

Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, Location, Importance, Latest News

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The Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant is Iran's only operational nuclear power plant and plays a vital role in the country's electricity generation. Located on the Persian Gulf coast, it has gained international attention following reports of military strikes near the facility during the ongoing conflict involving Iran, the United States, and Israel. Its strategic importance and the potential risks associated with attacks on nuclear infrastructure have made it a major global

Why in News?

The Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant is in the news after recent satellite images indicated damage within the Bushehr nuclear complex following the latest wave of military strikes in Iran. Reports have raised concerns over the safety of the facility, although no major radioactive leak has been officially confirmed. The developments have prompted renewed calls from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to protect nuclear facilities during armed conflicts.

About Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant

The Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant is Iran's first and only operational nuclear power plant, supplying electricity to the national grid while operating under international nuclear safety safeguards.

- Located near the city of Bushehr in Bushehr Province on the Persian Gulf coast of southern Iran.
- Iran's only operational commercial nuclear power plant.
- Construction began in 1975 with German assistance and was later completed by Russia.
- Commissioned for commercial operation in 2013 after years of delays.
- Equipped with a VVER-1000 pressurized water reactor (PWR) with a capacity of around 1,000 MW.
- Generates electricity for Iran's national power grid.
- Built primarily for peaceful civilian **nuclear energy** production.
- Operates under the safeguards and inspections of the **International Atomic Energy Agency** (IAEA).
- Spent nuclear fuel is returned to Russia under a bilateral fuel supply agreement.
- Helps reduce Iran's dependence on fossil fuels for electricity generation.
- Holds strategic importance due to its location near the Persian Gulf and major international shipping routes.
- Remains a key part of Iran's civilian nuclear energy programme and regional **energy security**.

About International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an independent international organization that promotes the peaceful use of nuclear energy while ensuring that nuclear technology is not diverted for military purposes.

- Established on 29 July 1957.
- Headquarters located in Vienna, Austria.
- Functions as an autonomous organization within the **United Nations** system.
- Promotes the peaceful, safe, and secure use of **nuclear technology**.
- Verifies that nuclear materials are not used for nuclear weapons through safeguards and inspections.
- Monitors compliance with international nuclear agreements.
- Supports countries in nuclear safety, security, and radiation protection.
- Assists member states in the peaceful applications of nuclear science in healthcare, agriculture, water management, and industry.
- Responds to nuclear and radiological emergencies by providing technical assistance.

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