

## **DAILY TRACKER**

### **NUCLEAR ISSUES**

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1. Berkeley Energia's application to develop a uranium processing plant at its Salamanca project in western Spain has been formally rejected by Spain's Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge (Miteco).  
Source: <https://www.neimagazine.com/news/newsspain-rejects-plans-for-salamanca-uranium-project-9297450>
2. Ontario Power Generation (OPG) said on Friday that GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy, a joint venture between General Electric and Japan's Hitachi Ltd., will build a small modular nuclear reactor (SMR) with the Canadian utility.  
Source: <https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/power/ge-hitachi-nuclear-energy-to-build-small-reactor-in-canada/88082969>
3. Iran's chief negotiator has stated that the draught proposals offered by his country during talks with world powers to revive a 2015 nuclear deal "cannot be rejected." Iran, China, France, Germany, Russia, and the United Kingdom met in Vienna this week for the seventh round of talks aimed at restoring the landmark agreement, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).  
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/3/iran-chief-negotiator-says-nuclear-proposals-cannot-be-rejected>
4. Nuclear power alone, according to a former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, can deliver low-cost power and assist in grid balancing. According to senior nuclear scientist and former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission of India, Anil Kakodkar, India cannot reach its net-zero emission objectives without nuclear power.  
Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/india-cant-meet-net-zero-target-without-nuclear-power-says-anil-kakodkar/article37827900.ece>
5. Rolls-Royce SMR and Sheffield Forgemasters have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaboratively explore a long-term nuclear power relationship.  
Source: <https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/business/sheffield-forgemasters-in-agreement-with-rolls-royce-over-nuclear-power-components-3481299>

## MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

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1. According to Union Minister of State (MoS) for Defence Ajay Bhatt, the procurement of Russian S-400 missile defence systems was a "sovereign decision" based on existing threat perceptions and to meet the complete range of security issues.  
Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/decision-to-procure-s-400-missile-systems-based-on-threat-perception-govt-121120301642\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/decision-to-procure-s-400-missile-systems-based-on-threat-perception-govt-121120301642_1.html)
2. The Arab coalition destroyed a ballistic missile launch pad and a warehouse used to build drones in Yemen's capital, Al Ekhbariya reported on Saturday.  
The coalition has carried out multiple sorties in the past few weeks to hamper Houthi militia operations in and around Sanaa.  
Source: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1980451/middle-east>
3. Japan is reportedly seeking to increase the range of its cruise missiles to more than 1,000 kilometers, presumably to counter Chinese threats. The Japanese Defense Ministry hopes to have these missiles on the ground by 2025. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries will develop missiles that can be launched from land, air, and sea. Currently, Japan has below 500-km range missiles.  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/china-japan-wants-to-extend-range-of-its-missiles-to-over-1000km/>
4. In the disputed Kuril Islands, Russia has installed mobile coastal defence missiles. The move is in keeping with Moscow's aspirations to extend its military presence in the region, which has long been a source of friction between Russia and Japan, with the latter referring to it as "Northern Territory."  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/russia-expands-military-presence-on-kuril-islands-near-japan/>
5. Vladimir Putin stated that a hypersonic weapon with a top speed of Mach 9 will be deployed in Russia soon. President Vladimir Putin stated that Moscow is developing hypersonic weapons in reaction to NATO moves that constitute a threat to Russia.  
Source: <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202112/1240502.shtml>
6. With his acknowledgement of arch-rival America's military supremacy over China's, Russian President Vladimir Putin has created a new buzz. Putin said on November 30 at the "Russia Calling!" investment meeting that Russia is aware that the US is ahead of China in hypersonic weapon development, but "nobody makes a fuss about it," according to TASS.  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/putin-punctures-beijings-us-well-ahead-of-china-in-hypersonic-missile-race/>
7. The Russian Navy (Navy) plans to bring the newest Zircon hypersonic cruise missiles for submarines into service in 2025, along with the first standard carrier - a project 885M Perm nuclear submarine (nuclear submarine) of a modified design. It was revealed to TASS by a source.  
Source: <https://thefrontierpost.com/russias-zircon-missile-for-submarine-to-be-put-into-service-in->



[2025/](#)

8. According to the Missile Defense Agency, the US successfully utilised a tiny, ship-fired missile to intercept a target Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) in a first-of-its-kind test. The successful test demonstrates that the US military now possesses another missile defence system capable of deterring North Korean ICBMs directed at the US.  
Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/us-successfully-intercepts-icbm-ship-launched-missile-historic/story?id=74248760>
9. Russia's Bastion coastal missile defence system has been deployed to a remote portion of the Kuril island group in the Pacific near Japan, according to the Ministry of Defense's Zvezda TV channel. Japan claims the Russian-held southern Kuril Islands, dubbed the Northern Territories by Tokyo, in a territorial dispute that dates back to the conclusion of WWII, when Soviet troops captured them from Japan.  
Source: <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2021-12-02/russia-deploys-coastal-missile-system-on-island-chain-near-japan>
10. South Korea and the US agreed on Thursday to update their joint wartime contingency plans to deter North Korea's developing nuclear and missile threats, as part of their increased collaboration to strengthen deterrence against the recalcitrant government, the two sides said.  
Source: <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20211202004253325?input=tw>

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. The United States cautioned Iran on Saturday that it will not be allowed to "sluggish stroll" global negotiations over its nuclear programme, a day after blaming Tehran for the deadlock.  
Source: <https://indietimes.in/wont-let-iran-sluggish-stroll-over-nuclear-deal-warns-united-states/>
2. A blast was reported Saturday in the vicinity of a nuclear site in Natanz, Iran, according to preliminary reports. The explosion was heard in the skies over the Iranian city of Badroud, just 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the nuclear plant, the official IRNA news agency reported.  
Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/blast-reported-in-vicinity-of-nuclear-site-in-natanz-iran/>
3. According to a non-public notification received by the Washington Free Beacon and given to Congress just as nuclear talks between the US and Iran resumed this week, the Biden administration discreetly eased sanctions on Iran to allow the hardline government to sell electricity to Iraq.  
Source: <https://freebeacon.com/national-security/biden-admin-waives-sanctions-on-iran-as-nuclear-talks-restart/>
4. The US cautioned Iran on Saturday that it would not be allowed to "slow walk" international talks over its nuclear programme while ramping up its nuclear activity. The warning came a day after the US



slammed Iran, claiming that talks with world powers have stagnated because Tehran "does not seem to be serious."

Source: <https://www.bangkokpost.com/world/2226811>

- Iranian air defences fired a missile as part of an exercise on Saturday over the central town of Natanz, which houses nuclear installations, state TV reported, after local residents reported hearing a large blast.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iranian-news-agency-says-blast-heard-above-natanz-site-nuclear-facilities-2021-12-04/>

- During indirect U.S.-Iran negotiations this week, Iran pulled back any commitments it made in prior talks on restoring the 2015 nuclear deal, pocketed all compromises made by others, and demanded more, according to a senior State Department official.

Source: [https://www.cnbc.com/2021/12/04/iran-walks-back-prior-nuclear-concessions-us-official-says.html?\\_source=sharebar|twitter&par=sharebar](https://www.cnbc.com/2021/12/04/iran-walks-back-prior-nuclear-concessions-us-official-says.html?_source=sharebar|twitter&par=sharebar)

- Japan is poised to boost its defense spending by another \$6.8 billion (770 billion yen) to combat threats from North Korea and China, expanding its defense budget to its highest-ever amount.

Source: <https://www.nknews.org/2021/11/tokyo-submits-record-defense-budget-to-counter-threats-from-north-korea-china/>

## UN REFORMS

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- The nine-member United Nations credentials committee postponed taking any action regarding the official representation of Afghanistan and Myanmar at the UN after closed door discussions held on Wednesday.

Source: [https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/un-defers-decision-on-afghanistan-myanmar/articleshow/88079687.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/un-defers-decision-on-afghanistan-myanmar/articleshow/88079687.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

- A crucial UN committee has voted to postpone action on Myanmar's military junta and Afghanistan's Taliban rulers' petitions to take their countries' seats at the United Nations. The announcement by the United Nations Credentials Committee implies that ambassadors from Myanmar's and Afghanistan's former governments will keep their jobs.

Source: <https://frontline.thehindu.com/dispatches/un-excludes-myanmar-junta-taliban-for-now/article37805754.ece>

- The Ethiopian conflict has wreaked havoc on schools and educational institutions, with the country's

education ministry reporting that 1.42 million students in the Tigray region have been unable to attend lessons. However, hundreds of Indian professors who teach at higher education institutions around the country have been affected by the deteriorating situation.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/ethiopia-tigray-conflict-indian-professors-7652345/>

4. During his first briefing to the UN Security Council in New York, the new head of the UN Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh (UNITAD) said that more than 3,000 people in Iraq have been identified as victims of ISIS chemical weapons attacks.

Source: <https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/story/26458-Evidence-shows-over-3,000-individuals-impacted-by-ISIS-chemical-weapons-in-Iraq:-UN>

5. WTA suspends tournaments in China over Peng Shuai debacle WTA President and CEO Steve Simon said he was concerned about the risks players and staff could face should the WTA hold events in China in 2022. After failing to get a satisfactory response on Peng's well-being following her accusations that the nation's former Vice-Premier Zhang Gaoli forced her into a sexual relationship, WTA announced halting events in China, including Hong Kong.

Source: <https://thebridge.in/tennis/wta-suspends-china-peng-shuai-27078>

