

## DAILY TRACKER

### NUCLEAR ISSUES

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1. China is acquiring a nuclear arsenal at a pace much faster than anticipated and it is likely to have at least 1,000 warheads by 2030, the US defence department said in a report on Wednesday. The report also highlighted that Beijing is taking “incremental and tactical actions to press its claims” at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India despite participating in talks to resolve the crisis.

**Source:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/china-expanding-nuclear-arsenal-faster-than-anticipated-us-defence-report-101636098972765.html>

2. China intends to increase the number of its deliverable nuclear warheads to at least 1,000 by 2030, the US Defense Department's annual China Military Power report released on Wednesday (3 November) said, adding that the country may have 700 nuclear warheads by 2027. "The accelerating pace of the PRC's nuclear expansion may enable the PRC to have up to 700 deliverable nuclear warheads by 2027. The PRC likely intends to have at least 1,000 warheads by 2030, exceeding the pace and size the DoD projected in 2020," the report says.

**Source:** <https://swarajyamag.com/news-brief/china-rapidly-expanding-nuclear-arsenal-and-intend-to-increase-warheads-to-1000-over-next-10-years-us-report>

3. Iran said it has almost doubled its stock of enriched uranium in less than a month, as it prepares to resume talks with world powers on curbing its nuclear program. Tehran has progressively abandoned its commitments to a 2015 nuclear deal since then U.S. president Donald Trump pulled Washington out in 2018, prompting Washington to impose fresh sanctions in response.

**Source:** <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/iran-news-us-nuclear-talks-uranium-enrichment/>

### NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. India feels confident in its strategic deterrent capabilities, which would be bolstered by the continuing induction of Agni-V missiles and the commissioning of nuclear submarines, despite being behind China and Pakistan in terms of nuclear weapons. According to a recent analysis in the US-based Bulletin of The Atomic Scientists,

Pakistan continues to develop its nuclear arsenal with more warheads, delivery systems, and an expanding fissile materials production business.

*Source:* <https://www.wionews.com/india-news/india-has-less-nukes-than-pakistan-china-new-analysis-of-capabilities-426600>

2. Sensationalizing the threat of China is an old trick of Washington, especially when it seeks excuses to justify its hawkish policies. The US Department of Defense on Wednesday released a 2021 Report on Military and Security Developments Involving China. The report speculates that, "The accelerating pace of the PRC's nuclear expansion may enable the PRC to have up to 700 deliverable nuclear warheads by 2027. The PRC likely intends to have at least 1,000 warheads by 2030."

*Source:* <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202111/1238157.shtml>

## MISSILES/BIO WEAPONS

1. The US State Department announced the approval Thursday of the sale of \$650 million worth of air-to-air missiles to Saudi Arabia to help the country protect itself from drone attacks. The approval will allow the Saudis to buy up to 280 of the AIM-120C advanced medium-range missiles and related equipment, replenishing an existing supply of the missiles, the department said. A State Department spokesperson said the Saudis have already been able to use the missiles to intercept unmanned aircraft that threatened both Saudi and US forces inside the country, mainly from Yemen.

*Source:* <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/us-to-sell-advanced-air-to-air-missiles-to-saudi-arabia-2600584>

2. The origins of the virus are still murky, but U.S. intelligence agencies said in a report made public in October that SARS-CoV-2 is not a biological weapon, and that the evidence behind that claim is not reliable. The idea that the virus was patented derives from a misreading of documents and confusion between the name of the virus that causes COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) and the name of the virus that causes SARS (SARS-CoV). Spain's highest court did not acknowledge that COVID-19 is a patented

biological weapon. That is a distortion of events that happened in September, which involved Spain's ministry of health but not the supreme court.

**Source:** <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2021/nov/05/facebook-posts/no-virus-causes-covid-19-not-patented-bioweapon/>

3. The U.S. State Department approved the potential sale of 280 AIM-120C air-to-air missiles in a deal valued at up to \$650 million, the Pentagon said on Thursday. The sale is the first major foreign military sale to Saudi Arabia by the Biden administration since taking office and adopting a policy of selling only defensive weapons to the Gulf ally. The State Department approved the proposed sale on Oct. 26, a State Department spokesperson said, adding that the air-to-air missile sale comes after "an increase in cross-border attacks against Saudi Arabia over the past year."

**Source:** <https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/us-greenlights-sale-of-air-to-air-missiles-to-saudi-arabia>

## UN REFORMS

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1. Developing countries need to spend up to 10 times more public money than current levels to implement climate adaptation measures that would minimize harm caused by more frequent droughts, flooding and other weather extremes, according to a United Nations report published on November 4. Up to \$300 billion (€260 billion) will be needed annually by 2030, and \$500 billion a year by 2050 to deal with imminent hazards. But in 2019, climate financing to developing countries for mitigating emissions, adaptation, planning and implementation was \$79.6 billion, according to "The Gathering Storm: The Adaptation Gap Report 2021." The study assesses shortfalls in finance, knowledge and implementation in climate change adaptation.

**Source:** <https://frontline.thehindu.com/dispatches/cop26-covid-stimulus-packages-fail-to-address-climate-change-adaptation-says-un-report/article37339935.ece>

2. Washington was "carefully reviewing" a joint investigation by the United Nations and Ethiopia that accused all sides of the conflict in Tigray of torturing and killing civilians, carrying out gang-rapes and making arrests on the basis of ethnicity, State Department spokesperson Ned Price said on Thursday.

**Source:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/us-reviewing-un-ethiopian-joint-investigation-into-abuses-in-tigray-conflict-7608003/>

3. On World Tsunami Awareness Day 2021, UN secretary general Antonio Guterres cautioned that rising sea levels caused by the climate emergency will further exacerbate the destructive power of tsunamis. “On World Tsunami Awareness Day, we call on countries, international bodies, and civil society to increase understanding about the threat and share innovative approaches to reduce risks,” he said in his message on the day.

**Source:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/on-world-tsunami-awareness-day-2021-un-calls-for-increased-understanding-of-threat-risk-reduction-101636081380867.html>