

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. After the first phase of the Rhisotope Project, Russia's integrated nuclear power major Rosatom has initiated the community outreach programme in Paterson, Eastern Cape, South Africa.
Source: <https://weather.com/en-IN/india/biodiversity/news/2021-11-21-nuclear-science-to-prevent-rhinoceros-poaching>
2. NASA and the nation's top federal nuclear research lab on Friday put out a request for proposals for a fission surface power system. NASA is collaborating with the US Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory to establish a sun-independent power source for missions to the moon by the end of the decade.
Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/science/story/nuclear-reactor-on-moon-nasa-seeks-ideas-to-power-lunar-missions-1879090-2021-11-21>
3. If Tehran "does not engage seriously," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said on Saturday, the US will prevent Iran from gaining a nuclear weapon and will respond its destabilising actions in the area.
Source: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/2021/11/20/us-will-stop-iran-developing-nuclear-weapon-top-official-assures-gulf-and-region/>
4. Amid India-China border tensions, the Chinese PLAAF recently dispatched an [H-6K bomber close to the LAC](#), the disputed border with India. Satellite imagery accessed by the media outlets has revealed that China's Air Force (PLAAF) has three airbases opposite eastern Ladakh – Kashgar, Hotan and Ngari Gunsar. Other Chinese airbases on the radar of Indian agencies [include](#) Shigatse, Lhasa Gongkar, Nyingchi, and Chamdo Pangta
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/border-indian-air-force-gears-up-to-counter-china/>
5. NASA and the nation's top federal nuclear research lab on Friday put out a request for proposals for a fission surface power system. NASA is working with the Idaho National Laboratory of the US Department of Energy to develop a sun-independent power source for lunar missions before the end of the decade.
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/nasa-us-govt-seek-ideas-for-nuclear-fission-surface-power-system-on-moon-121112000148_1.html

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. On Sunday, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned the INS Visakhapatnam, the first stealth-guided missile destroyer ship of Project 15B, into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai (November 21). INS Visakhapatnam was built using domestic steel DMR 249A and is one of India's



largest destroyers, with a length of 163 metres and a displacement of over 7,400 tonnes. The ship has a considerable indigenous component, providing around 75% to AtmaNirbhar Bharat.

Source: <https://newslivetv.com/first-stealth-guided-missile-destroyer-ship-ins-visakhapatnam-formally-joins-indian-navy/>

2. In the future, Naftali Bennett wants to increase defense budget allocations to boost the military's offensive capabilities, particularly in the area of missiles and precision weapons for the air force.
Source: <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-with-economy-expanding-bennett-eyes-new-toys-for-the-israeli-army-1.10402561>
3. Beginning in 2022, the Modi government will deploy at least two regiments of S-400 air defense systems on India's north and east borders, redressing the military's tactical inferiority following the PLA's unexpected incursions on the 1,597-kilometer Ladakh Line of Control in May 2020. (LAC).
Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-to-deploy-two-s-400-systems-by-early-2022-changes-game-with-china-101637382419359.html>
4. China might day be able to conduct a surprise nuclear assault on the United States, according to the second highest ranking American military commander, who revealed fresh information about Beijing's July hypersonic weapons test. The vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John Hyten, told CBS News.
Source: <https://www.news18.com/news/world/chinas-hypersonic-missile-went-around-the-world-in-july-top-us-military-official-4463111.html>
5. America's top defense official pledged on Saturday to prevent Iran from gaining a nuclear weapon and to confront its "dangerous use" of suicide drones in the wider Middle East, despite the fact that talks over Tehran's shattered nuclear deal with Western powers remain stuck. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's remarks at the annual Manama Dialogue in Bahrain looked to be intended at assuring America's Gulf Arab friends as the Biden administration tries to resurrect the nuclear deal, which limits Iran's uranium enrichment in exchange for the relaxation of economic sanctions.
Source: <https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/nation-world/us-defense-chief-iran-visit-bahrain-military-middle-east/507-ee432e88-7283-4163-9724-6284b1aa52fd>
6. The Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), a division of the United States Department of Defense (DoD) that awards emerging technology prototype contracts, published a first draught of a whitepaper this week outlining "responsible... guidelines" for establishing processes to "avoid unintended consequences" in AI systems.
Source: <https://venturebeat.com/2021/11/19/ai-weekly-defense-department-proposes-new-guidelines-for-developing-ai-technologies/>
7. The United States Department of Defense (DoD) is currently reviewing its missile defence posture. This first assessment of the current status of missile defence and where capabilities need to go next, which began last summer, should be completed in time for the annual national defence policy, which is expected out in early 2022.
Source: <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/federal-insights/2021/11/new-missile-technology-threats-forcing-dod-to-alter-its-approach-to-protecting-the-nation/?linkId=140523066>
8. The Indian Navy will commission the INS Visakhapatnam, the first ship of Project 15B, at the naval

dockyard in Mumbai on Sunday, with defense minister Rajnath Singh serving as the chief guest. The commissioning of the INS Visakhapatnam, according to a statement released on Saturday, will reaffirm India's place among an elite club of nations capable of designing and building modern warships.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/indian-navy-to-commission-ins-visakhapatnam-in-mumbai-today-10163745311656.html>

9. The U.S. Defense Department has requested bids for cloud contracts from Amazon, Google, Microsoft, and Oracle, according to the US General Services Administration. The push follows the Pentagon's decision to put aside a highly contentious \$10 billion contract that Microsoft had won but Amazon had opposed. The new contracts' total value is unknown, but the Defense Department thinks it will be in the billions of dollars.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/19/pentagon-asks-amazon-google-microsoft-oracle-for-cloud-bids.html>

10. Russia's Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile was launched from a warship in the country's north, according to the military. The Tsirkon has been test-launched multiple times by the Admiral Gorshkov frigate in recent years. President Vladimir Putin has branded the Tsirkon and other cutting-edge weaponry "invincible" in the goal of gaining an advantage in any arms race with the US amid rising tensions.

Source: <https://missiledefenseadvocacy.org/threat-news/russia-test-fires-tsirkon-hypersonic-missile-in-arctic/>

11. The future USS Daniel Inouye (DDG 118), the US Navy's newest guided-missile destroyer, stopped in Lihue, Kauai, on its way to Pearl Harbor. The ship is currently en route to its homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, for its anticipated commissioning in December, according to a recent service statement. Inouye is on a tour of the Hawaiian Islands to honour the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye's memory and legacy, as well as his long career of service to the people of Hawaii.

Source: <https://missiledefenseadvocacy.org/missile-defense-news/us-navys-newest-guided-missile-destroyer-transiting-to-new-home/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. In January 2021, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) of the United Nations became international law. Countries from all around the world are rallying behind this historic pact, which prohibits member states from possessing nuclear weapons and is generating worldwide momentum toward global nuclear abolition. The UK government, on the other hand, has refused to even participate in the discussions and has stated that it will never sign.

Source: <https://cnduk.org/nuclear-ban-communities/>

2. The UK government has announced it will increase the number of nuclear warheads in its arsenal for the first

time since the Cold War. A legal opinion commissioned by CND has confirmed this is a breach of international law.

Source: <https://cnduk.org/report-the-uk-to-the-un/>

- Members of the Nuclear Weapons Council (NWC) meet Security Forces Airman at a missile alert facility at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., November 17, 2021. They visited Airmen and facilities at Minot to discuss installation-level operations and efforts impacted by the council's decisions and guidance. Representatives from the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, and National Nuclear Security Administration comprise the council and the trip to Minot AFB was the first time the NWC visited a Department of Defense installation under the current administration.

Source: <https://www.minot.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/2849050/minot-afb-hosts-nuclear-weapons-council-focuses-on-strategic-effectiveness-inve/>

- According to a senior US national security official, Washington and Beijing are "in the very early phases" of talks that could gradually reduce military tensions, but China's seriousness will be put to the test. The focus of the conversation, according to Kurt Campbell, US National Security Council coordinator for the Indo-Pacific, would be areas like nuclear weapons, cyberspace, and space, where potential blunders might lead to calamity.

Source: <https://www.voanews.com/a/us-china-in-early-stages-of-possible-talks-on-nukes-cyberspace-/6320510.html>

- First, there are those who passionately urge the rapid development of nuclear power facilities, claiming that the COP26 climate goals will be impossible to achieve without nuclear power. Some of the more credible voices who have taken this stance include the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2021/11/21/nuclear-energy-should-be-part-of-africas-climate-strategy>

- Concerns about China's nuclear programme have exploded in recent weeks in the United States. China is "accelerating the large-scale growth of its nuclear forces" and creating a larger, varied, and more sophisticated nuclear arsenal, according to a Pentagon analysis released in early November. The disclosure comes after China tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic space missile this summer, which Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Mark Milley called as "extremely near" to a "Sputnik moment."

Source: <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/2021-11-19/why-china-wants-more-and-better-nukes>

- Iran's ambassador to international organizations in Vienna said Tehran's interaction with the UN nuclear agency will continue despite differences on technical issues. "Despite our technical differences with the [International Atomic Energy] Agency, interaction between the two sides continue in this area with the aim of settlement of the issues," Mohammad Reza Ghaebi said on Wednesday, IRNA reported. He urged IAEA member states against issuing "hasty or politically-motivated" remarks concerning the status of cooperation between Iran and the UN nuclear watchdog.

Source: <https://financialtribune.com/articles/national/111207/coop-with-iaea-will-continue-despite-differences-on-technical-issues>

- If Iran obtains a nuclear weapon, the world will confront new risks, according to National Security Adviser Eyal Hulata, who spoke at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) conference in

Bahrain on Sunday.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/hulata-in-bahrain-nuclear-iran-will-destroy-world-non-proliferation-regime-685595>

9. The US remains committed to maintaining a presence in the Middle East to counter threats from Iran, a top US official in the region said on Sunday. White House Middle East co-ordinator Brett McGurk told the annual Manama Dialogue in Bahrain he had been asked many times if the US was withdrawing from the Middle East.

Source: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/2021/11/21/us-will-stay-in-middle-east-to-counter-iranian-threats/>

UN REFORMS

1. The military government of Myanmar has rejected the unanimous resolution adopted by the Third Committee of the 76th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Rohingyas and minorities.

Source: <http://www.uniindia.com/myanmar-rejects-unanimous-un-resolution-on-rohingyas-and-minorities/world/news/2569755.html>

2. Myanmar's military administration has rejected a unanimous resolution on Rohingyas and minorities adopted by the Third Committee of the 76th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The reforms were introduced during the meetings of the IMO Council, where the UAE has a Category (B) membership. Through this move, the country hopes to keep pace with global changes and technological developments.

Source: <https://www.khaleejtimes.com/government/uae-submits-three-proposals-supporting-international-maritime-organisations-reforms>

3. North Korea's foreign ministry on Saturday criticised the UN Human Rights Council for adopting arbitrary Western standards to attack its human rights conditions.

Source: <https://www.dtnext.in/News/World/2021/11/20151227/1329811/N-Korea-raps-UN-human-rights-council-over-arbitrary-.vpf>

4. More than 87,000 personnel in UN peacekeeping missions are confronting greater threats today because conflicts have become more complex and are driven by an increasing number of factors ranging from ethnic tensions and the impact of organized crime to illegal exploitation of resources and terrorism, the UN peacekeeping chief, Jean-Pierre Lacroix said Friday.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/un-peacekeepers-face-greater-threats-from-complex-conflicts/articleshow/87828417.cms>

5. The international community must step up support to Madagascar, where more than one million people in the south are facing severe hunger, the top UN aid official submitted in a renewed appeal for solidarity and funding. The impacts of the most acute drought in over 40 years, combined with



sandstorms and pests, have made it nearly impossible for people in the Grand Sud to grow their own food for at least three years now.

Source: <https://newsaf.cgtn.com/news/2021-11-20/Madagascar-1-3-million-face-severe-hunger-UN-says-15ITu45d6/index.html>

6. The United States and United Nations demanded proof of Peng Shuai's whereabouts as a Chinese state-affiliated journalist shared unverified photos of the tennis star.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/tennis/top-stories/us-un-demand-proof-of-chinese-tennis-star-peng-shuais-well-being/articleshow/87815206.cms>