

## DAILY TRACKER

### NUCLEAR ISSUES

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1. The flash alone lasted more than a minute. The fireball expanded to nearly six miles in diameter—large enough to include the entire urban core of Washington or San Francisco, or all of midtown and downtown Manhattan. Over several minutes it rose and mushroomed into a massive cloud. Within ten minutes, it had reached a height of 42 miles and a diameter of some 60 miles. One civilian witness remarked that it was “as if the Earth was killed.” Decades later, the weapon would be given the name it is most commonly known by today: Tsar Bomba, meaning “emperor bomb.”

**Source:** <https://thebulletin.org/2021/10/the-untold-story-of-the-worlds-biggest-nuclear-bomb/>

2. His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, met Nursultan Nazarbayev, the first president of Kazakhstan. Nazarbayev, who is also the Head of the government's Security Council, presented to Sheikh Mohamed the 'Nazarbayev Prize for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World and Global Security' — a prestigious award given in appreciation of the efforts made by global leaders who contribute to strengthening regional and international peace, settling conflicts, limiting the spread of nuclear weapons, consolidating mutual trust between peoples and states and counter extremism.

**Source:** <https://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae/sheikh-mohamed-receives-nazarbayev-prize-for-a-nuclear-weapon-free-world>

3. A sophisticated electronic sensor buried in hardened metal shells at the tip of a growing number of America’s ballistic missiles reflects a significant achievement in weapons engineering that experts say could help pave the way for reductions in the size of the country’s nuclear arsenal but also might create new security perils.

**Source:** <https://publicintegrity.org/national-security/future-of-warfare/nuclear-weapon-arsenal-more-destructive-risky/>

### NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi met with Belgian Ministers this week during his two-day trip to Brussels. Belgium, an IAEA Member State since 1958, has operated nuclear plants



since 1974 and is a strong supporter of IAEA initiatives to promote the peaceful application of nuclear technology and techniques, such as those used in nuclear medicine, industry, food and agriculture, non-destructive testing of cultural artefacts, as well as in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Source: <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/dg-visit-highlights-belgiums-nuclear-know-how-and-commitment-to-iaea>

2. KEVIN McKenna made some excellent points in his article “Brigadier Wallace and his delusion over Russia and independence” (Oct 27). In particular, everyone should adopt his suggested terminology of “nuclear threat” to replace “nuclear deterrent”. Mr McKenna is right that this latter term “was coined by apologists of mass destruction to justify spending billions on them.”

Source: <https://www.thenational.scot/community/19680337.nuclear-deterrent-not-just-loaded-term-inaccurate-one/>

## MISSILES/BIO WEAPONS

1. This summer, China apparently tested new hypersonic missile systems — as recently revealed by the Financial Times but officially denied by Beijing. What’s shocking about this isn’t that these new weapons can travel at about five times the speed of sound — existing ballistic missiles can go even faster. It’s that these new Chinese birds can glide around the world inside the atmosphere in any direction they want, while being guided remotely to their target.

Source: <https://theprint.in/opinion/in-this-nuclear-arms-race-chinas-hypersonic-missile-test-is-a-wake-up-call/758702/>

2. **Agni-5 ballistic missile, with 5,000-km range, successfully tested in India:** Though inducted over three years ago, India’s foremost **Agni 5 ballistic missile was tested** for the first time by the user agency, the Strategic Forces Command, on Wednesday evening. The nuclear-capable missile is India’s contender for the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of 5,000 km.

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/agni-ballistic-missile-vs-china-hypersonic-missile-7595125/>

3. India has deployed recently acquired U.S.-made weapons along its border with China, part of a new offensive force to bolster its capabilities as the countries remain deadlocked over disputed territory in the Himalayas.

**Source:** <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/american-chinooks-howitzers-and-cruise-missiles-to-back-india-against-china-in-eastern-tibet/articleshow/87351441.cms>

## UN REFORMS

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1. No-one is in a hurry to recognize the Taliban as Afghanistan's government, Russian U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said on Friday, signaling that Moscow is not ready to allow the Islamists to represent Afghanistan at the United Nations.

**Source:** <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/russia-signals-not-ready-let-afghanistans-taliban-into-un-2021-10-29/>

2. An extremely unusual and rare visitor made an appearance in the UN General Assembly, exhorting world leaders and diplomats from the hall's iconic podium not to choose extinction and to save the human species "before it's too late." As diplomats are seated in the 193-member General Assembly, a dinosaur enters the cavernous hall, eliciting fear, gasps and shock from the delegates.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/dinosaur-takes-to-un-general-assembly-podium-to-tell-world-leaders-dont-choose-extinction/article37205805.ece>

3. No-one is in a hurry to recognise the Taliban as Afghanistan's government, Russian UN ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said on Friday, signaling that Moscow is not ready to allow the Islamists to represent Afghanistan at the United Nations.

**Source:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/not-right-away-russia-signals-not-ready-to-let-taliban-into-united-nations-101635595349628.html>