

The Economic Times

China starts first nuclear power plant since Fukushima: Report



SHANGHAI: China's 50 billion yuan (\$8.02 billion) [Hongyanhe](#) nuclear plant started operations on Sunday, local media reported, marking the first nuclear power plant to be commissioned since the radiation crisis at Japan's [Fukushima](#) plant in 2011.

The start of the Hongyanhe plant comes after [Beijing](#) approved a nuclear power safety and a development schedule for the industry in October, effectively lifting a 20-month ban on new projects in place since an earthquake crippled the Fukushima Daiichi plant in [Japan](#) in 2011.

The first unit of the Hongyanhe nuclear power station, located in China's northeast Liaoning province, went into operation on Sunday afternoon, [China Daily](#) reported on Monday.

With the new plant in operation, China now has 16 working reactors with more than 12 gigawatts of total generating capacity. It is in the middle of a massive expansion programme to boost nuclear capacity to 58 gigawatts by 2020.