# AI misuse and nuclear war could threaten humanity by 2100, warns Lancet Commission

Indices & Reports · 12 October 2026 · https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/current-affairs-english/2026/10/12




## News

The Lancet Commission on 21st-Century Global Threats to Health released its report on 11 Oct 2026 at the World Health Summit in Berlin. It lists 17 threats to human health for 2025–2100. Two of them – malicious use of artificial intelligence (including making biological weapons) and nuclear war ('nuclear famine') – could end humanity in the most extreme scenarios. But the Commission calls their likelihood 'low' and says severe outcomes are 'not inevitable'.

## Key facts

| | |
|---|---|
| **Report** | Lancet Commission on 21st-Century Global Threats to Health |
| **Released** | 11 Oct 2026, World Health Summit, Berlin |
| **Co-chairs** | Christopher Murray (IHME, University of Washington), Natalia Kanem (former UNFPA Executive Director) |
| **Extinction-level** | Malicious AI use; nuclear war – likelihood 'low' |
| **Major catastrophic** | Air pollution, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), child malnutrition, climate change |

## Background

- DALY (disability-adjusted life years) = years of life lost to early death + years lived with disability. IHME runs the 'Global Burden of Disease' (GBD) study.
- The Lancet: a British weekly medical journal founded by Thomas Wakley in London in 1823; editor Richard Horton.
- Nuclear winter: soot from nuclear war blocks sunlight in the upper atmosphere, crops fail and famine follows. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT, 1968) – India has not signed it.
- AMR: microbes becoming resistant to medicines; India's National Action Plan on AMR – 2017.

**Tamil Nadu link:** the 'Chennai Declaration' (2012) by Indian medical societies to tackle antimicrobial resistance. India's largest nuclear power plant is at Kudankulam (Tirunelveli district), built with Russia; Kalpakkam hosts the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR).


### Shanmugam IAS Academy – your next step

- **Courses:** TNPSC Group 1, 2 / 2A (Prelims + Mains), Group 4, UPSC / IAS – Coimbatore · Madurai · Online – https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/fees
- **Books (PDF):** TNPSC PYQ books, UPSC books – https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/study-materials
- **Free quiz + daily PDFs:** https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/free-pdf-download · All news of this day: https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/current-affairs-english/2026/10/12

**Admissions – call / WhatsApp: 99941 46662 · 99944 27714 · www.shanmugamiasacademy.in**