

**DAILY TRACKER****NUCLEAR ISSUES**

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1. It was the Marshall Islands' turn to speak, and the president wanted to remind world leaders of a cause the United Nations has espoused since its founding.

*Source:* [https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/neglected-danger-nukes-not-in-forefront-in-speeches-at-un/articleshow/86589763.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/neglected-danger-nukes-not-in-forefront-in-speeches-at-un/articleshow/86589763.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst) 28 September 2021

2. Lawmakers on both sides of nuclear weapons issues want answers after the lead Pentagon official overseeing the [Nuclear Posture Review](#) was ousted after nine months on the job and her position eliminated. The Pentagon is saying the departure of Leonor Tomero, the former deputy assistant secretary of defense for nuclear and missile defense policy, was due to a reorganization. However, non-proliferation advocates are questioning whether it was because Tomero was an advocate for nuclear restraint, and worry it could bias the review away from President Joe Biden's pursuit of arms control.

*Source:* <https://www.defensenews.com/congress/2021/09/27/biden-hit-with-backlash-over-removal-of-pentagons-top-nuclear-policy-official/> 28 September 2021

3. A citizens' organization in Japan that publishes independent analysis in English on nuclear power issues is struggling financially, threatening its ability to remain the major source of specialized public information on Japan's nuclear industry for an international audience. The Citizens' Nuclear Information Center based in Tokyo has published the free bimonthly English newsletter Nuke Info Tokyo since 1987 but is having to crowdfund to keep publishing amid financial difficulties caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

*Source:* <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20210927/p2g/00m/0na/078000c> 28 September 2021

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*Source:* [https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/neglected-danger-nukes-not-in-forefront-in-speeches-at-un/articleshow/86589763.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/neglected-danger-nukes-not-in-forefront-in-speeches-at-un/articleshow/86589763.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst) 28 September 2021

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. In September 2021, the English-speaking hegemony of international politics announced that they have banded together to form a pact, a security pact to counter the ever-rising might of the so-called Chinese dragon - the People's Republic of China. Together, Australia, the UK and the US formed the AUKUS with the objective of dominating the South China Sea in particular and the Asia-Pacific region in general. Along with the announcement of AUKUS came the details of the first initiative of AUKUS - to deliver a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines to Australia, and that set the cat amongst the pigeons from Beijing to Paris. China had its hackles up and France bristled with indignation; the former saw this as another attempt by the western powers (read US & UK) trying to bulldoze their presence into regions which China considers its backyard, and the latter took this as a sneaky stab in the back by their oldest *ami* - États-Unis d'Amérique (read USA).

**Source:** <https://www.indiatoday.in/news-analysis/story/aukus-questions-of-nuclear-proliferation-and-global-percepts-1858437-2021-09-29> 28 September 2021

2. India will work within the framework of the UN's "disarmament triad" to strengthen nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture, foreign secretary Harsh Shringla said on Monday.

**Source:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-would-continue-to-work-in-framework-shringla-at-unsc-meet-on-nuclear-nonproliferation-101632760549778.html> 28 September 2021

3. India has played a leading role in global efforts for nuclear disarmament and is committed to the goal of a nuclear weapons-free world, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla told the United Nations on Monday. Shringla made the remarks at a meeting of the UN Security Council meeting on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. He noted that India was the first country to call for a ban on nuclear testing in 1954

**Source:** <https://scroll.in/latest/1006412/india-committed-to-goal-of-nuclear-weapons-free-world-foreign-secretary-tells-unsc-meet> 28 September 2021

4. Whether Australia leases, buys or builds nuclear-fuelled submarines, it will be the first non-nuclear state to do so. The recent announcement of AUKUS – the Trilateral Agreement between Australia, the



United Kingdom and the United States – to procure this technology brings into focus the question of the continued health of Australia’s nuclear “grand bargain”. The grand bargain, established in the late 1970s in the wake of the Ranger Uranium Inquiry, and enunciated by then Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, determined that Australia while abjuring the development of a full civil nuclear industry, would meet its obligations as a non-nuclear weapons state (NNWS) member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) by only exporting uranium subject to strict International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards and conditioned by the NPT status of recipient countries.

*Source: <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpretor/aukus-and-nuclear-non-proliferation-regime>  
28 September 2021*

5. State Secretary Stanislav Raščan met with the Chair of the 10th NPT Review Conference, Ambassador Gustavo Rodolfo Zlauvinen. They discussed preparations for the high-level conference scheduled to be held at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York at the beginning of next year.

*Source: <https://www.gov.si/en/news/2021-09-28-slovenia-favours-strengthening-and-implementation-of-the-treaty-on-the-non-proliferation-of-nuclear-weapons/> 28 September 2021*

## MISSILES/BIO WEAPONS

1. India has finalised the deal to buy four new Heron TP drones from Israel that will initially be used in surveillance and reconnaissance missions, but will eventually be upgraded and armed with missiles for precision strikes under Project Cheetah when it kicks off, News18.com has learnt. Defence sources said a contract to this effect has been signed and that the drones should arrive by the end of this year. Sources added that while the initial plan was to lease the four drones from Israel, India later decided to buy them instead.

*Source: <https://www.news18.com/news/india/india-buys-4-israeli-herons-to-upgrade-them-with-missiles-as-army-iaf-navy-ramp-up-drone-inventory-4255400.html> 28 September 2021*

2. The US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) successfully launched its Hypersonic Air-breathing Weapon Concept (HAWC) scramjet missile last week. The free flight test of the missile was the first time the US government has successfully launched a scramjet hypersonic vehicle since 2013, when the Boeing X-51 flew for 240s, the record for the longest air-breathing hypersonic flight



**Source:** <https://www.flightglobal.com/fixed-wing/darpas-hawc-scramjet-missile-goes-hypersonic-in-successful-test/145647.article> *28 September 2021*

3. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Monday successfully tested a new version of Akash Surface to Air missile Akash Prime from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha. "In comparison to the existing Akash System, Akash Prime is equipped with an indigenous active Radio Frequency (RF) seeker for improved accuracy. Other improvements also ensure more reliable performance under low temperature environments at higher altitudes," a DRDO statement said. A modified ground system of the existing Akash system had been used for the flight test, it stated.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/drdo-tests-akash-prime-missile/article36698998.ece> *28 September 2021*

4. A new version of the Akash missile was successfully flight-tested from the integrated test range at Chandipur in Odisha on Monday. A video shared by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) shows how the Akash prime missile intercepted and destroyed an unmanned aerial target mimicking an enemy aircraft in its maiden flight test with pinpoint accuracy.

**Source:** <https://zeenews.india.com/india/akash-prime-missile-destroys-aerial-target-with-pinpoint-accuracy-watch-2397804.html> *28 September 2021*

## UN REFORMS

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1. India has been in quest of a place at the UN high table for a long. The issue has arisen again during last week's bilateral meeting in Washington between US President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**Source:** <https://www.siasat.com/a-case-for-a-seat-at-the-table-india-and-un-security-council-2198874/> *28 September 2021*

2. A heated back-and-forth between China and Canada kicked off in the final hours of the UN General Assembly Monday, after Canadian Foreign Minister Marc Garneau referenced the "two Michaels" recently released from detention in China. Garneau suggested Canadian nationals Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig were imprisoned by the Chinese government in retaliation for Canada's treatment of Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou. On Friday, Meng was allowed to leave Canada after she reached a deal with the US Department of Justice over allegations of fraud for which she was detained in December 2018.



**Source:** <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/09/27/world/canada-china-un-kovrig-spavor-intl-hnk/index.html> *28 September 2021*

3. No representative from Afghanistan will address the annual high-level U.N. General Assembly in New York after the ambassador for the government ousted by the Taliban - who was due to speak on Monday - withdrew his name. The move comes as the ambassador, Ghulam Isaczai, and the Taliban, which seized power in Afghanistan last month, have made competing claims for the country's U.N. seat in New York.

**Source:** <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/no-one-afghanistan-will-address-world-leaders-un-2021-09-27/> *28 September 2021*

4. More than a year after Black Lives Matter protests launched a worldwide reckoning about the centuries of racism that Black people continue to face, the question of reparations emerged — unevenly — as a high-profile issue at this year's largest gathering of world leaders. At the U.N. General Assembly, African and Caribbean countries that stand to benefit from reparations were backed by other nations, though those most responsible for slavery and colonialism said little about what they might owe to African descendants.

**Source:** <https://apnews.com/article/united-nations-general-assembly-africa-caribbean-united-states-middle-east-7954470f191f811d6bcc65542faa6f32> *28 September 2021*

5. Despite the "tone and the content" of the strong remarks made by India and Pakistan against each other during the UN General Assembly session, "we always remain hopeful" that dialogue between the two nations can happen in a place away from the "spotlights", a spokesperson for UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has said. India slammed Pakistan at the UN after Prime Minister Imran Khan raked up the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in his address to the 76th UN General Assembly session on Friday.

**Source:** <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/todays-paper/front-page/hopeful-that-dialogue-can-happen-between-two-countries-un-on-india-pak-war-of-words> *28 September 2021*