India’s entry into Wassenaar arrangement

Why in news?

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India has been admitted as the 42nd member of Wassenaar Arrangement.

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What is Wassenaar Arrangement?

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- The Wassenaar Arrangement is an elite club of countries which subscribe to arms export controls.
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- It is clubbed with mechanisms such as the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and the Australia Group.
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- The body came into being in 1996 to succeed the Cold War-era Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls.
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- The WA has 42 members, with the exception of China, all the other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council are signatories of the WA.
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How does the Wassenaar Arrangement work?

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- The goal of the Arrangement is to promote transparency and greater responsibility in transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies.
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- The Arrangement works according to WA Control Lists and the controls are subject to ratification by the participants.
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- Participants are required toensure that transfers of these items do not contribute to the development or enhancement of military capabilities which

undermine the goal.
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What are the significances of India’s entry?

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- Earlier India’s efforts at the NSG were stopped by China, which is not a member of the Wassenaar Arrangement.
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- Wassenaar Arrangement membership is seen as a credit on India’s need for diplomacy in sensitive nuclear issues, compared to the failed attempt to gain entry to the NSG in 2016.
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- India’s admittance into the Wassenaar Arrangement will strengthen India’s credentials as a responsible nuclear power.
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- India’s WA membership is expected to build up a strong case for India’s entry into the 48-member Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).
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- Wassenaar Arrangement will also embed India deeper in the global non-proliferation architecture and enable access to critical technologies in the defence and space sectors.
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Source: The Hindu

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Quick facts

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NSG

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- The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) is a group of nuclear supplier countries that seeks to contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.
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- It has 48 members and India is not a member of this group.
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- Support of international efforts towards non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is the main consideration for the participation in the group.
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- The NSG Guidelines authorises a member country to transfer only when satisfied that the transfer would not contribute to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
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MTCR

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- Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) was established in April 1987 by Japan.
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- It aims to limit the spread of ballistic missiles and other unmanned delivery systems that could be used for chemical, biological, and nuclear attacks.
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- It has 35 members,which include most of the world's key missile manufacturers, India is a member in this group.
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- It seeks to restrict the exports of missiles and related technologies of any type of weapon of mass destruction.
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Australia Group

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- The Australia Group (AG) is an informal forum of countries which, through the harmonisation of export controls.
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- It seeks to ensure that exports do not contribute to the development of chemical or biological weapons.
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- It has 42 members and India is not a member of this group.
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