

## **DAILY TRACKER**

### **NUCLEAR ISSUES**

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1. NASA has issued a new request for proposals for a nuclear fission reactor that could be transported to the moon and operated there. In several fundamental aspects, the reactor will have to travel through restricted conditions and operate in an unprecedented setting, putting this a challenge on par with the many others associated with space travel.  
Source: <https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/a38441853/nasa-moon-nuclear-reactor/>
2. California is facing a critical energy juncture. In three years, the state's last nuclear power plant will shut down, removing the state's greatest single source of emissions-free electricity. A rule passed in 2018 compels state officials to "avoid any increase in greenhouse gases" as a result of the Central Coast nuclear power plant's closure. However, unless they act faster to replace its electricity with renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and geothermal, the hole will almost likely be filled by burning more natural gas, which accounted for about half of California's in-state electrical generation last year.  
Source: [https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2021-12-12/diablo-canyon-nuclear-closure?utm\\_campaign=Carbon%20Brief%20Daily%20Briefing&utm\\_content=20211213&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Revue%20Daily](https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2021-12-12/diablo-canyon-nuclear-closure?utm_campaign=Carbon%20Brief%20Daily%20Briefing&utm_content=20211213&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Revue%20Daily)
3. According to Environment Minister Jan Philipp Albrecht, the shutdown of Schleswig-last Holstein's nuclear power plant will unclog the electrical grid and unleash wind power in the northern German state, says Clean Energy Wire. "Nuclear power is clogging our grids, especially in the direction of the south," Albrecht told the German news agency dpa.  
Source: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/electricity/news/nuclear-exit-to-unleash-wind-power-in-northern-germany/>
4. According to testimony filed Wednesday with the Georgia Public Service Commission by engineer Don Grace and others, the third reactor at Plant Vogtle near Augusta will not meet Georgia Power Co.'s most recent deadline of July 2022 to September 2022. Instead, Grace believes the date will be between November 2022 and February 2023, based on current delays.  
Source: [https://www.news4jax.com/news/georgia/2021/12/04/vogtle-monitors-see-more-delays-extra-1b-for-nuclear-plant/?\\_vz=medium%3Dsharebar](https://www.news4jax.com/news/georgia/2021/12/04/vogtle-monitors-see-more-delays-extra-1b-for-nuclear-plant/?_vz=medium%3Dsharebar)
5. Egypt's Chairman of the Egyptian Nuclear and Radiological Regulatory Authority (ENRRA), Sami Shaaban, announced on Sunday that the Egyptian Nuclear and Radiological Regulatory Authority (ENRRA) had signed a contract with the Czech JV Re Research and Development company to consult on the El-Dabaa nuclear plant. On Sunday, during the 15th edition of the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy Conference in Aswan, the chairman spoke about the agreement.  
Source: <https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/1235/446316/Egypt/Urban--Transport/Egypt->



[signs-agreement-with-Czech-company-to-consul.aspx](#)

## MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

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1. Off the shores of Balasore, India successfully tested a long-range Supersonic Missile Assisted Torpedo. The weapon system is being developed for the Indian Navy by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), according to a defence official.  
Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-successfully-tests-long-range-supersonic-missile-off-balasore-coasts-101639390685661.html>
2. The A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Missile Complex, which houses the Research Centre Imarat (RCI), the Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), and the Advanced Systems Laboratory (ASL) here, scored a hat-trick of sorts this month with three successful launches — the vertical launch of the Short Range Surface to Air Missile (SR-SAM), the air version of the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile, and the Stand Off Anti-Tank (SANT) missile.  
Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/abdul-kalam-missile-complex-scores-a-hat-trick-of-launches/article37939452.ece>
3. Vladimir Putin claims that Russia is the world leader in hypersonic missile technology. When it comes to the number of warheads and carriers, Russia and the United States are roughly on par, President Vladimir Putin said in comments aired on Sunday as part of a documentary film called "Russia. New History."  
Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/russia-leads-the-world-in-hypersonic-missiles-tech-says-vladimir-putin-2648118>
4. On Monday, Park Jie-won, the head of South Korea's National Intelligence Service, suggested that Washington's likely proposal to send Pyongyang with Covid-19 vaccinations may help resuscitate the talks.  
Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/us-vaccine-support-to-north-korea-could-help-revive-uke-talks-121121300169\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/us-vaccine-support-to-north-korea-could-help-revive-uke-talks-121121300169_1.html)
5. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has taken advantage of the coronavirus pandemic and rising conflict between Beijing and Washington to tighten his regime's economic control and block the once-open border with China. The country's near-total isolation is made possible by Beijing's determination to preserve the Kim government and the division of the Korean peninsula, even as it disapproves of Pyongyang's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. Beijing's determination to maintain the Kim government and the division of the Korean peninsula, despite its disapproval of Pyongyang's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, has enabled Pyongyang's near-total isolation.  
Source: <https://www.ft.com/content/4f468514-4336-4273-aaef-c427e920412c>
6. On the 10th anniversary of then-US President George W. Bush's decision to remove the US from the



Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, analysts told Sputnik that the decision has been detrimental to world stability, especially relations between Washington and Moscow.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/analysis-us-withdrawal-from-anti-ballistic-missile-treaty-continues-to-haunt-world-20-years-later/>

7. The US Army has been urging Congress to abandon the demand for the US Army to acquire two additional batteries of the Rafael-Raytheon designed Iron Dome air defence system as an interim cruise missile defence capability.

Source: <https://missiledefenseadvocacy.org/missile-defense-news/congress-drops-army-mandate-to-buy-more-iron-dome-defenses-against-cruise-missiles/>

8. SPY-6 is a family of radars used by the US Navy to provide air and missile defence on seven different ship classes. The SPY-6 family is designed to defend against ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, enemy aircraft, and surface ships all at the same time. They have a substantially larger detection range, improved sensitivity, and more accurate discriminating than conventional radars.

Source: [https://www.raytheonmissilesanddefense.com/capabilities/products/spy6-radars?utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_medium=organic&utm\\_campaign=Naval+Power&utm\\_content=&utm\\_id=60339139616033913962139&linkId=143691743](https://www.raytheonmissilesanddefense.com/capabilities/products/spy6-radars?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=Naval+Power&utm_content=&utm_id=60339139616033913962139&linkId=143691743)

9. On Monday, Russia indicated it may be obliged to deploy intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe in reaction to NATO's intentions to do the same.

Source: [https://www.reuters.com/world/russia-says-lack-nato-security-guarantees-would-lead-confrontation-ria-2021-12-13/?taid=61b75b49c672dc0001d695c5&utm\\_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm\\_medium=trueAnthem&utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.reuters.com/world/russia-says-lack-nato-security-guarantees-would-lead-confrontation-ria-2021-12-13/?taid=61b75b49c672dc0001d695c5&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter)

10. As Moscow gets increasingly anxious about the likelihood of a full-fledged battle in Ukraine's Donbass area, the Pentagon has revealed specifics of the shipment of anti-tank missile systems and munitions delivered to Kiev. "The \$60 million package... includes 30 Javelin command and control launchers, as well as 180 missiles," Pentagon spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Anton Semelroth stated in a statement received by Russian news agency TASS on Thursday. The missile launchers, he claims, were supplied to Ukraine on October 23.

Source: <https://www.rt.com/russia/542840-ukraine-delivery-american-rockets/>

11. According to Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yury Borisov, India could be the first foreign client of Russia's most advanced S-500 'Prometei' anti-aircraft missile system.

Source: <https://tass.com/defense/1374827>

12. The Tsirkon shipborne hypersonic missile system is nearing completion of its trials, according to Russian General Staff Chief Valery Gerasimov, who spoke at a briefing for foreign military attaches.

Source: <https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2021/12/russia-successfully-completing-tsirkon-hypersonic-missile-trials/>

13. Biden has a responsibility to bring an end to Russia's undeclared missile crisis. If the US and Russia can't reach an agreement at their meeting tomorrow, the unofficial missile crisis may become formal.

Source: <https://astutenews.com/2021/12/biden-has-a-responsibility-to-end-the-undeclared-missile-crisis-with-russia/>

14. The US is facing two major and near-immediate military threats, one from the East and the other from the West. Russia is massing troops and munitions on Ukraine's eastern border, while China is deploying ships and fighter jets to the Taiwan defense zone.

Source: <https://nationalinterest.org/feature/china-and-russia%E2%80%99s-nuclear-ambitions-are-leaving-america-vulnerable-197762>

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. At an international scientific conference titled "Leadership. Stability. Progress" on Dec. 10 in Nur-Sultan, leading foreign politicians hailed Kazakhstan's First President Nursultan Nazarbayev's initiatives targeted at international cooperation as well as his decision to renounce the nuclear weapons.  
Source: <https://astanatimes.com/2021/12/foreign-dignitaries-praise-kazakhstans-remarkable-nuclear-non-proliferation-efforts-at-international-conference-in-nur-sultan/>
2. Following meetings with her counterparts from the G7 countries, Germany's foreign minister cautioned that time was running out to resurrect a 2015 nuclear deal between world powers and Iran.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-secretary-state-met-with-european-counterparts-discuss-iran-deal-2021-12-11/>
3. According to sources in Jerusalem, Iran is set to be hit by a new round of Mossad operations. This is the outcome of a shift in Israeli policy: when Tehran's proxies cause trouble in the region, the Jewish state will now strike by attacking Iranian soil. 'No more attacking the tentacles of the octopus,' one source said. 'Now we will go for the head.'  
Source: <https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/mossad-is-preparing-to-strike-at-the-heart-of-iran-s-nuclear-programme>
4. The RIA news agency quoted Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov as saying that there was reason to expect some progress on the restoration of a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, and that the chances of achieving an agreement had grown.  
Source: [https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/russia-expecting-progress-iran-nuclear-deal-ria-2021-12-13/?taid=61b70362c672dc0001d68b8d&utm\\_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm\\_medium=trueAnthem&utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/russia-expecting-progress-iran-nuclear-deal-ria-2021-12-13/?taid=61b70362c672dc0001d68b8d&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter)
5. According to an expert and satellite photographs, Iran looks to be preparing for a space launch as negotiations over its shattered nuclear deal with Western powers continue in Vienna.  
Source: <https://apnews.com/article/iran-space-launches-nuclear-deal->

[72a010e26d3ff0395fd09b7c1b3e51d5](https://www.redlanternanalytica.com/72a010e26d3ff0395fd09b7c1b3e51d5)

6. Beijing embarked on a significant increase of its nuclear arsenal in 2021, as satellite photographs confirmed. Furthermore, the PLA tested an ostensibly space-based nuclear delivery system in October, showing that it is working on more unconventional weapons to counter the US' limited-capacity missile defence systems. These events have sparked debate and concern about China's nuclear policy.

Source: <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/china%E2%80%99s-nuclear-arsenal-least-doubling-size%E2%80%94under-what-circumstances-would-beijing>

7. New photos of the US nuclear submarine that was damaged in the South China Sea when it collided with an item, apparently an underwater mountain, a few months ago, causing it to return to the United States for months of repairs, were released on Sunday.

Source: [https://www.dailywire.com/news/new-photos-emerge-of-u-s-nuclear-submarine-that-was-damaged-in-south-china-sea?%3Futm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=dwtwitter](https://www.dailywire.com/news/new-photos-emerge-of-u-s-nuclear-submarine-that-was-damaged-in-south-china-sea?%3Futm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=dwtwitter)

## UN REFORMS

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1. In August, the Mizoram government stated that schools across the state will enroll refugee children on "humanitarian grounds," disregarding an order from the Centre and welcoming refugees fleeing a military coup in Myanmar.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/myanmar-refugee-children-anchor-mizoram-schools-7668367/>

2. Afghanistan's envoy to India Farid Mamundzay has warned of "catastrophic situation" in his country pointing out how "people are not getting paid on time, there is little business activities. There is humanitarian crisis, unfolding economic crisis". Since the Taliban took control in August, the country has deteriorated in every metric, even as the coming of winter has exacerbated the situation.

Source: <https://zeenews.india.com/india/catastrophic-situation-across-afghanistan-says-envoy-farid-mamundzay-2418359.html>

3. The country's telecoms regulator has initiated an intuitional crackdown on minorities like Ahmadiyyas, despite the fact that the situation of Pakistan's minority communities is already deteriorating.

Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/pakistan-intensifies-digital-crackdown-on-minorities-like-ahmadiyyas-121121100175\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/pakistan-intensifies-digital-crackdown-on-minorities-like-ahmadiyyas-121121100175_1.html)

4. Human Rights Watch stated today that Myanmar's military junta is preventing vitally needed

humanitarian help from reaching millions of displaced people and others in danger. The United Nations, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and concerned states should persuade the junta of the State Administration Council (SAC) to let help to reach all individuals who are in need as soon as possible.

Source: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/12/13/myanmar-junta-blocks-lifesaving-aid>

5. Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga said on Monday that his government would keep working to help Myanmar people who had fled their country due to a humanitarian catastrophe caused by a military takeover. On Monday, Zoramthanga told leaders of Myanmar nationals that his government will do all possible to aid Myanmar people who had sought refuge in various sections of the state.

Source: <https://www.eastmojo.com/news/2021/12/13/mizoram-would-continue-to-support-myanmar-nationals-cm/>

6. The delivery of humanitarian aid to turmoil struck Afghanistan under the Taliban regime may present India with a diplomatic opportunity, but security concerns stemming from the Taliban's proximity to Pakistan and the terrorist groups stationed there will continue to limit the operations.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/india-medical-aid-to-afghanistan-bilateral-relations-7669491/>

7. Rushan Abbas, a Uyghur rights activist living in Washington, has urged Europe to uphold its ideals and intervene in China's crimes in Xingjiang province.

Source: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/europe/refusal-to-address-uyghur-forced-labour-is-betrayal-of-europes-values-rights-activist20211213223509/>

