

## **DAILY TRACKER**

### **NUCLEAR ISSUES**

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1. On Thursday, French President Emmanuel Macron indicated that France and Germany would continue to explore whether the European Union could classify nuclear and gas as green investments in the coming days.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/france-germany-look-gas-nuclear-energy-compromise-macron-2021-12-17/>
2. A \$44.3 billion fund has been set up by the federal government for the construction of a permanent nuclear waste disposal site in the United States. In the 1980s, it began collecting money from energy customers for the fund, which today earns roughly \$1.4 billion in interest each year.  
Source: <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/12/18/nuclear-waste-why-theres-no-permanent-nuclear-waste-dump-in-us.html>
3. Minister of State for Atomic Energy Jitendra Singh announced on Thursday that the Centre has given "in-principle" approval for the construction of six nuclear power reactors in Jaitapur, Maharashtra. The six nuclear power reactors, each with a capacity of 1,650 MW, will be built with French technical assistance. With a total capacity of 9,900 MW, it will be the country's largest nuclear power plant.  
Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/6-nuclear-power-plants-in-jaitapur-have-got-in-principle-approval-minister-7676647/>
4. According to an IANS article, Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, and PMO, has stated that the Fast Reactor Fuel Cycle Facility (FRFCF) being built in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, is projected to be finished by December 2027.  
Source: <https://www.indiatimes.com/technology/news/kalpakkam-fast-reactor-facility-556977.html>
5. On the morning of Dec. 10, one of the two reactors at the St. Lucie Nuclear Plant on Hutchinson Island was manually turned down when technicians discovered low water levels in its steam generator. According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Unit 1 reactor was turned down by a "manual reactor trip" — meaning it was a staff choice to turn it off — at 10:24 a.m. last Friday.  
Source: [https://www.tcpalm.com/story/news/local/indian-river-lagoon/2021/12/17/st-lucie-nuclear-plant-reactor-down-over-day-after-manual-shutdown/8941590002/?utm\\_source=tcipalm-Daily%20Briefing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=daily\\_briefing&utm\\_term=list\\_article\\_headline&utm\\_content=1267CN-E-NLETTER65](https://www.tcpalm.com/story/news/local/indian-river-lagoon/2021/12/17/st-lucie-nuclear-plant-reactor-down-over-day-after-manual-shutdown/8941590002/?utm_source=tcipalm-Daily%20Briefing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily_briefing&utm_term=list_article_headline&utm_content=1267CN-E-NLETTER65)
6. Hyundai's subsidiary and Holtec International, a nuclear firm, have teamed together to create a nuclear plant prototype that could be based in Lacey at some point in the future.  
Source: [https://patch.com/new-jersey/lacey/oyster-creek-among-potential-sites-small-nuclear-reactor?utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_medium=web&utm\\_campaign=share](https://patch.com/new-jersey/lacey/oyster-creek-among-potential-sites-small-nuclear-reactor?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=share)

## MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

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1. Russia's strategic missile commander has stated that the country's defense forces are building new hypersonic strategic systems as the US seeks an "antidote" to the advanced missiles.  
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/by-the-time-they-find-an-antidote-russia-targets-new-hypersonic-missile-systems-437698>
2. The construction of new missile batteries on the Japanese island of Ishigaki reflects a significant shift in Japan's attitude toward China. Ishigaki is a small island off the coast of Taiwan, around 200 miles away.  
Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/16/world/asia/ishigaki-japan-missiles-taiwan.html?smid=tw-share>
3. Russia has issued a list of security demands to NATO, including a veto over the organization's enlargement. It calls for rapid talks, but NATO countries are unlikely to give up to Moscow's demands.  
Source: <https://www.dw.com/en/russia-demands-nato-leave-eastern-europe-limit-missile-deployment/a-60173879?maca=en-Twitter-sharing>
4. Russia orders two strategic (nuclear) missile complexes to "combat duty" and closes the Arctic's Northern Sea Route due to NATO activity. Strategic Missile Force Commander Colonel-General Sergey Karakayev confirmed on Friday that two missile regiments armed with Yars intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) with Multiple Independent Re-Entry Vehicle (MiRV) nuclear warheads will join the Russian Strategic Missile Force by the end of the year.  
Source: <https://halturnerradioshow.com/index.php/en/news-page/world/russia-orders-two-strategic-nuclear-missile-complexes-to-combat-duty-closes-northern-sea-route-in-arctic-over-nato-activities>
5. By the end of the year, two missile regiments armed with Yars intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) will join the Russian Strategic Missile Force, according to Strategic Missile Force Commander Colonel-General Sergey Karakayev.  
Source: <https://tass.com/defense/1377403>
6. The latest generation nuclear-capable ballistic missile 'Agni P' was successfully tested by India on Saturday from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha, according to the Defense Research and Development Organisation. According to the company, the 'Agni P' is a two-stage solid propellant ballistic missile with twin redundant navigation and guiding systems.  
Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-successfully-tests-nuclear-capable-ballistic-missile-agni-p-7678965/>
7. In the midst of rising tensions with China, Japan has recently made headlines for its increased defense budget. The most recent development is that Tokyo intends to set aside \$264 billion (30 trillion yen)



for the first time in its five-year defense budget, which will begin in fiscal year 2023.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/japans-tokyo-plans-264b-quinquennial-spending-amid-china-tensions/>

8. According to US Air Force Brig. Gen. Heath Collins, the third test flight of the US AGM-183A Air-Launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW) was a failure, much like the previous ones, and the causes have yet to be determined. The missile failed to disengage from the wing of the B-52H bomber during the test, according to the magazine, which did not reveal the location of the test.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/us-air-forces-hypersonic-missile-test-fails-c-130-aircraft/>

9. France's EDF takes more nuclear reactors offline after faults found. Shares in EDF (EDF.PA) plunged on Thursday after the French power giant found faults at a nuclear power station and shut down another plant using the same kind of reactors, leading it to cut its core profit goal for this year.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/edf-shares-plunge-after-faults-found-french-nuclear-power-station-2021-12-16/>

10. The Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK) of Finland has granted Teollisuuden Voima Oyj (TVO) permission to bring the Olkiluoto 3 (OL3) EPR to initial criticality and begin low-power testing. The unit is scheduled to start producing power by the end of January, with normal production beginning in June 2022.

Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/TVO-cleared-to-start-up-OL3-reactor>

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Thursday that China is dedicated to a political and diplomatic solution to the Iran nuclear problem and that it will work with relevant parties to achieve early results in negotiations to resurrect the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

Source: <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-12-17/China-reaffirms-support-for-Iran-s-legitimate-demands-on-nuclear-issue-1649QitMcGk/index.html>

2. At the end of last month, talks in Vienna to resurrect the Iran nuclear deal, which may see tough sanctions withdrawn in exchange for promises that Tehran will stop enriching uranium.

Source: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1987701/middle-east>

3. Disarmament of nuclear weapons is a sign of strategic stability. The only option is to take a defensive stance. Despite the fact that India has proclaimed itself a nuclear weapon state, it feels that the best way to achieve global peace and stability is to eliminate these weapons of mass devastation, writes Jay Desai.

Source: <https://theprint.in/yourturn/subscriberwrites-nuclear-disarmament-is-a-harbinger-of-strategic-stability-defensive-stance-is-the-only-way/783681/>

4. In Tibet, China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) staged a combat drill using anti-nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. The 24-hour rehearsal, which included commandos and armoured assault squads, was purportedly held "on a snowy plateau" amid rising border tensions with India.

Source: <https://www.thedefensepost.com/2021/12/16/china-nuclear-chemical-biological-exercise/>

5. The seventh round of discussions to resurrect the Iran nuclear deal ended in Vienna on Friday with a slew of outstanding difficulties, according to a senior US State Department official. On a conference call with reporters, the US official said, "It was better than it might have been; it was worse than it should have been." "It was better than it might have been because there was some modest progress."

Source: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/us-news/2021/12/17/us-negotiators-cite-modest-progress-in-iran-nuclear-talks/>

6. "It's not going well," National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said Friday, referring to efforts to bring Iran back into compliance with a 2015 nuclear agreement. He remarked, alluding to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, that "we do not yet have a pathway back into the JCPOA."

Source: <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/biden-admin-iran-nuclear-talks-not-going-well-national-security-adviser-says>

7. SNC-Lavalin announced on Friday that it is a partner in a \$400 million joint venture that would rehabilitate a Candu nuclear reactor for Bruce Power. A second contract has been given to the Montreal-based company's Candu Energy subsidiary and joint venture partners Shoreline Power Group, Aecon Group, and United Engineers & Constructors to rebuild the fuel channels and feeder pipes for Bruce Power's Unit 3.

Source: [https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/snc-lavalin-joint-venture-awarded-400-million-contract-to-refurbish-nuclear-reactor-1.5712100?cid=sm%3AtrueAnthem%3Actvmontreal%3Atwitterpost&taid=61bd8a7a92a8110001a42dce&utm\\_campaign=trueAnthem%3A+Trending+Content&utm\\_medium=trueAnthem&utm\\_source=twitter](https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/snc-lavalin-joint-venture-awarded-400-million-contract-to-refurbish-nuclear-reactor-1.5712100?cid=sm%3AtrueAnthem%3Actvmontreal%3Atwitterpost&taid=61bd8a7a92a8110001a42dce&utm_campaign=trueAnthem%3A+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter)

8. As indirect talks between Iran and the US adjourned for at least 10 days on Friday, European powers and the talks' facilitator acknowledged that negotiators have only weeks to strike an agreement on preserving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

Source: [https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/weeks-left-rescue-iran-nuclear-deal-western-envoys-say-talks-break-2021-12-17/?taid=61bd293b92a8110001a41c7b&utm\\_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm\\_medium=trueAnthem&utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/weeks-left-rescue-iran-nuclear-deal-western-envoys-say-talks-break-2021-12-17/?taid=61bd293b92a8110001a41c7b&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter)

9. A senior Biden administration official told reporters on Friday that the US believes Iran's breakout time for creating enough highly enriched uranium for one nuclear weapon is now "really short" and frightening.

Source: [https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/us-sees-iran-nuclear-breakout-time-really-short-senior-official-2021-12-17/?taid=61bd1fd85bce710001efc1f2&utm\\_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm\\_medium=trueAnthem&utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/us-sees-iran-nuclear-breakout-time-really-short-senior-official-2021-12-17/?taid=61bd1fd85bce710001efc1f2&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter)

10. Several current and former senior Israeli military officials and academics believe that Israel, at least for the time being, lacks the capability to launch an attack that would destroy or seriously delay Iran's nuclear programme.

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/18/world/middleeast/israel-iran-nuclear-attack.html?smid=tw-nytimes&smtyp=cur>

11. September 2015, Hill Air Force Base, Utah. (AP Photo/File/Rick Bowmer). In the midst of delayed diplomatic talks on renewing the nuclear deal that limits Tehran's nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief, a group of former US top officials asked President Joe Biden to organise high-profile military exercises or other moves to scare Iran. Former officials advocated a diplomatic approach in a joint statement issued by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, but cautioned that Iran has proceeded to ratchet up uranium enrichment in breach of the 2015 nuclear deal, which President Donald Trump pulled the US from in 2018.

Source: [https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-ex-officials-to-biden-restore-irans-fear-to-boost-nuclear-diplomacy-prospects/?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter](https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-ex-officials-to-biden-restore-irans-fear-to-boost-nuclear-diplomacy-prospects/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

## UN REFORMS

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1. Women from the Uyghur ethnic group in China's work camps have told of rape and forced sterilisation. Tursunay Ziyawudun, a Uyghur Muslim, was imprisoned in the Xinjiang area of northern China, where she said she was raped and forced to take sterilisation tablets against her will.

Source: [https://nypost.com/2021/12/18/uyghur-women-recall-horrors-of-chinas-labor-camps/?utm\\_campaign=SocialFlow&utm\\_source=NYPTwitter&utm\\_medium=SocialFlow](https://nypost.com/2021/12/18/uyghur-women-recall-horrors-of-chinas-labor-camps/?utm_campaign=SocialFlow&utm_source=NYPTwitter&utm_medium=SocialFlow)

2. The value of Afghanistan's currency is plummeting, aggravating the country's already dire economic situation and deepening poverty in a country where more than half of the population is hungry. Earlier this week, the Afghani lost more than 11% of its value against the US dollar in a single day, before recovering considerably. However, the market remains volatile, and Afghans are already feeling the effects of the devaluation.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2021/12/17/afghanistans-tumbling-currency-adds-to-severe-economic-woes>

3. Given the ongoing crisis in the country is drastically undermining the staff's capacity to care for their patients in the Malalai Maternity Hospital.

Source: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/12/1108122>

4. On Friday, Myanmar's deposed State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi appeared in court in Naypyitaw, dressed in a white blouse and brown longyi. On December 6, the junta sentenced the Nobel

Peace Prize winner to four years in prison for sedition and violating COVID-19 laws. President U Win Myint received a four-year term, while Naypyitaw council chairman Dr. Myo Aung received a two-year imprisonment.

Source: <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/suu-kyi-in-myanmar-junta-court-in-prison-uniform-to-face-corruption-charges.html>

5. In a vote on Friday, the Human Rights Council agreed that serious concerns about alleged severe human rights violations and abuses in Ethiopia should be probed by an international rights probe. Delegates were told that nine out of ten people in the region now require humanitarian aid during a special session organised at the request of the European Union to assess the impact of the fighting that began 13 months ago in Tigray in the north of the country.

Source: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/12/1108172>

6. The Human Rights Council of the United Nations is scheduled to debate a draught resolution that, if passed, will establish an international commission of rights experts to probe crimes in Ethiopia's war-torn country. Nada al-Nashif, the UN's deputy rights chief, said the UN continues to receive "credible reports" that all sides in the horrific 13-month battle have been perpetrating serious human rights violations amid a deepening humanitarian crisis.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/17/ethiopia-slams-rights-probe-proposal-at-un-council-session>

