



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Nuclear Suppliers Group

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Why is in news? Does China-Pak. N-deal flout global rules?

On June 20, China and Pakistan signed an agreement for a 1,200 MW nuclear power plant in the **Chashma nuclear complex in Pakistan**.

The deal, reported to be worth \$4.8 billion, comes **amid Pakistan facing a dual energy and economic crisis**.

The latest nuclear deal between China and Pakistan has implications not only for the crisis-hit country but also for the global governance of nuclear commerce, with Beijing proceeding with the **recent deal without seeking necessary waivers from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)**.

Nuclear Suppliers Group:

The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) is a **multilateral export control regime** and a group of nuclear supplier countries that seek to **prevent nuclear proliferation by controlling the export of materials, equipment and technology** that can be used to manufacture nuclear weapons.

The NSG was **founded in response to India's nuclear test in May 1974 (Smiling Buddha)**.

The NSG **first met in November 1975** in London, and is thus popularly referred to as the "**London Club**".

The test demonstrated that **certain non-weapons specific nuclear technology** could be readily turned to weapons development.

Nations **already signatories of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)** saw the need to further limit the export of nuclear equipment, materials or technology.

It is **not a formal organization**, and its **guidelines are not binding**. Decisions, including membership, are made by consensus.

Membership till now is to **48 supplier states**.

Objective:

It **aims to ensure that nuclear trade for peaceful purposes** does not contribute to the proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, while not hindering international trade and cooperation in the nuclear field.

It **facilitates the development of peaceful nuclear trade** by providing the means whereby obligations to facilitate peaceful nuclear cooperation can be implemented in a manner consistent with international nuclear non-proliferation norms.

Benefits associated with NSG membership - Once admitted, an NSG member state gets:

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Timely information on nuclear matters.

Contributes by way of information.

Has confirmed credentials.

Can act as an instrument of harmonization and coordination.

Is part of a very transparent process.

Opposition of NSG membership bid:

India is not a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

India's nuclear program has been a contentious issue for the NSG since its formation.

India conducted its first nuclear test in 1974, which led to the formation of the NSG.

In **2008**, the **NSG exempted India, allowing it to engage in nuclear commerce with NSG members** despite not being a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

India's **exemption was granted based on its commitment to non-proliferation and the peaceful use** of nuclear energy.

China, one of the five nuclear-weapon states, **stridently opposes India's NSG bid primarily on the grounds that New Delhi is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).**

Its opposition has **made India's entry into the group difficult as the NSG works on the principle of consensus.**

India argues that its track record of responsible nuclear behavior and its commitment to non-proliferation make it eligible for NSG membership.

THE NSG READY RECKONER

NSG'S IMPORTANCE

- The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) is a 48-nation group of countries which control nuclear commerce
- Seeks to strengthen international non-proliferation regime through the implementation of two sets of guidelines for nuclear exports and nuclear-related exports

THE CHINESE CHEKKER

1 India is seeking membership of this club that will fully legitimise its status as a nuclear-weapon state. It's entry is being opposed by China and possibly some other nations

2 China claims India has not signed the NPT and must be treated on a par with other countries like Pakistan. This is a ruse to delay and deny India's membership

3 US is backing India and its support can be crucial for India's bid. China's move aims to help Pakistan, checkmate India

- Guidelines contain the so-called 'non-proliferation principle', adopted in 1994, whereby a supplier, notwithstanding other provisions in the guidelines, authorises a transfer only when satisfied that it would not contribute to proliferation of nuclear



weapons

- NSG guidelines are consistent with, and complement, various international, legally binding instruments in the field of nuclear non-proliferation which include the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

WILL INDIA BE MADE PART OF NSG? WHAT BENEFITS WILL ACCRUE?

- NSG decisions, including on its expansion, are taken on the basis of a consensus which makes it mandatory for India to enlist the support of all 48 members
- In a first, India got a clean waiver from NSG in 2008 to carry out N-commerce despite not having signed the NPT
- This was after India affirmed commitment to the 'no first use of N-weapons' policy, and also its voluntary, unilateral moratorium on N-testing
- Becoming an NSG member will not just add to India's international standing but also allow it access to much-in-demand, sensitive nuclear technologies



India's nuclear doctrine:

No First Use - India will only use nuclear weapons in response to a nuclear attack on Indian territory, or Indian forces. A caveat is made about their possible use in response to a chemical or biological attack.

Massive Retaliation - India's response to a first strike will be massive, causing 'unacceptable damage'. While the doctrine doesn't explicitly espouse a counter-value strategy (civilian targets), the wording implies the same.

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Credible Minimum Deterrence - The number and capabilities of India's nuclear weapons and delivery systems should merely be sufficient to ensure intolerable retaliation, also keeping in mind first-strike survival of its relatively meagre arsenal.

The right to take nuclear action against the enemy will **only be taken by the elected representatives of the people**, i.e. the political leadership of the country, although the cooperation of the Nuclear Command Authority will be necessary. In other words; the **bureaucracy of India is not authorised** to take the decision of the nuclear attack on the enemy.

Nuclear weapons **will not be used against non-nuclear states**. It means India believes in the theory of "Tit for tat."

India will **continue to support the global initiative to create a nuclear-free world** and will push forward the idea of discrimination-free nuclear disarmament.

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons:

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, commonly known as the Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT, is an **international treaty** whose objective is to **prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology**, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the **goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament**.

Between 1965 and 1968, the treaty was negotiated by the Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament, a United Nations-sponsored organization based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Opened for **signature in 1968**, the treaty entered into force in 1970.

More countries are parties to the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement, a testament to the treaty's significance

Four UN member states have never accepted the NPT, three of which possess or are thought to possess nuclear weapons: **India, Israel, and Pakistan**. In addition, **South Sudan**, founded in 2011, has not joined.

Three pillars of the treaty includes Non-Proliferation, Disarmament, Peaceful use of Nuclear Energy

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

