

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. Australia is among a number of US allies growing increasingly concerned that the Biden administration will adopt a “no first use” nuclear weapons policy, in a move that could undermine long-held deterrence strategies against China and Russia. With the US expected to release its latest Nuclear Posture Review by the end of the year, countries including the UK, France, Germany and Australia are reportedly lobbying President Joe Biden not to abandon the policy of strategic ambiguity on the use of nuclear weapons, the *Financial Times* reports.

Source: <https://www.news.com.au/technology/innovation/military/us-allies-fear-biden-will-adopt-no-first-use-nuclear-weapons-policy/news-story/386861db2f5a052e4d0e643233b3c342>

2. Biden and the leaders of Germany, France and Britain met as Iran continues to enrich uranium to near-weapons-grade levels. The leaders are trying to revive the 2015 deal and restore Iran’s program to where it was under the pact, which kept the Islamic republic at least one year away from the potential to field a nuclear weapon.

Source: <https://apnews.com/article/g-20-summit-joe-biden-business-france-iran-64aa2953ef23a1b201675b18997ed327>

3. At his first in-person G-20 summit, President Biden is discussing tariffs, taxes and nuclear weapons with leaders of the world's biggest economies.

Source: <https://www.npr.org/2021/10/31/1050919633/tariffs-taxes-and-nuclear-weapons-are-big-topics-at-the-g-20-summit>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. North Korea's foreign ministry on Sunday accused the United States of "acquiescing" in nuclear proliferation around the world based on "double standards," taking issue with the U.S.' recent submarine deal with Australia and other policy moves. The ministry made the accusations in an article, entitled "Is the U.S. really a guardian of the nuclear non-proliferation regime?," claiming that the international community is paying attention to the U.S.' "systematic" violation of the regime.

Source: <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20211031004300325>

2. On the threat of nuclear weapons during conflict, the rule is that skirmishes, tensions and conventional conflicts between countries need to be resolved through confidence-building measures and dialogue to prevent it from descending into the nuclear domain, when conversely, adding nuclear dimensions to tensions would only exacerbate trust deficits and threaten nuclear nonproliferation.

Source: <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-10-31/Why-India-s-nuclear-ICBM-test-is-counterproductive-for-stability-140a6m7T9Xq/index.html>

MISSILES/BIO WEAPONS

1. The first ship of the four Project-15B state-of-the-art stealth guided missile destroyers, Visakhapatnam, being built at the Mazgaon Docks Limited (MDL), was delivered to the Navy last Friday. Delayed by three years, the ships will be commissioned very soon. “The 163-metre-long warship has a full load displacement of 7,400 tonnes and a maximum speed of 30 knots. The overall indigenous content of the project is approximately 75%,” the Navy said on Sunday.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/navy-takes-delivery-of-guided-missile-destroyer-visakhapatnam/article37270547.ece>

2. The Navy received its first P15B stealth guided-missile destroyer from Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders on Thursday, an official statement said on Saturday. The construction and delivery of this ship — named “Visakhapatnam” — is another testament of impetus given by the government and the Navy to the indigenous warship construction programmes, it said. A guided-missile destroyer has the capability to launch guided anti-aircraft missiles from its deck. “Visakhapatnam – first of the indigenous P15B stealth guided-missile destroyers being built at Mazagon Dock, Mumbai delivered to Indian Navy on October 28, 2021,” the Indian Navy said on Twitter. “Induction of the destroyer will not only enhance combat readiness of the Indian Navy but will also be a major leap forward

towards our quest for Atma Nirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India),” it added. India needs free, fair, non-hyphenated and questioning journalism even more as it faces multiple crises.

Source: <https://theprint.in/defence/indian-navy-receives-its-largest-indigenous-guided-missile-deployer-visakhapatnam/759706/>

3. Russia's state trials of Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile launches from the Northern Fleet's frigate Admiral Gorshkov are scheduled to begin next month, a source close to the Russian Defense Ministry told TASS on Saturday. "State trials of Tsirkon will begin in November and will last until December 2021," the source said. "In all, five missile launches are planned and they will be aimed at sea and ground targets."

Source: <https://tass.com/defense/1355901>

UN REFORMS

1. An extremely rare visitor turned up in the halls of the UN General Assembly, imploring world leaders and diplomats to act against climate change – a good old dinosaur! A speech delivered by the unique guest highlighting that it's 'Now or Never' is currently breaking the internet. In a campaign developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the agency let 'Frankie the Dino' be their mascot to urge everyone not to choose "extinction" and act before it's too late.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/trending/trending-globally/dont-choose-extinction-undp-dinosaur-viral-campaign-7598724/>

2. Elon Musk threw a challenge at the United Nations over the weekend. It was not about his companies or his current favourite - the Dogecoin, but about something as serious as global hunger. In a response to United Nations World Food Program (WFP) director David Beasley - who told CNN that a one-time payment of 2 percent wealth of Musk or billionaires alike can solve global hunger - Musk, kind of, agreed to give his money but only if the UN comes up with the right strategy.

Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/technology/news/story/elon-musk-says-he-will-immediately-spend-6-billion-to-end-world-hunger-if-un-can-prepare-right-plan-1871845-2021-11-01>

3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Glasgow on Sunday for the COP26 climate summit and bilateral talks with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on the sidelines of the United Nations (UN) meet. "Landed in Glasgow. Will be joining the COP26 Summit, where I look forward to working with other world leaders on mitigating climate change and articulating India's efforts in this regard," PM Modi said on Twitter.

Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/prime-minister-narendra-modi-arrives-in-uks-glasgow-for-un-cop26-summit-on-climate-change-2595173>