

Progress in Indo-US Nuclear Deal

Why in news?

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The Indo-US Nuclear deal is on progress.

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What is the Indo-US Nuclear deal?

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- Under the agreement, India agreed to separate its civilian and military nuclear activities.

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- It also agreed to open up the civilian part to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

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- In return, the US offered to resume full nuclear trade i.e Selling of reactors, Transfer of Technology, Uranium sale with India.

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- This deal had went through several complex stages, including amendment of U.S. domestic law (Atomic Energy Act of 1954), a civil-military nuclear Separation Plan in India and an India-IAEA safeguards agreement.

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- 22 nuclear facilities in India have been placed under IAEA safeguards so far.

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Why U.S agreed for the deal?

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- The US wants to bring India closer to the Non Proliferation regime by placing most of its nuclear capabilities under IAEA safeguards.

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- U.S. also expects that such a deal could spur India's economic growth and

bring in \$150 billion in the next decade for nuclear power plants, of which the U.S. wants a share.

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- India is one of the largest buyers of Uranium and everyone wants a share of this market.

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- The U.S. may also benefit from Indian technology, especially the Thorium based research.

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What is the progress in the deal?

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- It has resulted in enabling import of fuel for reactors placed under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

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- This paved the way for setting up of large capacity Light Water Reactors (LWRs) with foreign technical cooperation.

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- India has approved for the construction of five coastal sites in cooperation with the Russian Federation, France & the USA.

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- There are nine reactors under construction and another twelve have been accorded administrative approval and financial sanction by the government.

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Source: Business Standard

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