

---

## A FOCUS ON THE NEED FOR CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY RESOURCES IN INDIA AND IT'S THREATS TO THE ENVIRONMENT CRITICALLY ANALYZING THE INDIAN CIVIL NUCLEAR REGIME

**SK CHAND BASHA**

---

**Abstract:** While the development is invariably coupled with the energy without which it is impossible for the development to sustain, The globe in general and India in particular after 1991 Economic reforms has taken an extravagant pace in development but then the proportionate energy supply is at cross roads owing to it's hyper exploitation. Most of the energy demands met in India by Coal followed by the other sources Since the Coal resources has been depleting, In order to safeguard the energy demands of our Nation it is indispensable to create an Alternate energy resources. At this juncture the Paper projects the Civil Nuclear energy with accurate scientific safeguards can become an effective alternate energy. At first the Paper discusses about the Nuclear history in India then it's Nuclear reactors at various places, Three step/phase development of nuclear industry, and other vital issues. Apart from the general information of Nuclear industry the Paper put's the Negative role of Civil nuclear energy effecting Environment which has to be addressed by means of Proper safe guards and acquiring scientific knowledge from the resourceful Nations. Finally with all the Pros and Cons pertaining to civil nuclear energy the Paper immensely elevates the Sustainable need for the civil nuclear energy because the present energy resources causes Anti Natures manifestation called Global warming that badly damages the Natures credibility and governance as well.

**Keywords:** Civil Nuclear energy, Environment, Nuclear reactor.

---

### **Introduction: Indian Nuclear History**

**1947:** India becomes Independent, **1948:** Atomic Energy Commission established, **1956:** Negotiates with US and Canada for nuclear reactor, **1962:** War with China, **1963:** Two research reactors and four nuclear plants in operation, **1964:** China detonates nuclear bomb **1965:** War with Pakistan over Kashmir, **1968:** India refuses to sign Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, **1974:** India performs 15kt **Nuclear Power in India**

- India has a flourishing and largely indigenous nuclear power program and expects to have 14,600 MWe nuclear capacity on line by 2020. It aims to supply 25% of electricity from nuclear power by 2050.
- Because India is outside the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty due to its weapons program, it was for 34 years largely excluded from trade in nuclear plant or materials, which has hampered its development of civil nuclear energy until 2009.
- Due to these trade bans and lack of indigenous uranium, India has uniquely been developing a nuclear fuel cycle to exploit its reserves of thorium.
- Now, foreign technology and fuel are expected to boost India's nuclear power plans considerably. All plants will have high indigenous engineering content.
- India has a vision of becoming a world leader in nuclear technology due to its expertise in fast reactors and thorium fuel cycle.

“Peaceful Nuclear Explosion”. US & Canada suspend their nuclear cooperation with India. Nuclear Supplier's Group formed

**1998:** India detonates both fission and fusion devices, **1999:** Indian population exceeds 1 billion. Kargil War with Pakistan. Pakistan threatens to use nuclear weapons **2006:** President Bush declares India a Nuclear Power, **2008:** NSG approves trade with India US-India Nuclear deal signed.

Nuclear power supplied 20 billion kWh (3.7%) of India's electricity in 2011 from 4.4 GWe (of 180 GWe total) capacity and after a dip in 2008-09 this is increasing as imported uranium becomes available and new plants come on line. Some 350 reactor-years of operation had been achieved by the end of 2011. India's fuel situation, with shortage of fossil fuels, is driving the nuclear investment for electricity, and 25% nuclear contribution is the ambition for 2050, when 1094 GWe of base-load capacity is expected to be required. Almost as much investment in the grid system as in power plants is necessary.

**Three Stage Nuclear Fuel Cycle:** Because of India's lack of uranium recourse, every effort has been made to draw as much power as possible out of the uranium they do have. Using a combination of their Advanced Heavy Water Reactor and Fast Breeder Reactors, the Indian program is able to reprocess this fuel. After the uranium is run through the AHWR once, it is sent to a fast breeder reactor and used to produce energy once again. The plutonium which is extracted from the fast breeders is then used in the AHWR with 'thorium' as the main fuel. At the end of

the third reaction, the nuclear waste is much less in volume and in a far less hazardous form.

**Indian nuclear power industry development & Nuclear Reactors:** The Atomic Energy Establishment was set up at Trombay, near Mumbai, in 1957 and renamed as Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) ten years later. Plans for building the first Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) were finalised in 1964, and this prototype – Rajasthan 1, which had Canada's Douglas Point reactor as a reference unit, was built as a collaborative venture between Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd (AECL) and NPCIL. It started up in 1972 and was duplicated. Subsequent indigenous PHWR development has been

based on these units, though several stages of evolution can be identified: PHWRs with dousing and single containment at Rajasthan 1-2, PHWRs with suppression pool and partial double containment at Madras, and later standardized PHWRs from Narora onwards having double containment, suppression pool, and calandria filled with heavy water, housed in a water-filled calandria vault.

**The Indian Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) is the main policy body.** 2. **The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL)** is responsible for design, construction, commissioning and operation of thermal nuclear power plants.

India's operating nuclear power reactor					
Reactor	State	Type	MWnet, each	Commercial operation	Safeguards status
Tarapur 1 & 2	Maharashtra	BWR	150	1969	Item-specific
Kaiga 1 & 2	Karnataka	PHWR	202	1999-2000	
Kaiga 3 & 4	Karnataka	PHWR	202	2007,(due 2012)	
Kakrapar 1 & 2	Gujarat	PHWR	202	1993-95	December 2010 under new agreement
Madras 1 & 2 (MAPS)	Tamil Nadu	PHWR	202	1984-86	
Narora 1 & 2	Uttar Pradesh	PHWR	202	1991-92	In 2014 under new agreement
Rajasthan 1	Rajasthan	PHWR	90	1973	Item-specific
Rajasthan 2	Rajasthan	PHWR	187	1981	Item-specific
Rajasthan 3 & 4	Rajasthan	PHWR	202	1999-2000	Early 2010 under new agreement
Rajasthan 5 & 6	Rajasthan	PHWR	202	Feb & April 2010	Oct 2009 under new agreement
Tarapur 3 & 4	Maharashtra	PHWR	490	2006, 05	
<b>Total (20)</b>			<b>4385 MWe</b>		

Madras (MAPS) also known as Kalpakkam, Rajasthan/RAPS is located at Rawatbhata and sometimes called that Kaiga = KGS, Kakrapar = KAPS, Narora = NAPS, dates are for start of commercial operation

**Source:World Nuclear Association**

**Safety Features of the Indian Thorium Advanced Heavy Water Reactor Design:** The Indian thorium fueled Advanced Heavy Water Reactor has been designed with safety as a top priority. It has several innovative and passive safety features that would effectively shut down the reactor in the event of any foreseeable accident. Along with the conventional active shutdown capabilities such as scrambling or flooding the reactor with coolant, the reactor also has several passive shutdown systems that will automatically activate in the event of a hot shutdown, prolonged shutdown, or loss of coolant accident. During normal operation, coolant is circulated by natural convection instead of pumps, so a loss of power will not cause a loss of coolant. If a loss of coolant accident did happen, the rising temperature would cause the automatic release of a reactor poison into the system, that would kill the reaction. If this system were to fail, and the temperature continued to rise, the large gravity driven water pool at the top of the reactor building would automatically start flooding the bottom of the reactor cavity, effectively submersing the whole reactor core. If the reaction rate continues to increase, there is enough coolant to keep the reaction in check for 72 hours, more than enough time for the operator to step in and manually shut down the reactor.

**Environmental effects of Nuclear energy sector:**

1. There is an every possible chance of accidental leakage (Technical faults) of Nuclear material into the environment that causes severe damage to all the

spheres of environment be it is Atmosphere, Hydrosphere, Lithosphere.

2. Nuclear reactors catastrophes In case of natural calamities like Tsunamis Ex: Fukushima nuclear reactor of Japan.

3. Safety of Residential areas near by Nuclear reactors is always a matter of concern pertaining to the following issues

- a. Local people's consensus.
  - b. Effective rehabilitation and Rescue during accidents.
  - c. Regular monitoring by the Higher authorities
4. The nuclear catastrophe if happens makes an area unfit for centuries owing to radiations may cause genetic disorders.

**Conclusion:** Since the Development is inevitably coupled with the energy where as the present Main energy resources Coal badly effecting the nature in the form of Global warming which has adverse effects both on the Nature and biota as well, Therefore Accurate scientific usage of civil nuclear energy with sound safety measures derived from resourceful nations like U.S, France has to be deployed for the benefit of both the India, mankind and nature as well. **"It is wise to use sound technological principles that uplifts the Nature's Governance"**

Note: The information presented by the author is intended for awareness purpose only. The author Neither claim the information presented as his research work nor have any association with the information presented, Which are obtained from reliable sources viz WNA and other related sources pertaining to the Indian Civil nuclear energy which are believed to be credible the author bears no responsibility for the damages to resources information.

#### References:

1. The Future Of Nuclear Power In India, Neil Crawford, Gary Katzoff, Talha Riaz, Victoria Stutz, Advisor: Professor David Spanagel.
2. World nuclear association- <http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/Country-Profiles/Countries-N/India/#.U17fCdwwj8>.
3. A. Gopalakrishnan, 2002, Evolution of the Indian Nuclear Power Program, *Ann Review Energy Environment* 27:369-395.
4. A. Kakodkar & R. Grover, 2004, Nuclear Energy in India, *The Nuclear Engineer* 45, 2. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd IAEA 2003, *Country Nuclear Power Profiles. Nu-Power* 18, 2-3, 2004.
5. A. Kakodkar 2007, statement to IAEA General Conference, Sept 2007. A. Kakodkar 2008, Managing new nuclear power paradigm, IAIF August 2008.
6. S. Banerjee 2010, Towards a Sustainable Nuclear Energy Future, WNA Symposium 2010.
7. NPCIL 2011, Facts on Kudankulam NPP, 21 pp.
8. IAEA, AEA, AHWR Status Report, Dec 2010.
9. Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Rules 2011 (notably clause 24), Gazette of India 11/11/11. OECD/IEA Electricity Information 2012 or later.

\*\*\*

Department of Zoology, P.B. Siddhartha College of Arts & Science, Vijayawada, AP email: mahashaf@gmail.com