



PANTHRISK WEEKLY RISK REPORT

Week of January 18–24, 2026

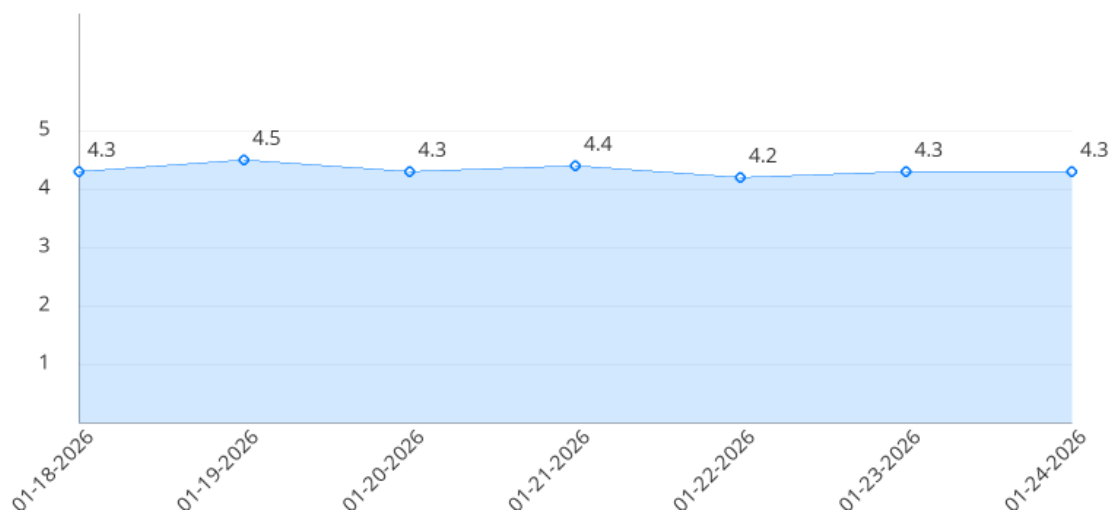
Pantrisk monitors humanity's most serious existential threats using curated news sources and AI-assisted analysis. Each day, our models evaluate key global developments, generate risk-level assessments, and propose actionable interventions. This weekly report summarizes the trends, risk shifts, and notable insights from January 18–24, 2026 across all tracked categories.

Generated: January 24, 2026



Nuclear War

Score Trend (Week of January 18–24, 2026)



This week, the global nuclear threat level remains elevated due to several factors, including the expiration of key arms control treaties, modernization of nuclear arsenals, and heightened geopolitical tensions among nuclear powers. The potential resumption of nuclear testing by the United States and aggressive rhetoric from Russia have further exacerbated these tensions. North Korea's expanding nuclear capabilities and the erosion of existing arms control frameworks are also contributing to the increased threat level. Diplomatic engagement has decreased, leading to concerns about the risk of accidental escalation. Overall, the situation underscores the urgent need for renewed diplomatic efforts and arms control measures to mitigate these risks.



Nuclear War

Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Convene an international summit to negotiate the renewal or replacement of key arms control treaties, including the New START treaty.
- **[NGO]** Launch public awareness campaigns to educate citizens on the importance of nuclear disarmament and the risks associated with nuclear testing.
- **[Industry]** Develop and promote technologies that enhance verification and monitoring of nuclear activities to support compliance with arms control agreements.
- **[International Organizations]** Facilitate dialogue between nuclear-armed states to enhance crisis communication protocols and prevent accidental escalations.
- **[Academia]** Conduct research on the potential impacts of nuclear modernization and testing on global security, and disseminate findings to policymakers.



Nuclear War

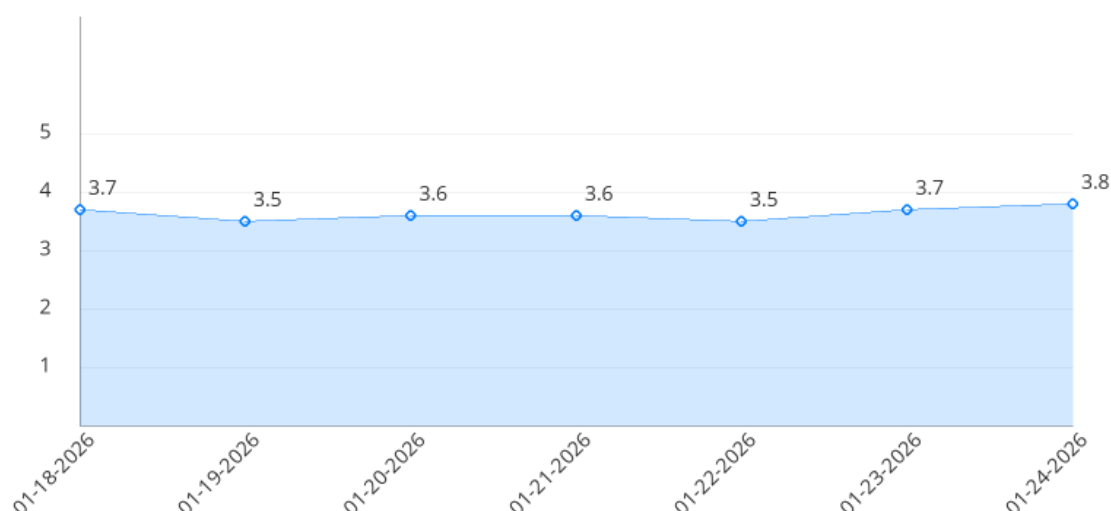
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Analyst: Only Nuclear Weapons Co... [January 22] – [Read article](#)
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US Navy Could Add Nuclear Weapon... [January 23] – [Read article](#)
South Korea's Lee says North pro... [January 23] – [Read article](#)
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(News Focus) Lee's assessment on... [January 24] – [Read article](#)
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Artificial Intelligence

Score Trend (Week of January 18–24, 2026)



This week, the AI risk level remained moderate, with a consistent focus on the rapid advancements in AI capabilities and their deployment across various sectors, including critical ones like healthcare and military. These developments have heightened concerns about alignment, control, societal impacts, and regulatory challenges. The scores fluctuated slightly but generally hovered around 3.5 to 3.8, indicating persistent concerns about the potential for misuse and the concentration of power. The trend underscores the need for effective oversight, transparency, and collaboration to ensure that AI technologies are developed and deployed responsibly.



Artificial Intelligence

Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Implement stricter regulations and oversight on AI deployment in critical sectors to ensure safety and alignment with public interest.
- **[Industry]** Develop and adhere to comprehensive AI ethics guidelines to address alignment and safety concerns.
- **[NGO]** Advocate for transparency and accountability in AI development and deployment to prevent concentration of power.
- **[Academia]** Conduct interdisciplinary research on AI alignment and safety to mitigate long-term existential risks.
- **[International Organizations]** Facilitate global cooperation on AI governance to address cross-border challenges and ensure a balanced distribution of AI benefits.



Artificial Intelligence

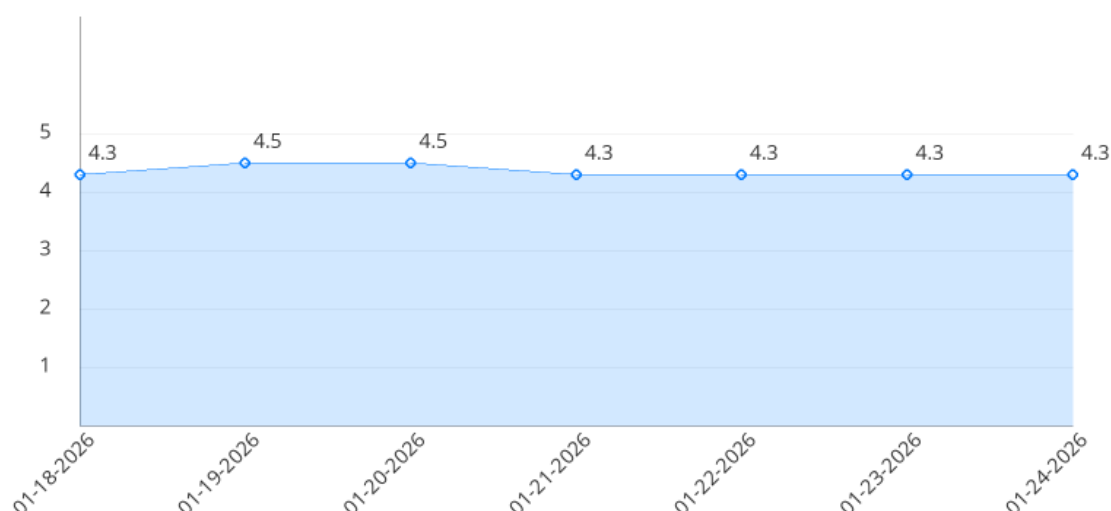
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South Korea enacts first compreh... [January 22] - [Read article](#)
'Artificial Intelligence Bill of... [January 22] - [Read article](#)
What happens when AI is smarter ... [January 22] - [Read article](#)
AI Safety Benchmarking Study Rai... [January 22] - [Read article](#)
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Horizon 1000: Advancing AI for p... [January 24] - [Read article](#)
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AI Influences On Strategic Stabi... [January 24] - [Read article](#)
Pentagon to Integrate Elon Musk'... [January 24] - [Read article](#)
South Korea becomes the first co... [January 24] - [Read article](#)



Climate Change

Score Trend (Week of January 18–24, 2026)



This week, the climate change trend continues to indicate a high risk, driven by persistent global warming, record-breaking temperatures, and increased extreme weather events. The situation is exacerbated by accelerated glacial melting, ongoing ecosystem disruptions, and inadequate policy responses. There is a potential breach of critical temperature thresholds, highlighting the urgency for improved preparedness across sectors. Political challenges and setbacks in policy implementation further undermine efforts to mitigate climate risks. The high climate risk underscores the need for immediate and coordinated action to address these pressing issues.



Climate Change

Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Implement stricter regulations and incentives to reduce carbon emissions and accelerate the transition to renewable energy sources.
- **[NGO]** Increase public awareness campaigns to educate on the impacts of climate change and promote sustainable practices.
- **[Industry]** Invest in green technologies and sustainable practices to mitigate climate risks and adapt to changing conditions.
- **[Academia]** Enhance climate models to improve predictions and inform policy decisions, focusing on extreme weather events and ecosystem impacts.
- **[International Organizations]** Strengthen global cooperation and support for climate adaptation and mitigation efforts through binding agreements and financial support for vulnerable regions.



Climate Change

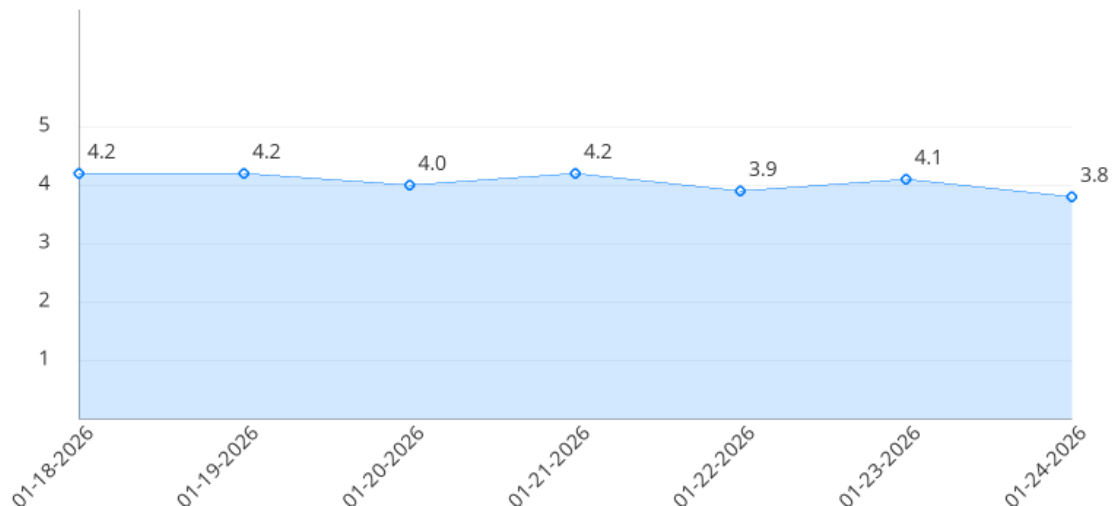
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2025 is the third warmest year e... [January 18] – [Read article](#)
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Climate change is melting glacie... [January 19] – [Read article](#)
Global warming likely to reach 2... [January 19] – [Read article](#)
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Global warming could breach 1.5°... [January 22] – [Read article](#)
NEWS: Most UK Businesses Are Sti... [January 22] – [Read article](#)
Earth's Moving Surface Plays Big... [January 22] – [Read article](#)
Climate change will devastate cr... [January 22] – [Read article](#)
Tornado season 2025: active thro... [January 23] – [Read article](#)
Fires Erupt in South-Central Chile [January 23] – [Read article](#)
Fires on the Rise in the Far North [January 23] – [Read article](#)
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Climate scientist warns recent h... [January 23] – [Read article](#)
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'This is not natural': VCU exper... [January 24] – [Read article](#)
Climate Change Won't Make Winter... [January 24] – [Read article](#)
Trump laughs off global warming ... [January 24] – [Read article](#)
National Park Service removes cl... [January 24] – [Read article](#)
Climate Change Is Quietly Transf... [January 24] – [Read article](#)

Pandemics



Score Trend (Week of January 18–24, 2026)



This week, the pandemic risk remains high due to a confluence of factors including surging measles outbreaks, increased activity of respiratory viruses like flu and RSV, and the pervasive impact of vaccine misinformation. The healthcare system is under strain from these multiple infectious disease outbreaks, and challenges persist in vaccine deployment and public health messaging. Although there was a slight dip in risk level on January 22 and 24, the overall situation remains concerning with a need for urgent action to address misinformation and improve vaccine uptake. The global nature of these outbreaks, particularly with diseases like avian flu, underscores the necessity for coordinated international efforts.



Pandemics

Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Implement targeted vaccination campaigns to address measles outbreaks and improve immunization rates in affected areas.
- **[Healthcare Providers]** Enhance patient education initiatives to counter vaccine misinformation with evidence-based information and build trust in vaccines.
- **[NGO]** Support community outreach programs to increase vaccine accessibility and address hesitancy, particularly in underserved areas.
- **[International Bodies]** Coordinate efforts to monitor and control cross-border disease outbreaks, focusing on measles and avian flu.
- **[Research Institutions]** Accelerate the development of universal vaccines and treatments for respiratory viruses to better prepare for future outbreaks.



Pandemics

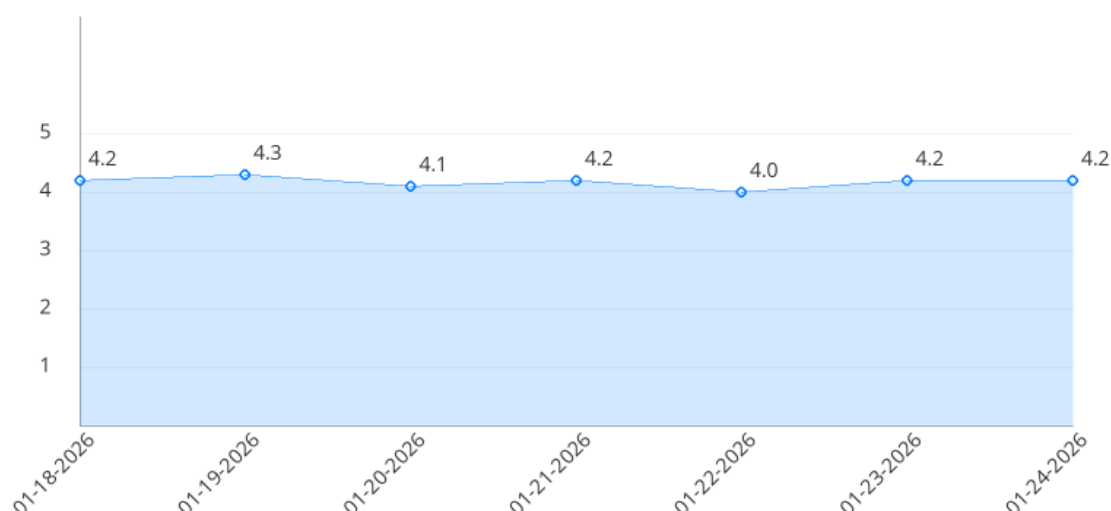
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Measles outbreak in South Caroli... [January 18] – [Read article](#)
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North Dakota confirms pediatric ... [January 20] – [Read article](#)
In call with clinicians, CDC rec... [January 20] – [Read article](#)
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U.S. could lose its measles elim... [January 21] – [Read article](#)
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US respiratory virus activity re... [January 23] – [Read article](#)
US flu activity declining but re... [January 23] – [Read article](#)
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Saudi Arabia confirms 9 MERS cas... [January 23] – [Read article](#)
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US measles cases surpass 400 wit... [January 24] – [Read article](#)



Information Integrity

Score Trend (Week of January 18–24, 2026)



This week, the global threat of misinformation remains high, primarily driven by the proliferation of AI-generated content, including deepfakes and fake news. Political disinformation, particularly involving high-profile figures, continues to be a significant concern, alongside false narratives in health and international relations. The use of AI in creating manipulated media has exacerbated existing disinformation campaigns, influencing public perception and policy debates. The risk scores have consistently hovered around 4.0 to 4.3, indicating a persistent and significant threat level. Efforts to counteract these threats include enhancing detection tools, increasing fact-checking, and promoting media literacy.



Information Integrity

Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Implement stricter regulations and penalties for the creation and dissemination of AI-generated misinformation.
- **[Industry]** Develop and deploy advanced AI detection tools to identify and flag AI-generated misinformation and deepfakes in real-time.
- **[Education]** Integrate media literacy programs into curricula to equip individuals with skills to critically evaluate information sources.
- **[NGO]** Launch public awareness campaigns to educate citizens on identifying and reporting misinformation.
- **[International Organizations]** Collaborate with international partners to monitor and address cross-border disinformation campaigns effectively.



Information Integrity

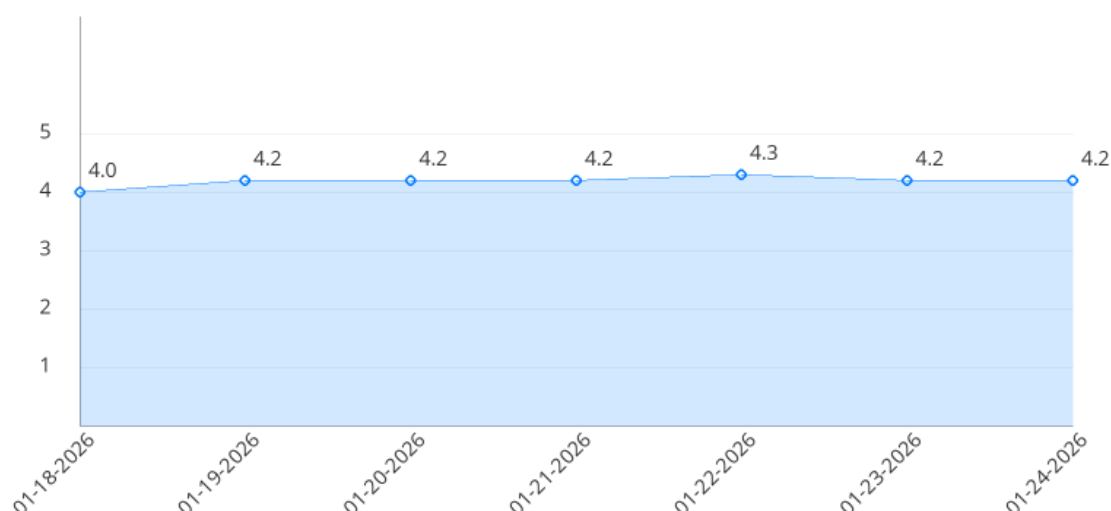
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<i>People are more susceptible to m...</i>	[January 18]	- Read article
<i>Contextualizing critical disinfo...</i>	[January 18]	- Read article
<i>Elon Musk elevates claims of 'fa...</i>	[January 18]	- Read article
<i>Uganda's President Yoweri Museve...</i>	[January 18]	- Read article
<i>Artificial intelligence makes fa...</i>	[January 18]	- Read article
<i>People are more susceptible to m...</i>	[January 19]	- Read article
<i>AI-generated fake sports news po...</i>	[January 19]	- Read article
<i>AI bots can swing elections with...</i>	[January 19]	- Read article
<i>AI-generated videos spread disin...</i>	[January 19]	- Read article
<i>Artificial intelligence makes fa...</i>	[January 19]	- Read article
<i>Did Ukraine run 'sting operation...</i>	[January 20]	- Read article
<i>Did Iran threaten to assassinate...</i>	[January 20]	- Read article
<i>Information control on YouTube d...</i>	[January 20]	- Read article
<i>People are more susceptible to m...</i>	[January 20]	- Read article
<i>Ukraine Warns AI Fake "Soldier V...</i>	[January 20]	- Read article
<i>Trump shared edited photo featur...</i>	[January 21]	- Read article
<i>Did Iran threaten to assassinate...</i>	[January 21]	- Read article
<i>Social Media - Viral AI images s...</i>	[January 21]	- Read article
<i>Truth or Fake - One year of Trum...</i>	[January 21]	- Read article
<i>President Trump Reveals Private ...</i>	[January 21]	- Read article
<i>Trump shared edited photo featur...</i>	[January 22]	- Read article
<i>Reframing misinformation as info...</i>	[January 22]	- Read article
<i>People are more susceptible to m...</i>	[January 22]	- Read article
<i>Authorities undertaking climate ...</i>	[January 22]	- Read article
<i>W Emerges as X Alternative Aimed...</i>	[January 22]	- Read article
<i>Video of ICE agents' supposed 'a...</i>	[January 23]	- Read article
<i>White House Posts AI-Altered Pho...</i>	[January 23]	- Read article
<i>CAIR Says New Report is Further ...</i>	[January 23]	- Read article
<i>YouTube looks to get rid of fake...</i>	[January 23]	- Read article
<i>Miss Israel blasts 'coordinated'...</i>	[January 23]	- Read article
<i>Claim that Earth is getting temp...</i>	[January 24]	- Read article
<i>AI voice cloning scams target fa...</i>	[January 24]	- Read article
<i>The next generation of disinform...</i>	[January 24]	- Read article
<i>When health misinformation meets...</i>	[January 24]	- Read article
<i>White House Posts AI-Altered Pho...</i>	[January 24]	- Read article



Unknown / Black Swan

Score Trend (Week of January 18–24, 2026)



This week, several potential existential threats have been identified, with significant implications for global stability. In Iran, ongoing protests and a digital blackout indicate a high risk of regional destabilization, reminiscent of the 1979 revolution. Iceland's identification of a potential collapse of the Atlantic Ocean current highlights a severe threat to global climate systems, with potential widespread environmental and economic impacts. Additionally, US actions in Greenland are causing concern over NATO's stability, while advancements in quantum computing pose a risk to global financial and security infrastructures by potentially undermining current cryptographic systems. These developments underscore the need for international cooperation and proactive measures to mitigate these diverse threats.



Unknown / Black Swan

Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Increase diplomatic engagement with Iran to address the underlying causes of unrest and promote stability.
- **[NGO]** Enhance support for human rights organizations in Iran to document and respond to potential abuses.
- **[Industry]** Invest in quantum-resistant cryptographic research to secure financial and security systems against future threats.
- **[International Organizations]** Collaborate on monitoring and developing early warning systems for ocean current changes.
- **[Media]** Provide balanced and comprehensive coverage of geopolitical developments to inform global audiences and reduce misinformation.



Unknown / Black Swan

Relevant Articles

- Fires on the Rise in the Far North* [January 20] - [Read article](#)
- Fire on Ice: The Arctic's Changi...* [January 20] - [Read article](#)
- Iran locks nation into 'darker' ...* [January 20] - [Read article](#)
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- Video. US intervention in Greenl...* [January 21] - [Read article](#)
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- A Wall Street analyst warns that...* [January 23] - [Read article](#)
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Week in Review: January 18–24, 2026

This week, existential risk trends across various domains have shown a mix of stability and heightened concerns. In the nuclear domain, tensions remain elevated due to geopolitical dynamics and the erosion of arms control frameworks, emphasizing the need for renewed diplomatic efforts. AI risks continue to be moderate, with ongoing concerns about the rapid advancement of technology and its societal impacts, highlighting the importance of oversight and collaboration. Climate change risks remain high, driven by extreme weather events and inadequate policy responses, underscoring the urgency for coordinated action. Pandemic risks are also high, with multiple infectious disease outbreaks and challenges in vaccine deployment, necessitating improved public health strategies. Information integrity is threatened by the proliferation of AI-generated content and disinformation, requiring enhanced detection and media literacy efforts. Lastly, potential black swan events, such as regional instability in Iran and environmental threats from ocean current changes, point to the need for proactive international cooperation to address these emerging concerns.



Closing Notes

Thank you for reviewing this week's Panthrisk report. To stay informed, visit **panthrisk.com** — our dashboard is updated daily with the latest risk levels, GPT summaries, and recommended actions.

If you find this information valuable, please share it with colleagues working to reduce global catastrophic risk. Awareness is the first step toward action.