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News: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

- Recently, the International Atomic Energy Agency urged increased caution against the trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials, citing over 4,200 incidents in the past three decades as it began its fourth International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS) on nuclear security.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

- Widely known as the world’s “**Atoms for Peace and Development**” organization within the **United Nations family**, the IAEA is the **international centre for cooperation in the nuclear field**.
- The Agency works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.
- The IAEA was created in **1957** in response to the deep fears and expectations generated by the discoveries and diverse uses of nuclear technology.
- IAEA’s headquarters is in **Vienna, Austria**.
- It is **an independent international organization that reports annually to the UN General Assembly and Security Council**.
- The IAEA has **173 member states (including India)** as of April 2021.

- Most UN members and the Holy See are Member States of the IAEA. The dates of membership are listed below.
- There are **thirty five countries including India in the world which generate electricity from nuclear energy.**
- According to the data published in March 2017, by Power Reactor Information System (PRIS) of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), **India is ranked at 13th position in terms of power generation. However, it stood at 7th position in terms of number of reactors in operation country- wise, globally.**
- The current installed nuclear power capacity is **6780 MWe.**
- As **India is not a party to Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NNPT), it has classified its nuclear facilities into two types under Separation Plan;**
- **Unsafeguarded—where domestic uranium can be used anywhere India wants; and safeguarded—where imported uranium would be used for civilian nuclear energy.**
- Since India's use of domestic uranium could not anyway be restricted, this was seen as a balance between the benefits of nuclear energy in emission reduction and the risks of increasing India's military capability.
- **26 of Indian nuclear facilities are under the IAEA safeguards.**
- IAEA safeguards are **a set of technical measures applied by the IAEA on nuclear material and activities, through which the agency seeks to**

independently verify that nuclear facilities are not misused and nuclear materials, are not diverted from peaceful purposes.

- Indian nuclear reactors that use purchased nuclear input from foreign countries are subject to those standards.
- India currently imports uranium from Russia, Kazakhstan and Canada. Plans are also afoot to procure the fuel from Uzbekistan and Australia.
- India has joined the IAEA Response and Assistance Network (RANET) in January 2020. RANET is a group of countries that provide assistance to reduce the consequence of nuclear or radiological emergencies.