.

Source: <https://cosmosmagazine.com/technology/energy/nuclear-power-in-australia-is-it-a-good-idea/> 05 October 2021

MISSILES/BIO WEAPONS

1. The Indian Air Force, for the first time, released images of a Rafale fighter jet carrying the Scalp cruise missile. A Rafale jet can carry two of the Scalp missiles, which have a range of 500 km, and is part of the weapons package. "When you know how to be Smart and Pretty — Ways of the World", the Indian Air Force tweeted while sharing the images.

Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/iaf-rafale-jet-scalp-stealth-cruise-missile-1860552-2021-10-04> 05 October 2021

2. A prospective Russian hypersonic missile has been successfully test-fired from a nuclear submarine for the first time, the military said on Monday. The Russian Defence Ministry said the Zircon missile was launched from the Severodvinsk submarine and hit a designated mock target in the Barents Sea. The launch marked Zircon's first launch from a submarine. It previously has been repeatedly test-fired from a navy frigate, most recently in July. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said Zircon would be capable of flying at nine times the speed of sound and have a range of 1,000km (620 miles). Mr. Putin has emphasised that its deployment will significantly boost Russian military capability.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/russia-test-fires-new-hypersonic-missile-from-submarine/article36820524.ece> 05 October 2021

3. Ahead of Air Force Day on October 8, the **Indian Air Force**(IAF) released images of Rafale fighter jets carrying the Scalp stealth cruise missile. In a tweet, the IAF said: "When you know how to be smart and pretty - ways of the world."

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/india-news/ahead-of-air-force-day-iaf-displays-rafales-scalp-stealth-cruise-missile-418304> 05 October 2021

UN REFORMS

1. Over 800 Indian peacekeepers serving in the U.N. mission in South Sudan have been honoured with a prestigious U.N. medal for their service on completion of their deployment. A news report on the website of the U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) said that 836 peacekeepers from India were recently honored with the United Nations medal “for their committed service to the cause of durable peace in the world’s youngest nation.” UNMISS Force Commander Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar lauded the Indian battalion for successfully completing its tour of duty and also praised efforts by the Indian peacekeepers in rescuing and sheltering 32 humanitarian personnel in Renk and ensuring their safe evacuation to Juba, the news report said.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/over-800-indian-peacekeepers-deployed-with-unmiss-honoured-with-prestigious-un-medal/article36834508.ece> **05 October 2021**

2. The number of migrants rounded up as part of Libya's unprecedented crackdown exceeds 5,000 people, including hundreds of children and women — dozens of them pregnant, according to a United Nations tally obtained by The Associated Press on Monday.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/un-libyas-roundup-exceeds-5000-migrants-as-concerns-grow/article36825107.ece> **05 October 2021**

3. World leaders meeting later this month for a UN climate summit (also known as COP26) must offer solutions to an "unprecedented ecological crisis", Pope Francis warned on Monday. "COP26 in Glasgow represents an urgent summons to provide effective responses to the unprecedented ecological crisis and the crisis of values that we are presently experiencing, and in this way to offer concrete hope to future generations," Francis said. The leader of the world's 1.3 billion Catholics, who is hoping to attend the UN talks, issued the plea in writing to members of a Vatican-hosted conference called Faith and Science: Towards COP26.

Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/pope-francis-warns-of-unprecedented-climate-crisis-ahead-of-cop26-un-summit-2563410> **05 October 2021**

4. Over 800 Indian peacekeepers serving in the UN mission in South Sudan have been honoured with a prestigious UN medal for their service on completion of their deployment.

Source: <https://www.cnbctv18.com/world/over-800-indian-peacekeepers-deployed-with-unmiss-honoured-with-prestigious-un-medal-11000052.htm> 05 October 2021