

Nuclear energy: A blessing in disguise?

Could nuclear power be the key to the global warming crisis?

Rapid climate change has caused some of the most devastating effects that the world has ever seen. Furthermore, as the global average temperature slowly rises, humanity is inching ever closer to the point of no return. If we wish to save our planet from this onslaught, we must bring emissions to a net zero.

However, it is a fact that humankind's technological marvels have been constructed on the foundation of fossil fuels. 77% of the globe's energy needs are met by fossil fuels; so if we abruptly stopped its usage, our society would be pushed back to the Stone Age. Thus, finding an effective replacement is the need of the hour.

Nuclear energy has been subject to a lot of controversies, yet it is a fact that the emissions of nuclear energy are almost nothing when compared to those of fossil fuels. Moreover, in the present, we must realise that renewable sources of energy are simply too unreliable; sunlight doesn't shine every day, it isn't always windy, and rivers are at the mercy of droughts. If we wish to completely replace the energy sector with renewable energy, then we need to innovate massive energy storage facilities that we simply cannot currently do.

Nuclear energy, while not renewable, could buy us valuable time before nature is doomed. Research shows that replacing all fossil fuel plants with nuclear energy would reduce emissions by about 85% or about 1500 additional years before the global temperature rises 1.5 degree celsius; more than enough time to fully deploy renewable energy.

In conclusion, nuclear energy could be the stepping stone to a green future.