

DAILY TRACKERNUCLEAR ISSUES

1. For decades, U.S. administrations have embraced a policy of strategic ambiguity regarding the use of nuclear weapons. While administrations have considered shifting to a no first use policy, they inevitably understood it would damage U.S. and allied security. Indeed, the Obama administration studied this closely and rejected such a policy change not once, but twice. Earlier this year, our British allies also rejected this change, and they maintain their own policy of strategic ambiguity.

Source: <https://www.defensenews.com/opinion/commentary/2021/10/25/the-us-must-reject-a-sole-purpose-nuclear-policy/>

2. China's unannounced test of a hypersonic glide vehicle in August signals that the Chinese regime is about to violate the Outer Space Treaty. The United States should now withdraw from that global agreement so that it can develop a similar weapon. Unfortunately, Washington is not even trying to catch up to its geopolitical arch-foe. This month, the *Financial Times* revealed that China launched such a vehicle into "low-orbit space." The glide vehicle "circled the globe" and then cruised down toward a target, missing it by "about two-dozen miles."

Source: <https://www.newsweek.com/chinas-hypersonic-test-time-ditch-nuclear-arms-control-opinion-1642062>

3. Robert Floyd, the new head of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO), likes to tell the story of how he got a call one morning a few years ago from Geosciences Australia to tell him they had detected "an unusual seismic event in North Korea" just four minutes earlier. At the time he was responsible for the coordination of the organisation's activities in Australia. That event turned out to be a nuclear bomb test.

Source: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-10-26-no-nukes-is-good-nukes-nuclear-test-ban-chief-vows-to-get-last-few-holdouts-on-board/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. In 2015, all UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. These provide a universal set of goals, targets and indicators against which nations will be expected to frame policies over the next 15 years. The goals recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with improving health and education, reducing inequality, and spurring economic growth - all while tackling climate change and protecting the environment. The new report - titled *Nuclear's contribution to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals* - was produced through collaboration by the Canadian Nuclear Association (CNA), European nuclear trade body Foratom, the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum (JAIF), the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the Nuclear Industry Association (NIA) and World Nuclear Association. It highlights how nuclear technologies contribute to addressing issues such as eliminating hunger, improving health, providing access to affordable and clean energy, generating decent work and economic growth, and mobilising climate action.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Report-highlights-nuclear-s-contribution-to-SDGs>

2. During the Cold War, the UK possessed over 550 nuclear warheads, but the US didn't regard it as a threat. It conducted 45 nuclear tests starting in 1952, but these were not characterized as "provocations." If anything, the US supported the UK in its nuclear weapon development. It was even generous enough to provide its own nuclear weapons to the British military at a time when the latter's nuclear weapon production had slowed.

Source: https://english.hani.co.kr/arti/english_edition/english_editorials/1016524.html

MISSILES/BIO WEAPONS

1. South Korea's President said Monday he'll keep striving to promote peace with North Korea through dialogue until the end of his term next May, after Pyongyang raised animosities with a resumption of

provocative weapons tests. While launching a spate of newly developed weapons in recent weeks, North Korea has also slammed Washington and Seoul over what it calls hostility toward the North.

Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2021/oct/25/south-koreas-leader-vows-final-push-for-talks-with-pyongyang-2375456.html>

1. Ahead of the delivery by Russia of the S-400 Triumf missiles towards the end of this year, two US Senators have urged President Joe Biden not to impose the “Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions” Act (CAATSA) sanctions against India, saying it could derail the deepening cooperation with New Delhi.

Source: <http://www.uniindia.com/ahead-of-s-400-missiles-delivery-two-us-senators-urge-biden-to-waive-caatsa-curbs-on-india/world/news/2545876.html>

2. The Telangana government on Sunday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with VEM Technologies to establish an ‘Integrated Defence Systems Facility’ at Yelgoi village near Zaheerabad in Sangareddy district. Large defence systems like missiles, torpedoes, ultra-optical systems, unmanned aerial vehicles, helicopters, fighters and small arms would be manufactured in the facility, which is being established in 511 acres with an investment of Rs 1,000 crore in the next five years. The project, which is part of the NIMZ, is expected to create 2,000 jobs.

Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/telangana/2021/oct/25/integrated-defence-systems-facility-to-come-up-in-sangareddy-2375396.html>

UN REFORMS

1. A report this month by a United Nations rights investigator expressing concern about the human rights and humanitarian situation in North Korea is “malicious slander”, a North Korean organisation said on Tuesday. In his latest report, Tomas Ojea Quintana, U.N. special rapporteur on human rights in North Korea, said the country’s most vulnerable people risk starvation after it slipped deeper into isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/north-korea-human-rights-un-investigation-7592073/>

2. The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (“Cooperation Framework”) is an agreement between the UN and the host government and determines a country’s development priorities as well as the UN development system’s contributions to them. As AMR hinders progress in many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), coordinated action across UN organizations and government agencies is needed to effectively tackle AMR across all sectors. A new guidance for UN country teams builds the case for AMR as a development issue and component of broader issues such as One Health, UHC and health security, food systems and planetary health: it aims to establish AMR as a higher priority on the policy and development agenda; stimulate multi-stakeholder interest; and attract funding.

Source: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240036024>

3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet Pope Francis on October 30 during his European visit commencing later this week, a Catholic Bishops' body in Kerala said on Wednesday. In a statement, the Kerala Catholic Bishops Council (KCBC) President Cardinal George Alencherry said they have come to know from official sources that the "meeting between His Holiness Pope Francis and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will take place on Saturday, October 30".

Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/oct/27/pm-modi-will-meet-pope-francis-o-n-october-30-says-church-2376523.html>