

# Bangladesh Joins The Nuclear League

## Why In The News?

- Overcoming US Sanctions Against Russia Following The Ukraine War, Moscow, On October 5, **Transferred Uranium Fuel For Bangladesh's First Nuclear Power Plant At Rooppur.**
- This Brought The South Asian Country One Step Closer To Becoming The **33<sup>rd</sup> Nuclear-Power-Producing Country** In The World.

## What Do We Know?

- USA Levied Sanctions On Russian Firms, Including The State Nuclear Agency Rosatom, Following Its Invasion Of Ukraine In 2022. This Threw A Wrench In Bangladesh's Nuclear Power Ambition As **Dhaka Was Unable To Make Loan Repayments In US Dollars**, Which In Turn Delayed The Construction Work.
- In April 2023, Bangladesh Acquiesced To Make Payments Of More Than **US \$300 Million In Chinese Currency** To Circumvent The Sanctions. The Money Is Yet To Be Paid; However, This Has Not Spoilt The Russia-Bangladesh Relations.
- On October 5, Russian President Vladimir Putin Joined Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina **Virtually To Transfer The Fuel**. Hasina Hailed The Milestone As "A Day Of Pride And Joy For The People Of Bangladesh" In A Speech Thanking Putin For "His Guidance And Assistance."



## Bangladesh's Quest For Nuclear Power

- The **First Batch Of Uranium** Arrived In Bangladesh On **September 28**. It Was Transported To The Nuclear Power Plant Site By Road Under Heavy Security The Next Day.
- The **Second Shipment Of Uranium**, The Nuclear Fuel Of The First Unit Of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, From Russia Arrived In Dhaka On A Special Plane On **5 October** At Dhaka Shahjalal International Airport.
- Moscow Is Financing The **US \$12.65 Billion** Plant By Providing **A Loan For 90 Percent Of Its Cost**. The Construction Of The Nuclear Plant At Rooppur, A Village On The Banks Of The Ganges River 175 Kilometers (110 Miles) West Of The Capital Dhaka, Began In 2017.
- The First Of Its Twin 1,200-Megawatt Units Is Slated To Begin Operations Next Year, And **Both Reactors Should Be Fully Online In 2025**, Bangladesh Technology Minister Yeafesh Osman Told. The Nuclear Reactor Is Powered By A VVER-1200 Nuclear Reactor, Belonging To The Latest 3+ Generation.
- The **8<sup>th</sup> Largest Country In The World In Terms Of Population** And One Of The Most Densely Populated Countries, With Nearly 19,500 People Living In One Square Mile, Bangladesh Has Pinned Its Hope On The Atom For Peace To Feed Its Energy-starved Population And Industry.
- With Its First Nuclear Power Plant At Rooppur, Bangladesh Will Become The **Third South Asian Country** After India And Pakistan To Harness Nuclear Power.

