

## DAILY TRACKER

### NUCLEAR ISSUES

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1. According to the European Commission's environment policy leader, the long-awaited guidelines on whether to identify gas and nuclear energy as climate-friendly investments under EU green financing standards will be completed next year.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/eu-plans-finish-green-investment-rules-gas-nuclear-next-year-2021-12-20/>
2. Qatar joined Rolls-Royce in constructing modest nuclear power reactors capable of supplying low-carbon energy to about 1 million homes apiece on Monday.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/europe/qatar-backs-uks-rolls-royce-small-nuclear-power-project-2021-12-20/>
3. According to industry association BDEW, coal and nuclear power, two energy sources Germany plans to phase out, accounted for a larger share of the country's electricity output in 2021 than a year earlier.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/coal-nuclear-took-higher-share-germanys-power-mix-2021-bdew-2021-12-21/>
4. On Tuesday, the first concrete was poured in the foundation slab of the reactor building at the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) Unit 6, which is supported by Russia.  
Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/expanding-indo-russian-strategic-partnership-kudankulam-nuclear-power-plant-launches-construction-of-unit-6/articleshow/88418348.cms>
5. Olkiluoto 3 (OL3), Finland's fifth nuclear reactor, has reached first criticality. The EPR (European Pressurised Water Reactor) is Finland's first new nuclear power plant in more than 40 years, and it will eventually generate 14% of the country's electricity.  
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Europe-s-first-EPR-reaches-criticality>
6. First concrete for the latest reactor at India's Kudankulam nuclear power plant has been poured. Work is now underway there on two pairs of Russian export reactors.  
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Construction-begins-at-Kudankulam-6>
7. On December 17, the OECD's Paris headquarters ratified the Protocols to Amend the Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy and the Brussels Convention Supplementary to the Paris Convention. All contracting parties have ratified the protocols, with the exception of Turkey, which has approved ratification but has not yet placed its instrument.  
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Nuclear-liability-protocols-ratified-to-strengthen>

## MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

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1. In a stalemate with the US over Ukraine, President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday that Russia had no place to retreat and would be obliged to respond harshly unless the West discontinued its "aggressive line."  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/putin-says-russia-has-nowhere-retreat-over-ukraine-2021-12-21/>
2. Russian news outlets stated on December 21 that a Russian submarine successfully launched a Kalibr cruise missile from the Sea of Japan at a land target more than 1,000 kilometres away. According to the Russian Defense Ministry, the diesel-electric submarine Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky hit a target onshore at a Russian training area.  
Source: <https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-kalibr-cruise-missile-japan/31618994.html>
3. From the Sea of Japan, Russia's newest diesel-electric submarine, the Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, launched a Kalibr cruise missile, which hit a coastal target 1,000 kilometres away.  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/russias-submarine-launched-kalibr-missile-hits-target-1000-km-away/>
4. The deployment of US Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Systems near Russian borders, including their prospective position in Ukraine, has alarmed Russian President Vladimir Putin.  
Source: <https://tass.com/world/1378719>
5. According to news agency ANI, the Indian Air Force (IAF) deployed the first squadron of Russia-made S-400 missile systems in the Punjab region on Monday. The country's air defence capabilities will be strengthened as a result of this. The S-400 missile defence system is armed with four missiles that can engage hostile aircraft, ballistic missiles, and AWACS planes at distances of 400, 250, 120, and 40 kilometres.  
Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/first-squadron-of-s-400-deployed-in-punjab-sector-report-101640055551309.html>
6. The deadly Hypersonic Glide Vehicle (HGV)-equipped missile, the Dong Feng-17, has now been discovered in China (DF-17). This medium-range missile has a stated speed of Mach 5-10 and can carry both conventional and nuclear warheads. The DF-ZF, China's own HGV, is also available.  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/americas-biggest-threat-not-hypersonic-missiles-but-chinas-secret-weapon-that-is-invasive-devastative-a-silent-killer/>
7. The prototype satellites that will assist the US Missile Defense Agency in tracking hypersonic threats have passed a major design review, allowing the contractors to proceed with production. L3Harris Technologies and Northrop Grumman were chosen by the Missile Defense Agency in January to develop, build, and demonstrate prototype satellites for its Hypersonic and Ballistic Tracking Space Sensor. Northrop Grumman received \$155 million, while L3Harris received \$122 million.  
Source: <https://www.c4isrnet.com/battlefield-tech/space/2021/12/21/new-hypersonic-missile->

[tracking-satellites-pass-critical-design-review/](#)

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. China has begun construction on a new high-temperature gas-cooled nuclear power station in the eastern coastal province of Shandong, the first to employ state-run China National Nuclear Corporation's 'pebble bed reactor' (PBR) technology (CNNC).  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/china-puts-pioneering-pebble-bed-nuclear-reactor-into-operation-2021-12-20/>
2. Vietnam has announced that it will proceed with a project to build a 10-megawatt nuclear research reactor with Russian assistance, marking a new step toward resurrecting nuclear power plant plans ten years after the Fukushima disaster.  
Source: <https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Vietnam-poised-to-resume-nuclear-project-a-decade-after-Fukushima>
3. The rhetoric on Kremlin-funded state television is amping up the sense of urgency around Russian President Vladimir Putin's NATO "ultimatum." Olga Skabeeva, the host of state TV show 60 Minutes, said Tuesday: "The level of anxiety has reached its maximum. We're 20 days away from the expiration of the ultimatum and the stakes are rising, even though it seems they couldn't be any higher."  
Source: <https://www.thedailybeast.com/russian-citizens-are-now-being-prepped-for-nuclear-war>
4. According to the partners in the consortium developing the plant, the demonstration High Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor - Pebble-bed Module (HTR-PM) at the Shidaowan site in Shandong province of China has been connected to the grid.  
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Demonstration-HTR-PM-connected-to-grid>
5. Prevent, Counter, and Respond—Plan NNSA's to Reduce Global Nuclear Threats (NPCR) FY 2022-2026 was released by the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA). This yearly study focuses on some of today's most critical nuclear and radiological concerns, as well as how DOE/NNSA can help with cross-cutting capabilities.  
Source: <https://ladailypost.com/does-national-nuclear-security-administration-nuclear-nonproliferation-annual-report-delivered-to-congress/>
6. According to US official sources, the US has advised Japan not to attend the first conference of signatories to a United Nations treaty banning nuclear weapons as an observer, indicating Washington's hostility to the pact. According to the sources, the Japanese government has indicated that it will follow the lead of the United States and take a cautious approach to the matter. Tokyo has no "clear preparations" to attend the meeting as an observer, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told a parliamentary committee on Thursday.

Source: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/12/20/national/us-japan-nuclear-treaty-meeting/>

7. According to recent court filings, the former top executive of the contractor hired to build two South Carolina nuclear reactors that were never completed will not face criminal charges. According to paperwork unsealed last week and first reported by The Post and Courier, former Westinghouse CEO Danny Roderick was previously a subject of the federal inquiry into the failed multibillion-dollar project and is now a government witness.

Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/records-ceo-face-charges-nuclear-fraud-case-81879474>

## UN REFORMS

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1. According to a BBC investigation, the Myanmar military carried out a series of mass executions of civilians in July, murdering at least 40 males. As per eyewitnesses and survivors, soldiers as young as 17 collected up villagers before separating and executing the men. The majority of those killed, according to video and photographs from the incidents, were tortured first and then buried in shallow graves.

Source: [https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-59699556?xtor=AL-72-%5Bpartner%5D-%5Bbbc.news.twitter%5D-%5Bheadline%5D-%5Bnews%5D-%5Bbizdev%5D-%5Bisapi%5D&at\\_custom4=635359F0-6128-11EC-8097-C7994744363C&at\\_custom3=%40BBCNewsAsia&at\\_custom2=twitter&at\\_medium=custom7&at\\_campaign=64&at\\_custom1=%5Bpost+type%5D](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-59699556?xtor=AL-72-%5Bpartner%5D-%5Bbbc.news.twitter%5D-%5Bheadline%5D-%5Bnews%5D-%5Bbizdev%5D-%5Bisapi%5D&at_custom4=635359F0-6128-11EC-8097-C7994744363C&at_custom3=%40BBCNewsAsia&at_custom2=twitter&at_medium=custom7&at_campaign=64&at_custom1=%5Bpost+type%5D)

2. According to a post on the organization's website, Human Rights Watch called on Japan to cut links with Myanmar's military and halt a military study-abroad programme on Monday.

Source: <https://www.jurist.org/news/2021/12/human-rights-watch-calls-on-japan-to-cut-ties-with-myanmars-military/>

3. According to villagers and a military spokesman, Myanmar junta troops conducted a helicopter raid on anti-coup rebels in a restive region on Monday, as the military battles to break resistance to its control. After the February coup and a crackdown on dissent that a local monitoring group claims has murdered over 1,300 people, anti-junta militias have popped up across Myanmar to fight back.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/south-asia/myanmar-junta-used-helicopters-in-raid-on-anti-coup-fighters-spokesman-438577>

4. During protests in Sudan, the United Nations Human Rights Office received 13 complaints of rape and gang rape by police forces, while opposition medics claimed a second person killed.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/21/deaths-rape-allegations-sudan-protests>

5. India and the Central Asian Republics met to discuss their common concerns over Afghanistan. The invitation to the leaders of five countries to attend the Republic Day celebrations in 2022 should be viewed as a chance to start over.  
Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/afghanistan-crisis-taliban-take-over-central-asian-countries-meet-7682631/>
6. The US has stated that it is working with UN agencies to identify ways to allocate humanitarian supplies to Afghanistan and inject liquidity into the country's economy in order to alleviate the country's predicament. "We are working with various UN bodies, including the UNDP to find creative ways that we can infuse not only humanitarian aid but also liquidity into the Afghan economy," State Department spokesperson Ned Price said during a news briefing.  
Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/us-working-with-un-bodies-to-allocate-humanitarian-aid-to-afghanistan-121122100079\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/us-working-with-un-bodies-to-allocate-humanitarian-aid-to-afghanistan-121122100079_1.html)
7. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau refused to call the Chinese government's treatment of the Uyghur people a genocide in an interview with CTV News.  
Source: <https://thepostmillennial.com/trudeau-refuses-to-recognize>
8. The need for liquidity and financial system stabilisation in Afghanistan is critical, according to the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, who warned that if firm and compassionate action is not done quickly, it will "pull the entire population with it."  
Source: <https://www.catchnews.com/world/un-says-urgent-need-for-stabilization-of-banking-system-in-afghanistan-227740.html>
9. While the United Nations has met several times to discuss the Ethiopian conflict, disagreements among world powers have stalled any action to stop the bloodshed. The conflict began more than a year ago, when Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed dispatched troops to Tigray to combat the insurgents following an alleged attack on his forces. Over the course of a year, the Tigrayans and allied militias pushed their way closer to the capital city.  
Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ethiopia-war-tigray-global-paralysis-un-sexual-violence-atrocities/>

