

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. China tested a space vehicle for possible reuse, not a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile as reported by the Financial Times, ministry says. Analysts blame speculations over the ‘China threat’ on a lack of transparency, while playing down chances Beijing will launch nuclear weapons into space

Source: <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3152791/china-did-not-test-hypersonic-nuclear-missile-foreign-ministry>

2. Stories about aliens and life beyond Earth always tend to incite a sense of curiosity among people. However, this time, Robert Salas, a former US Air Force officer made tall claims on supernatural behaviour stating that may need a lot of resources to initiate thorough research on his claims. According to the USAF officers, they had witnessed something that can be termed 'supernatural powers'. If Salas is to be believed true, those 'unidentified objects' came to the Earth in order to destroy nuclear capabilities built by human beings. According to Salas, he was the on-duty commander of an underground launch control facility assigned to Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana, on March 24, 1967. During his service period, he witnessed several unusual activities at the military stations. As per Salas, all ten of his Intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) became inoperable after an Unidentified flying object (UFO) hovered over them.

Source: <https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/us-news/ex-us-air-force-captain-claims-ufos-arrived-in-70s-to-destroy-nuclear-weapons.html>

3. China has unveiled a game-changing new “space nuke” that can evade missile defence systems and strike anywhere on the globe. Without confirming the report, Beijing’s *Global Times* mouthpiece said on Sunday that the news had delivered a fresh blow to the United States’ “strategic superiority”, warning that its “military build-up” will continue around Taiwan and the South China Sea, and that it is “inevitable” China will take the “upper hand” in any conflict.

Source: <https://www.news.com.au/technology/innovation/military/china-stuns-us-with-launch-of-hypersonic-space-nuke/news-story/081fcf93f62225dc9578f45a453abd1b>

4. Over the past two years, government officials have gotten increasingly candid about what they call UAPs, or unidentified aerial phenomena — an official term for what the layman calls UFOs. Now, a group of ex-Air Force officers is set to host a press conference in hopes of drawing further attention to the phenomenon. In fact, come Tuesday, the group says they'll show proof of UFOs having tampered with the country's nuclear arsenal. The group, organized by retired USAF Captain Robert Salas, is hosting a press conference on October 19th to go over some of its findings. Salas, amongst others in the group, is cited as being directly involved with UAP sightings at bases holding nuclear technology.

Source: <https://comicbook.com/irl/news/ex-air-force-officers-claim-proof-ufos-messed-with-nuclear-weapons/>

5. After years of high tensions and fitful diplomacy, it should now be clear to all that there will be no negotiated solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. And although U.S. presidents and Israeli prime ministers have routinely insisted that all options remain on the table, it is unlikely that either the United States or Israel will use overt military force to eliminate Iran's nuclear program. It is time to start envisioning a world with a nuclear-armed Iran.

Source: <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/iran/2021-10-18/bomb-will-backfire-iran>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. In August a Chinese “Long March” rocket streaked into space. That is hardly unusual; there were nearly three dozen such launches last year. But having begun to orbit the Earth, the rocket's payload then swung back down, glided through the upper atmosphere and crashed into the ground, missing a target by about 40km. According to the *Financial Times*, which first reported the news, this was a test of a new, nuclear-capable hypersonic glide vehicle. China has insisted that it merely conducted a “routine test of a space vehicle to verify technology of spacecraft's reusability”. Yet the demonstration reportedly stunned American officials. “We

have no idea how they did this,” one of them told the newspaper. What are hypersonic gliders and why do they matter?

Source: <https://www.economist.com/the-economist-explains/2021/10/18/what-is-chinas-new-hypersonic-glide-vehicle>

2. China reportedly tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic glide vehicle from a near-orbital trajectory in August, amid an intensifying race for the next generation of long-range weapons that are harder to detect and intercept.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-joins-heated-race-new-missiles-vies-with-us-russia-2021-10-18/>

MISSILES/BIO WEAPONS

1. China has tested a new space capability with a hypersonic missile, the Financial Times reported on Saturday. The report, citing multiple sources familiar with the test, said Beijing in August launched a nuclear-capable missile that circled the Earth at low orbit before descending toward its target, which three sources said it missed by over 20 miles (32 kilometers). FT sources said the hypersonic glide vehicle was carried by a Long March rocket, launches of which it usually announces, though the August test was kept under wraps.

Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/china-space-mission-china-space-china-tested-new-space-capability-with-hypersonic-missile-report-2578051>

2. Amid its larger push to dominate the modern-age space race, China has reportedly gone a step further in militarising the arena as it tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile. According to

Financial Times, Beijing tested the vehicle in August, which circled the globe before speeding towards its target demonstrating a unique space capability developed by the dragon.

Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/science/story/explained-what-is-hypersonic-glide-missile-that-china-likely-tested-1866049-2021-10-18>

3. China's government on Monday denied a recent report saying it had carried out a test of a nuclear capable hypersonic missile, stating that the launch was a "routine test of a space vehicle". On Sunday, the *Financial Times* reported China's military in August carried out its first ever test of a "nuclear capable hypersonic missile", adding that the test "circled the globe before speeding towards its target, demonstrating an advanced space capability that caught U.S. intelligence by surprise". The newspaper quoted five people familiar with the test as saying the Chinese military launched a rocket that carried a hypersonic glide vehicle "which flew through low-orbit space before cruising down towards its target".

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/china-denies-testing-hypersonic-missile/article37061659.ece>

UN REFORMS

1. On February 5, 2003, as the United States was preparing to invade Iraq, Secretary of State Colin Powell made a pivotal presentation to the United Nations Security Council claiming Saddam Hussein was developing weapons of mass destruction (WMD). The biological weapon anthrax could be delivered against Iraq's neighbours or the US by unmanned aerial vehicles, Powell claimed, dramatically holding up a small glass vial as proof.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/18/stain-on-powells-record-lies-to-the-un-about-iraqs-weapons>

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Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/18/stain-on-powells-record-lies-to-the-un-about-iraqs-weapons>

3. The attacks on minority Hindus in Bangladesh are against the values enshrined in its Constitution and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government needs to ensure an impartial inquiry into the incidents, the UN said on Monday. Communal tension continued to remain high in Bangladesh as violence spread to the northern district of Rangpur during the weekend. "Recent attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh, fuelled by hate speech on social media, are against the values of the Constitution and need to stop. We call upon the Government to ensure protection of minorities and an impartial probe. We call upon all to join hands to strengthen inclusive tolerant Bangladesh," said Mia Seppo, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/bangladesh-violence-needs-to-stop-un/article37061257.ece>

4. Representatives from nearly 200 countries will meet in Glasgow, Scotland, from Oct. 31-Nov. 12 for climate talks to strengthen action to tackle global warming under the 2015 Paris Agreement. Amid extreme weather events around the world and following a United Nations' climate report which warned that global warming was close to spiralling out of control, the actions of governments at this conference will determine whether it is a success.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/un-climate-conference-issues-which-need-to-be-resolved-7577982/>