

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. The oil shocks of the 1970s prompted several countries to step up their nuclear endeavours. The quantity of nuclear energy utilised worldwide rose by 130 percent in the ten years leading up to 1992. Furthermore, others proposed using nuclear power facilities to generate not just electricity, but also hydrogen, which could subsequently be used to create synthetic fuels. The Saudis may or may not have had genuine environmental concerns. However, they recognised a competition when they saw one.

Source: <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2021/11/13/the-discreet-charm-of-nuclear-power>

2. IAEA and the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute signed an agreement to increase collaboration to prevent and counter criminal activities around the world using nuclear science and technology. Nuclear techniques in forensics are used to determine the origin and history of objects and commodities that are prone to counterfeiting or illegal trafficking, such as art, food, or nuclear and other radioactive materials.

Source: <https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/headlines/1804321-iaea-and-unicri-partner-to-prevent-criminal-activities-using-nuclear-st>

3. The five European Union nations petitioned the commission to exclude nuclear power from the green finance taxonomy because it violates their "do no meaningful damage" guideline.

Source: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/five-eu-countries-form-anti-nuclear-alliance-at-cop26/>

4. "For our baseload to be switched from coal to maybe nuclear, we will need substantial sums of cash to put up nuclear facilities both to replace our existing demand and for the future demand that our development imperative needs," stated Union Minister Piyush Goyal.

Source: <https://www.deccanherald.com/science-and-environment/the-nuclear-option-1049838.html>

5. At the COP26 UN climate meeting in Glasgow, Portugal's Environment and Climate Action Minister, Joo Pedro Matos Fernandes, stated, "The EU should not support nuclear energy projects since they are risky, unsustainable, and expensive."

Source: https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/short_news/portuguese-environment-minister-eu-should-not-fund-unsafe-nuclear-projects/

6. "It's been ten years. During those ten years, there has been a noticeable improvement in nuclear safety practises all around the world," declared the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Director General during a meeting on the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident. Leaders and scientists convened for a week at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna a decade after the disaster at the Japanese site to reflect on the nuclear community's reaction.

Sources: <https://newseu.cgtn.com/news/2021-11-13/Ten-years-after-Fukushima-IAEA-says-nuclear-safety-has-strengthened-158NHA0gFCE/index.html>

7. On November 11, Germany, Luxembourg, Portugal, Denmark, and Austria came out against nuclear energy being classified as a climate-friendly source of power. The five nations published a declaration on the fringes of the United Nations climate meeting, COP26, in Glasgow. It comes at a time when the European Commission is working on a so-called EU taxonomy, which would identify what the EU believes to be "environmentally sustainable economic activity."

Source: <https://frontline.thehindu.com/dispatches/european-union-split-on-listing-nuclear-energy-as-green/article37456969.ece>

8. As the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) comes to a close and nations prepare to invest much more in decarbonizing their economy, the discussion over the role of nuclear energy in reaching net-zero ambitions heats up. Since the 1950s, nuclear power plants have been in operation. The process is simple: atoms are split, and the energy released warms water, producing steam that drives turbines that generate electricity.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2021/11/12/is-nuclear-power-the-way-forward-to-combat-the-climate-crisis>

9. As he pointed out, nuclear reactors are extremely capital-intensive, yet nuclear fuel is both energy-dense and inexpensive, making them economically viable when operating at full capacity. As a result, it is a reliable alternative for coal as a baseload provider.

Source: <https://www.deccanherald.com/science-and-environment/the-nuclear-option-1049838.html>

10. The director of the UN nuclear watchdog said on Friday that he has had no interaction with the new Iranian administration about many critical unresolved matters since it took office, which he described as "astonishing." Rafael Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), had hoped to visit Iran before the next meeting of the IAEA's Board of Governors on November 22, but expressed disappointment on Friday that no invitation had yet been received.

Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/lack-of-contact-from-irans-government-astonishing-un-nuclear-watchdog/>

MISSILES/BIO WEAPONS

1. Concerned about a suspected Chinese military buildup across the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Centre has approved the ambitious Char Dham road project, arguing that bigger roads are required to carry missiles such as the BrahMos and other military equipment. The important 900-kilometer-long Chardham project, approximately Rs 12,000 crore, intends to offer all-weather connection to four holy cities in Uttarakhand: Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath.

Source: <https://www.indiatvnews.com/news/india/india-planning-to-deploy-brahmos-missile-at-china-border-supreme-court-uttarakhand-border-char-dham-project-latest-updates-744736>

2. Attempting to assuage concerns about landslides in Himalayan regions caused by the construction of the larger Chardham highway project, the government stated that all necessary steps had been taken to mitigate the disaster and that landslides had occurred in various parts of the country, not specifically due to road construction. The important 900-kilometer-long Chardham project, approximately Rs 12,000 crore, intends to offer all-weather connection to four holy cities in Uttarakhand: Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath.

Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/chardham-project-supreme-court-army-indo-china-border-1875812-2021-11-12>

3. The Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first artificial satellite, in 1957. Shocked Americans replied by establishing Nasa, but also by hastening their fledgling ballistic missile programme. The boring old "bomber gap" was replaced with the more persuasive (but equally fictitious) "missile gap," and US investment on new weapons increased dramatically.

Source: <https://www.bangkokpost.com/opinion/opinion/2214663/hypersonic-missiles-are-a-needles-complication>

4. In the August test, a Long March rocket sent an unknown spacecraft into low-Earth orbit, where it subsequently re-entered and glided — at breakneck speed — toward a target, but it fell short by more than ten miles. Members of the US military and intelligence community were taken aback by the tests, which led some US officials and experts to believe China is developing offensive missile technology — a "fractional orbital bombardment system" — capable of attacking the US.

Sources: <https://www.inverse.com/innovation/what-is-going-on-with-chinas-hypersonic-missile-test>

5. According to a Defense Department study on China released earlier this year, China's rapidly developing missile arsenal entails a large-scale rise in the size of its mission. The department has highlighted recent advances made by the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force (PLARF).

Sources: <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/bidens-nightmare-challenge-countering-china%E2%80%99s%C2%A0new-missiles-196169>

6. Northrop Grumman has completed the critical design evaluation of the US Missile Defense Agency's Hypersonic and Ballistic Tracking Space Sensor (HBTSS) prototype. The evaluation defines the company's technical methodology for precise and timely sensor coverage in order to destroy ballistic and hypersonic missiles. HBTSS satellites will offer continuous tracking and handoff to allow hostile missiles to be targeted.

Source: <https://www.shephardmedia.com/news/air-warfare/us-mda-prepares-hypersonic-and-ballistic-missile-d/>

7. According to Thomas Karako, senior scholar at the Washington, D.C.-based think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), the United States needs to deploy space-based sensors to counter China's new missiles. The policy advice comes after it was revealed last month that China had performed a hypersonic weapons test in pursuit of an Earth-orbiting system capable of evading US missile defences.

Source: <https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/4343155>

8. Turkish Aerospace Industries has announced the development and integration of a directed infrared countermeasure system for the A400M international heavy transport aircraft. TAI announced in a Nov. 11 announcement that the DIRCM was installed into the A400M with the tail number MSN 105, claiming that the "A400M is safer now."

Source: <https://www.defensenews.com/industry/2021/11/12/tai-installs-missile-destroyer-on-a400m-aircraft/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. In 2010, Jakob Kellenberger, then-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, demonstrated extraordinary bravery by gathering all accredited ambassadors in Geneva and stating unequivocally that his organisation would be unable to provide the required international standards of humanitarian assistance to civilian populations if nuclear weapons were used. "The sheer idea that atomic bombs may be deployed, for whatever reason," he writes, "is enough to render any endeavour to safeguard noncombatants unreal."

Source: <https://www.europeanleadershipnetwork.org/commentary/the-environmental-dimension-of-the-use-of-nuclear-weapons/>

2. Almost nothing hinted that former South African President Frederik Willem de Klerk would be the guy to bring apartheid to an end. He was born into a family of apartheid leaders, became a member of Parliament in 1972, and was involved in—even approving of—all the evil performed under apartheid while serving in a number of cabinet positions. However, while president, de Klerk surprised the world in February 1990 by lifting the ban on opposition political parties, including the African National Congress, and releasing political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela, with whom he would eventually share the Nobel Peace Prize.

Source: <https://thebulletin.org/2021/11/fw-de-klerk-who-ended-south-african-apartheid-leaves-another-legacy-nuclear-disarmament/>

3. The frigate will be in service from November 13 to December 14, 2021. Bayern is part of monitoring the UN Security Council sanctions imposed on North Korea. The frigate is acting as the UN's eyes and ears in this area. It is gathering evidence on unlawful cargo transfers on the high seas as well as the networks that facilitate such transfers. It reports suspicious actions and violations to the Enforcement Coordination Cell (ECC), which then reports them to the United Nations Security Council's Group of Experts.

Sources: <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/regionaleschwerpunkte/asien/sanktionen-nordkorea/2495750>

4. The AUKUS treaty, unveiled in September, is intended to enhance collaboration on defence technology, the most visible of which are eight nuclear-powered submarines that the United States and the United Kingdom would assist Australia in developing.

Source: <https://www.businessinsider.in/international/news/australias-new-nuclear-powered-sub-a-re-decades-away-but-its-already-hinting-about-where-it-will-use-them/articleshow/87655983.cms>

5. According to Stanford researcher Thomas Fingar, when President Joe Biden meets with his Chinese counterpart President Xi Jinping next week, they will both want to demonstrate to the world that the two nations have shared and comparable goals and that collaboration is achievable.

Source: <https://news.stanford.edu/2021/11/12/expect-biden-xi-virtual-summit/>

UN REFORMS

1. A memorandum has been signed between Minister of Economy of Georgia Natia Turnava, Resident Representative of the UNDP Development Program in Georgia Nick Beresford and Deputy Head of the British Mission in Georgia Claire Allbless. It supports reforms in the Ministry of Economy of the republic. The Ministry of Economy will be assisted by the British government and UNDP in planning, monitoring and policy evaluation.

Source: <https://vestnikkavkaza.net/news/UN-to-help-Georgia-reform-Ministry-of-Economy.html>

2. The International Solar Alliance (ISA), led by India, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) signed a memorandum of understanding on Friday at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, agreeing to collaborate and support countries in implementing ambitious national climate action in line with global efforts.

Source: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/india-led-international-solar-alliance-signs-un-pact-at-cop26-in-glasgow-7714501.html>

3. On Thursday, UN Special Envoy Hans Grundberg indicated that a UN-led political process might still be part of a long-term solution to Yemen's conflict. According to a UN report, Grundberg told members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) via teleconference at a UNSC meeting about his three-day journey to the Taiz governorate, where he had meetings in Taiz city, Turbah, and Mokha. Grundberg also emphasised the urgent necessity to end the war.

Source: <https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/rest-of-the-world-news/yemen-un-special-envoy-briefs-security-council-highlights-urgency-to-end-conflict.html>

4. The head of the UN nuclear watchdog said on Friday that he has had no interaction with the new Iranian administration about many critical unresolved matters since it took office, which he described as "astonishing." Rafael Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), had hoped to visit Iran before the next meeting of the IAEA's Board of Governors on November 22, but expressed disappointment on Friday that no invitation had yet been received.

Sources: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/lack-of-contact-from-irans-government-astonishing-un-nu>

[clear-watchdog/](#)

5. More than 150 people have been relocated as a result of flash floods in Libya's eastern towns earlier this month. Floods have destroyed homes and significantly harmed the supply of basic services such as shelter, water, food, and healthcare in the impacted communities.

Source: <https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/un-agencies-respond-rapidly-aid-flood-affected-population-eastern-libya-enar>

6. Olivier De Schutter, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, slammed Lebanese Central Bank Governor Riad Salameh on Friday for failing to recognise the bank's involvement in the country's catastrophic economic situation. "The participation of commercial banks and the Central Bank [BDL] has been extremely troublesome," said De Schutter to Al Jazeera.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2021/11/12/un-rep-slams-lebanon-central-bank-chief-over-economic-crisis>

7. An independent United Nations envoy told Reuters in an interview that Lebanese government officials have no sense of urgency and are not accepting responsibility for an economic catastrophe that has "brutally impoverished" the populace.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/lebanese-government-fantasy-land-amid-crisis-un-envoy-says-2021-11-12/>

8. Today, there is audible wrath from activists and demonstrators who are upset that the last hours of this climate conference have not resulted in the binding promises they desire.

Sources: <https://www.npr.org/2021/11/12/1055366601/negotiators-are-in-the-home-stretch-on-the-final-day-of-un-climate-conference>

9. According to summit observers, incremental progress was achieved overnight Nov. 11 on finalising the parameters for worldwide trading of carbon reductions at the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow. However, there were growing concerns that important countries were still deadlocked on

several fundamental issues, prompting fears that agreement on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement may elude governments for still another year.

Sources: <https://www.spglobal.com/platts/en/market-insights/latest-news/energy-transition/111221-cop26-global-carbon-market-rules-edge-nearer-at-un-climate-summit>

10. Prior to Thursday's Security Council meeting on Yemen, UN Special Envoy Hans Grundberg stated that a UN-led political process might still be part of a long-term solution to the war. Mr. Grundberg updated the Council Members via teleconference on his three-day tour to Taiz governorate, where he conducted meetings in Taiz city, Turbah, and Mokha and highlighted the urgent need to cease the violence.

Sources: <https://hwnews.in/united-nations/yemen-un-special-envoy-calls-for-urgent-end-to-fighting-as-humanitarian-needs-escalate/172852>

11. According to two individuals close to the discussions, China and Saudi Arabia are among a group of nations attempting to block the UN climate treaty in Scotland from including language against fossil fuel subsidies.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/business/cop/china-saudi-seek-block-anti-fossil-fuel-language-un-climate-deal-sources-2021-11-12/>