

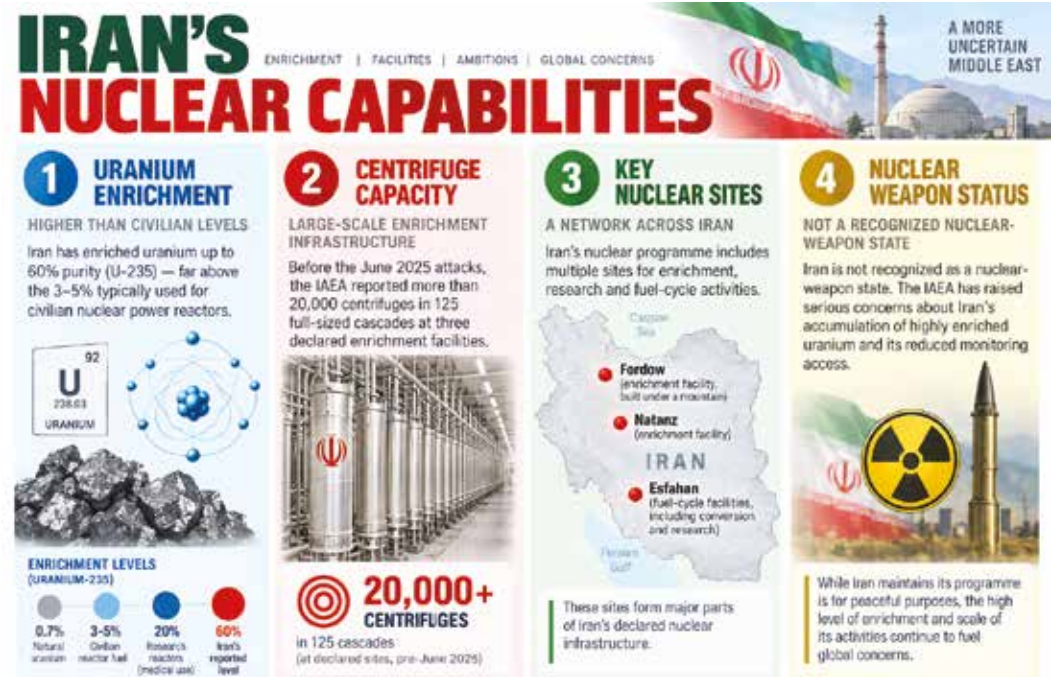
Surge in construction at suspected Iran nuclear site: analysts

The deeply buried site at Pickaxe Mountain is near Natanz

- There is a clear surge in construction activity in 2026 that corresponds to the raising and hardening of the portal accesses
- However, the analysts added that they could not refute nor substantiate a reported Israeli intelligence claim
- The deeply buried granite fortification would be difficult to destroy even with the heaviest non-nuclear US munitions

AFP | Washington, United States

A suspected underground Iranian nuclear site has seen a surge in construc-



tion this year, according to a review of satellite imagery published by US analysts yesterday.

The deeply buried site at Pickaxe Mountain is near Natanz where Western intelli-

gence suspects Iran is building an undeclared enrichment facility.

On July 21, President Donald Trump threatened a US military strike on Pickaxe Mountain in

his war against Iran that has the declared aim of destroying its nuclear program.

Analysts at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a Washing-

ton-based think tank, reviewed satellite imagery spanning six years, the latest from August 9.

"Together, these images reveal more road activity at Pickaxe Mountain in 2026 than at any point in the site's history," the CSIS analysts wrote.

"There is a clear surge in construction activity in 2026 that corresponds to the raising and hardening of the portal accesses, paving of the internal road network, reinforcement around access areas, and the flattening and removal of excavation spoil," they added.

However, the analysts added that they could not refute nor substantiate a reported Israeli intelligence claim that Iran moved centrifuges into Pickaxe Mountain.

In July, Trump said, "We'll be hitting that area pretty soon, and very heavily," but apparently did not follow through on the threat.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the UN nuclear watchdog, has request-

ed information about Pickaxe Mountain and access to the facility. Iran has reportedly never responded to the IAEA requests, CSIS said. The deeply buried granite fortification would be difficult to destroy even with the heaviest non-nuclear US munitions, the analysts wrote.



Iran's Pickaxe Mountain isn't just a mountain — it hides a suspected nuclear complex buried deep underground, just 2 kilometres from Natanz. Its exact purpose remains unverified, making it one of Iran's most mysterious nuclear sites.

IAEA board refers Iran to UN Security Council

AFP | Vienna, Austria

The IAEA board of governors yesterday voted to refer Iran to the UN Security Council over its nuclear "non-compliance" in a diplomatic move to pile pressure on the Islamic republic.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has not had access to key nuclear facilities in Iran since Israel, joined by the United States, launched a 12-day conflict in June 2025 that included strikes on nuclear sites.

Nuclear facilities have also been hit in the latest war, which erupted on February 28, and the IAEA has repeatedly urged to be given access.

The resolution, seen by AFP, was adopted by 23 votes in favour, three votes against and eight abstentions, two diplomats told AFP. Russia, China



Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi

and Niger voted against it.

It "requests the (IAEA) director general to report" Iran to the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The resolution, submitted by Britain, France, Germany and the United States, marks the first time Iran has been referred to the Security Council in 20 years for failing to comply with

its nuclear reporting obligations.

The move is seen as largely symbolic as Iran allies China and Russia hold power to veto any sanctions against Tehran.

The text notes "with grave concern... Iran's continued non-compliance with its obligations" and "reiterates its call upon Iran to urgently remedy its non-compliance".

It also calls on Tehran "to engage seriously and without preconditions in talks aimed at building international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme".

Iran's ambassador to the UN in Vienna, Reza Najafi, said the resolution was a "political tool".

"Iran will cooperate only to the extent that circumstances and safety permit," he told reporters after the board's vote.

From webs to water



A resident wearing a Spider-Man costume extinguishes a land fire at Kereng Bangkirai in Palangkaraya, Central Kalimantan. Toxic haze has shrouded parts of Indonesia and Malaysia for weeks as Jakarta struggles to contain fires that have scorched large tracts of Borneo and Sumatra, with the smoke drifting into neighbouring Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei.

Gentle Care for Growing Children

- Neonatal Care
- Nutrition & Allergies
- Growth & Development
- Childhood Asthma
- Vaccinations
- Acute Infections

KIDS HEALTH PACKAGE

- ▶ CBC
- ▶ Urine Analysis
- ▶ Ferritin
- ▶ Stool Analysis
- ▶ Vit D
- ▶ Pediatric Consultation

BD 12



DR. SANDHYA ASHOK
Specialist - Pediatrics

For Appointments at Hidd | 1746 4848

