



Euratom (European Atomic Energy Community)

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In News: India and the **European Union (EU)** have reiterated their commitment to **cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy** under the **India–Euratom Agreement**, signalling deeper strategic and technological collaboration.

About Euratom

What is Euratom?

- Euratom (European Atomic Energy Community) is an **international organisation** established to promote the **peaceful development and use of nuclear energy** in Europe.
- It was created alongside the European Economic Community (EEC) to ensure **collective growth of nuclear technology** at the European level.

Established

- **Year:** 1957
- **Treaty:** Treaty of Rome

Objectives

- Develop a **common market for nuclear energy** in Europe
- Promote **research and development** in atomic energy
- Ensure **security of nuclear fuel supply**
- Facilitate **investment** in nuclear infrastructure
- Establish **uniform safety standards**
- Oversee **safe disposal of radioactive waste**

Note: Euratom's mandate **excludes nuclear materials meant for military use.**

Membership

- **Founding Members:** Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands
- Over time, **all EU member states** became part of Euratom.
- Euratom continues to exist **separately but in parallel** with the EU.

Role in Europe's Energy Mix

- Regulates the **civil nuclear industry** in Europe
- Nuclear energy contributes **~30% of electricity generation** in the EU
- Supports Europe's **energy security and low-carbon transition**

Key Functions

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- **Nuclear safeguards:** Prevents diversion of nuclear materials
- **Supply assurance:** Ensures equal access to nuclear fuel
- **Safety oversight:** Sets operational and radiation safety standards
- **Waste management:** Regulates radioactive waste disposal
- **Research promotion:** Encourages nuclear innovation and fusion research

Institutional Structure

- Governed by:
- **European Commission**
- **Council of the European Union**
- Subject to the **jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice (ECJ)**

Key Instruments

- **Euratom Supply Agency:** Manages nuclear fuel supply and contracts
- **Safeguards & Inspection Mechanisms:** Monitor nuclear material usage
- **Joint Research Centre (JRC):** EU's in-house nuclear research arm

Advanced Research & Future Energy

- Actively involved in **nuclear fusion research**, including projects like **ITER**
- Fusion is viewed as a potential source of:
 - Abundant
 - Sustainable
 - Low-carbon energy in the future

India–Euratom Cooperation

- Focuses on **peaceful nuclear uses**, including:
- Nuclear safety
- Radiation protection
- Research collaboration
- Training and capacity building

Strengthens India's **civil nuclear ecosystem** without military implications