

The World's first Nuclear Energy Summit

written by iasexam.com | 23/03/2024



Context

- Recently, the Leaders from over 30 countries who attended the world's highly successful first Nuclear Energy Summit were all informed and firm. The one-day meeting in Brussels was co-sponsored by the IAEA and Belgium and held at the Atomium.
- This unique structure, which was built 1958, symbolises the peaceful exploitation of nuclear energy. Through the occasion it was possible to explore how to use nuclear energy and how it can serve as a deterrent since bombing has erupted across two worlds.

About the Nuclear Energy Summit

- The reference to the first-ever Nuclear Energy Summit is both original and apt, for it was the first time that there had ever been a Nuclear Energy Summit.
- There were two co-hosts of the summit; one was the IAEA and the other Belgium.
- More than 30 government leaders came from different countries to this global salaried leader event.
- The main theme of the summit was to realise and maximise the potential of nuclear energy.
- Assistance for countries just starting long-term nuclear programs was a major commitment.
- Construction of nuclear power plants, development of new-type reactors such as small

modular reactors, etc was agreed upon.

- Safety and security were stressed as being of the utmost importance in the development of nuclear energy.
- Fatih Birol focused on the importance of nuclear energy in meeting climate targets. Particularly in areas where renewable energies are difficult to apply.
- IAEA chief Rafael Grossi pointed to the financial obstacles which confront nuclear projects and argued for fair treatment in comparison with other energy projects.
- French President Macron highlighted the achievement of France's nuclear power industry. It has greatly contributed to the country's activities of electricity exports and cuts and lowers CO2 emissions.

Objective of the Summit

- The first nuclear energy summit was held in Brussels in 2024, and it had several key goals.
- Show the important role nuclear energy plays in solving global problems such as **weaning off fossil fuels, improving energy security** and **promoting growth**.
- Leaders from around the world were invited to take part in the summit at which they could consider and exchange ideas on how nuclear power may help in achieving zero net emissions and **support sustainable development**.
- The summit focused on how innovation can help nuclear power get ahead in market competition and cope with the demands of sustainable development.
- Substantial portions of the summit were spent on discussing the financing of nuclear power projects, especially on opportunities and difficulties.
- The event included important political figures joining with researchers to discuss issues such as new reactor technologies and **hybrid energy systems**.
- Belgium's commitment to things such as the safe dismantling of nuclear plants (nuclear decommissioning) and the tiny modular reactor project were emphasised by the summit.
- The programme mentioned the IAEA's **Atoms4NetZero** Initiative which is a special project that guides decision-makers with detailed energy scenario modelling, and what role nuclear power might play within it to achieve zero net emissions.
- The summit sought to enhance the connections between politicians and businessmen in a way beneficial for developing nuclear power in the future.
- The summit stressed the importance of building nuclear energy into the world's **energy mix**. Otherwise, it may lead to dependence on fossil fuels and a resulting loss in **economic security**.
- The goals emphasised the increasing support for nuclear power and the necessity for cooperation in order to maximise its benefits within global energy.

Atoms4NetZero Initiative

- The Atoms4NetZero initiative, presented at the Nuclear Energy Summit held in Brussels in 2024, is a major project undertaken by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). It sets out the contours of an energy plan to bring global net zero emissions within reach, and aims at precise energy system scenario modelling that includes nuclear.

- The initiative underscores how vital nuclear power is for meeting the growing demand for clean and reliable energy , and for tackling both climate change as well as future energy security challenges. It seems most likely it will focus on creating a green, affordable form of nuclear technology that can be scaled up quickly as needs change globally.
- It will also aim to bring the world closer towards highly affordable nuclear energy , whilst fostering global cooperation in developing nuclear energy , making the role of nuclear energy in fighting climate change generally accepted , and improving public understanding of nuclear power's net zero future.

Conclusion

- The Nuclear Energy Summit in Brussels in 2024 emphasised nuclear energy's critical role in global challenges, like reducing fossil fuel use and enhancing energy security. With participation from around 30 countries and various leaders, the summit highlighted innovation in nuclear technology, debated policy challenges, and showcased the IAEA's Atoms4NetZero initiative. The event marked a renewed global interest and commitment to nuclear energy as a key element in achieving sustainable and secure energy solutions.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

UPSC Mains Practice Question

Q. "Examine the implications of the outcomes of the Nuclear Energy Summit held in Brussels in 2024 for global energy policies, with a focus on the role of nuclear energy in addressing climate change and energy security challenges." [250 Words]