

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

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1. Rapid construction at three suspected silo fields in China -- which could eventually be capable of launching long-range nuclear missiles -- appears to indicate that Beijing is putting substantial efforts and resources into the development of its nuclear capabilities, according to analysis of new commercial satellite images.

**Source:** <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/11/02/politics/china-suspected-silo-fields-report/index.html>

2. In 2016, India inducted its first nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, the INS Arihant, into its navy, extending nuclear military capabilities from land and air to the sea. “Arihant” translates to “destroyer of the enemy,” a name chosen for its “subtlety and appropriateness.” A year after Arihant’s induction, the vehicle reportedly suffered damage, prompting a member of Parliament to ask about the cost of repairs. A defense minister responded, “The information cannot be divulged in the interest of National Security.”

**Source:** <https://thebulletin.org/2021/11/whats-known-and-not-known-about-indias-nuclear-weapons-budget/>

3. Russia plans to gradually increase spending on its nuclear weapons capabilities over the next three years, according to the draft of the national budget currently under debate in parliament.

**Source:** <https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2021/11/01/russian-nuclear-weapons-stand-out-in-defense-budget-request/>

4. It has become clear over the past few months that Taiwan's sovereignty is in danger. China has been emboldened by the world's failure to punish it for its deceit and complicity in the spread of the COVID-19 virus and also by the American capitulation in Afghanistan. The addition of “Xi Jinping Thought” to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Constitution in 2017 made Xi Jinping (习近平) the most powerful Chinese leader since Mao.

**Source:** <https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/4332695>

**MISSILES/BIO WEAPONS**

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1. China has carried out a test of a new space capability with a hypersonic missile, as reported first by *The Financial Times*. The test was supposedly carried out secretly in August 2021. The report relied on experts of the US intelligence community and could be a deliberate leak. It managed to touch the most sensitive cord of any nation’s strategic community—potential vulnerability.

**Source:** <https://theprint.in/opinion/chinas-hypersonic-missile-test-got-us-india-racing-it-exposes-bmd-vulnerability/760091/>

2. The announcement (in Japanese) last week that Chinese ecommerce giant Alibaba had developed a new advanced and powerful server chip got some but perhaps not enough attention. The announcement from Alibaba’s chip design arm T-Head (Pingtuo) of the Yitian 710 chip was not surprising in itself — most large cloud services providers and other large tech companies design or

are planning to design their own semiconductors, including Google with its TPU, AWS with Graviton, and Microsoft's offering in development.

**Source:** <https://supchina.com/2021/11/01/alibabas-silicon-chip-in-the-age-of-hypersonic-missiles/>

3. Following the Sept. 28 test, North Korean state media said that development of the hypersonic missile was “one of 5 top-priority tasks facing the strategic weapon sector” and released a photograph of the launch, which showed a vehicle resembling the shape of a hypersonic glide vehicle on top of a shortened version of an intermediate-range ballistic missile. Glide vehicles are a new type of hypersonic weapon, which can fly at least five times the speed of sound and are distinguished from traditional ballistic missiles by their ability to maneuver and operate at lower altitudes.

**Source:** <https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2021-11/news/north-korea-claims-test-hypersonic-missile>

4. The report offers an up-to-date analysis regarding the current global market scenario, latest trends and drivers, and the overall market environment. The market is driven by the need for improved missiles and increasing territorial disputes. In addition, the need for improved missiles is anticipated to boost the growth of the market as well.

**Source:** <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2021/11/02/2325430/0/en/The-Global-Hypersonic-Missiles-Market-is-expected-to-grow-by-60-52-mn-during-2021-2025-progressing-at-a-CAGR-of-4-14-during-the-forecast-period.html>

5. Russia may supply its cutting-edge S-500 anti-aircraft missile systems to India and China in the future, Dmitry Shugaev, the director of the Russian Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation (FSMTC), has said.

**Source:** <https://www.siasat.com/russia-likely-to-export-new-s-500-missile-systems-to-india-china-218527/>

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. Recent reports of Chinese activities have added to concerns from US officials about China's rapid military progress. The suspected development of a first missile silo field was reported in late June. Following another report from FAS released in July on China's suspected development of a second silo field, US Strategic Command tweeted, "This is the second time in two months the public has discovered what we have been saying all along about the growing threat the world faces and the veil of secrecy that surrounds it."

**Source:** <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/11/02/politics/china-suspected-silo-fields-report/index.html>

2. Nuclear nonproliferation is a worthy goal, but so far, the United Kingdom, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan, and North Korea have followed Washington and Moscow in putting their security first. South Korea probably would do the same.

*Source:* <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/korea-watch/south-korea-nuclear-umbrella-worth-risk-america-195768>

## UN REFORMS

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1. Elon Musk, the richest person in the world, threw a challenge at the United Nations. He said that he will sell \$6 billion worth of Tesla stock and donate the proceeds to the United Nations' food agency if it could show how the money would solve world hunger.

*Source:* <https://www.livemint.com/companies/people/elon-musk-dares-un-take-my-6-bn-and-explain-how-will-you-solve-world-hunger-11635820186938.html>

2. The United Nations global warming conference in Glasgow, Scotland, which began Monday and runs through Nov. 12, is considered a crucial moment for efforts to address the threat of climate change. More than 100 heads of state and government and thousands of diplomats are meeting to set new targets for cutting emissions from burning coal, oil and gas that are heating the planet. The conference is held annually, but this year is critical because scientists say nations must make an immediate, sharp pivot away from fossil fuels if they hope to avoid the most catastrophic effects of climate change.

*Source:* <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/what-is-cop26-and-other-questions-about-the-big-un-climate-summit-7603684/>

3. On a train hurtling toward Glasgow, the mayors of Seattle and Freetown, Sierra Leone, greeted each other like long lost sisters, bonded by years of Zoom calls and collaboration in the fight against climate change. They lead cities on different sides of the economic and climate divide — one in the cool, northwestern corner of one of the world's richest nations; the other the capital of an impoverished country in the tropics of west Africa.

*Source:* <https://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2021/nov/02/mayors-take-message-of-local-action-to-un-summit-2378811.html>

