

India-Australia Uranium Deal

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Why in News?

Recently, India has secured a long-term uranium supply deal with Australia, nearly 12 years after the Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement.

Agreement Highlights

- **Nature** - Long-term supply of uranium oxide (yellowcake).
- **Comparative Deals** - Similar agreements signed with Canada and Kazakhstan earlier in 2026.
- **Objective** - Diversify and secure fuel supplies for India's expanding civil nuclear power capacity.

India's Nuclear Power Ambitions

- **Target** - Expand civil nuclear capacity to 100 GWe by 2047.
- **Current Capacity** - 8.7 GWe, of which domestic [uranium](#) reserves meet only 2.4 GWe.
- **Private Participation** - Civil nuclear sector opened to greater private involvement in 2025.

Domestic Uranium

- **Reserves** - 4.3 lakh tonnes across 47 deposits in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra.
- **Uranium Corporation of India Ltd (UCIL) Role** - UCIL mines and processes ore
- **Major mines** - Jaduguda, Turamdih - Jharkhand and Tummalapalle - Andhra Pradesh.
- **Challenge** - Domestic ore is poor grade and processing costs 3-4 times higher than imports.
- **Imports** - Since NSG waiver (2008), India imported uranium (2008-2025),

mainly from Russia, Uzbekistan, with future supplies from Canada, Kazakhstan, Australia.

[PHWRs](#) - Use natural uranium (domestic + imported) and LWRs - Require imported enriched uranium.

Quick Facts

- **NSG (Nuclear Suppliers Group)** - An elite 48-nation export control regime regulating nuclear materials, reactors, and dual-use technologies to prevent proliferation.
- **NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty)** - Treaty that restricts nuclear trade to signatories; India is not a member; hence the waiver was crucial.
- **NSG Waiver (2008)** - A landmark exemption allowing India to join global civil nuclear trade despite not signing the NPT.
- **Yellowcake** - Concentrated uranium oxide, intermediate product in processing.
- **IAEA** - International Atomic Energy Agency, promotes peaceful nuclear use and safeguards.

Reference

[Indian Express | Uranium Deal](#)

