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# What will be the consequences if Australia agrees to export uranium to India, not only for India's nuclear energy industry, but also for the relationship between the two countries? Will there be any negative consequences?

**5 Answers**

Balaji Viswanathan, Indian by Birth. Indian by Thought.

Answered Sep 4, 2014 · Author has **4.5k** answers and **286.8m** answer views

## Why is India so desperate for energy deals?

An average Swedish person [an example of an energy efficient country] uses about **5,134.48 kg** equivalent of oil through the year [all economic activities put together]. An average Indian uses about **613 kg**. As India develops, its energy consumption would come to to Sweden's levels and that means **8 times more energy consumption**.

India's current electricity production is in the range of **250 GW**. To get to the level above, we need to grow 8 times to **2000 GW** in the next 50 years. A typical nuclear reactor [like the recent one at Koodankulam] produces about **1 GW**. That means, to get to our goal without increasing pollution through coal and oil, we need about **1000 such nuclear reactors** [like the one we have at Koodankulam] besides drastically increasing our solar and wind units [100x the existing capacity] to get the remaining **1000 GW**.

## Why now?

Where are we going to get nuclear material and technology and money for feeding 1000 new reactors? Beg every nation, from Japan to Australia to US to France.

John Howard of Liberal party already promised a nuclear deal 7 years ago, but frequent shifts in Australian government there have poured cold water. Prime Ministers Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard have been going back forth, irritating India's leadership.

With business friendly leaders coming back on both sides, it is time to say *carpe diem*.

## What this Nuclear Deal Means For India

1. Australia has 40% of the world's known Uranium reserves. Thus, an agreement with Australia will be huge for Indian nuclear energy. Australia also has plenty of nuclear tech for refining and processing.
2. Australia and India are the biggest powers in the Indian Ocean and it makes a lot of sense for both of them to come together in maritime security. The nuclear deal will make the process smooth.

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1. Tap India's domestic market. Australian industries like tourism, banking, energy and education are to directly gain from a growing trade deals.
2. Australia is now putting too much of its eggs in Chinese basket and wants to diversify its export market. India could offer an additional market and a competition for its resources would push prices up (that is good for Australian producers).
3. India doesn't lean too much on Russia, Sudan, Iran and other energy rich nations that are considered enemies of the West. For an energy hungry India, a deal with the above countries is inevitable if the West doesn't give it the energy. A desperate nation with new riches will make all the West's sanctions on these countries go meaningless.

### Australia to sign civil nuclear deal to sell uranium to India

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Anurag, Well I read newspapers and blogs!

Answered Jan 16, 2017 · Author has 98 answers and 66.6k answer views

India is the first country to buy Australian uranium that was not a signatory to the **Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty** which comes as a shock to many experts.

I think the **2008 Indo- US** civil nuclear deal proved to be a forerunner for India's future nuclear deals as it re established India's status as a stable nuclear state.

#### Consequence :

The civil nuclear deal can lead to further fuel the tensions in the **Indo-Pak** relationship, as Pakistan is on a course to possess the third-largest nuclear stockpile in the world. Amidst the already sour relationship this could further expedite Pakistan's process of acquiring nuclear fuel and weapons.

It is very likely to displease China — Australia's largest trading partner and ally in the Asia-Pacific. China, which has also invested significant sums of money into Australian mining companies, may be led to believe that Australia is taking a stance against China and its ally Pakistan, with the U.S. and India.

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## 2 Legitimization of India's status as a nuclear power

3 Strengthening of India-Aus relationship which includes the education sector (a goal both countries continue to pursue) which can also benefit Australia on a wider scale, as India has one of the largest international student populations in Australia.

4 It will be a solution to shortfall in energy which is paralyzing India's economic growth. India's reliance on coal would be reduced eventually too.

5 Australia could be a long term nuclear fuel supplier as it has the third largest reserve in the world.

At present, Australia has only \$15 billion in annual trade with India. This amount looks particularly paltry when compared to the \$150 billion in annual trade that the land down under has with China.

As questions mount regarding Sino-Australian relations in the future, the opportunity to have a stable democracy (and in particular a country that doesn't punish its enemies with unofficial trade sanctions) as a growing trade partner looks increasingly attractive to the government of Tony Abbott. This deal may serve to open the lucrative markets of trade with India while providing both a better relationship and greater trade security for Australia.

## References:

[The cost of Australia's uranium deal with India](#)

[Three Things To Know About The India-Australia Uranium Deal | OilPrice.com](#)

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Anonymous

Answered Sep 6, 2014

To add a little to what it means to Australia, there is some relevant history to consider.

For many years, mid 70s to 1996, Australia had actually adopted a "three mine policy", which restricted Uranium production to three existing mines. Actually the division in opinion was along partisan lines; at both federal and state levels whenever Labour came into power they would restrict new mines, and Liberals would relax again.

A recent Labour prime minister Kevin Rudd was the first to break this consistent party line in 2007 when lifted restrictions (but not without some internal party controversy). This means recently the decision to provide Uranium is now not changing with partisan politics, which is good for India considering how unpopular the current Liberal party is. If not, the decision could have changed again in 2017.

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Australia is inherently resources rich with the mining of many minerals and the production of oil and gas (LNG). The economics of mining and gas is getting harder with time (although currently going strong), so progression to Uranium was only a matter of time. The Federal/State governments would be keen to take credit for jobs and royalty generation (although a mining tax was recently abolished but that's another story)

What will be interesting is what happens to the nuclear waste. As much money there is in providing uranium, there is also money in storing the waste. We've previously rejected offers to house waste in our desert centre but who knows things may change.

Anyway, yes there are financial benefits for Australia, yes our trade relations with India will improve (finally we have something in common apart from cricket), but probably being Australians it will take time and we will still consider the environmental impact. All these resources are the reason we are called "the lucky country" and we need to make best use as ethically as possible.

Here is an interesting website, actually it shows known deposits which are still undeveloped. I believe there are actually five mines these days but it gives an idea.

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/info...>

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Deepam Shah, Trekker, Traveller, Footballer, Critic, Photographer  
Answered Sep 4, 2014

India would be a global leader in the manufacture of electricity by atomic energy. This would directly affect the countries from where we import coal like USA, Germany and other European Countries.

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Abhimanyu Singh Sisodia, Just started reading through the stuff compiled on Quora.  
Answered Jul 7, 2017 · Author has 280 answers and 98.9k answer views

Very bad for the country I suspect. The Homi Bhabha-founded nuclear program of the country makes us dependant on the nuclear fuel that other countries use, uranium. We have 1%-2% of the world's uranium reserves but over 30% of the world's thorium reserves, another nuclear fuel that would be our primary fuel in nuclear tech if it was truly indigenous I suspect.

71 Views

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