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India, Australia finalise civil nuclear deal; Tony Abbott gifts Nehru jacket to Narendra Modi

DC/AP

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Jan 10, 2016, 8:38 am IST

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Modi in return presented a copy of the Bhagwad Gita to Australian PM



📷 Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Australian counterpart Tony Abbott during a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi (Photo: PTI)

New Delhi: Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi sealed the long-awaited deal to allow the export of uranium to New Delhi for use in power generation.

Australia, which has almost a third of the world's known uranium reserves, imposes strict conditions on uranium exports and India's failure to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty had long been a barrier to a deal.

Both countries were negotiating a so-called nuclear safeguards agreement with verification mechanisms since 2012 when a former Australian government agreed on civil nuclear energy cooperation with India that would eventually allow the export of Australian uranium.

During the meeting, Abbott also gifted a 'Nehru jacket' made of Australian wool to Modi, who in return presented him a copy of the Bhagwad Gita.

Read: [Australian PM Tony Abbott to return 'stolen' statues to Narendra Modi](https://www.deccanchronicle.com/140905/nation-current-affairs/article/australian-pm-tony-abbott-return-stolen-statues-narendra-modi) (<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/140905/nation-current-affairs/article/australian-pm-tony-abbott-return-stolen-statues-narendra-modi>)



On Thursday, Mr Abbott allay fears about India not being a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, telling reporters in Mumbai that India had an "impeccable non-proliferation record" and has been a "model international citizen", which "threatens no one".


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Mr Abbott added the proposed agreement indicated trust for the "world's emerging democratic superpower".

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Read: [India an emerging democratic superpower, says Australian PM Tony Abbott](https://www.deccanchronicle.com/140904/nation-current-affairs/article/india-emerging-democratic-superpower-says-australian-pm-tony) (https://www.deccanchronicle.com/140904/nation-current-affairs/article/india-emerging-democratic-superpower-says-australian-pm-tony).

The Australian Prime Minister phrased the significance of his visit quite succinctly Thursday: "There is unrealised potential in the relationship that this visit will work to exploit."

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott, who is in India on a two-day visit, signed 21 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with the University of Mumbai at a function organised at the Convocation Hall on the Fort campus of the University on Thursday.

Read: [India, Australia sign MoU on agriculture](https://www.deccanchronicle.com/140905/nation-current-affairs/article/india-australia-sign-mou-agriculture) (https://www.deccanchronicle.com/140905/nation-current-affairs/article/india-australia-sign-mou-agriculture).

Mr Abbott also launched the New Colombo plan, which is an inter-governmental effort to strengthen economic and social development of member countries in the Asia-Pacific region and announced a \$3 million funding for Melbourne university's Australia India Institute, Australia's only national centre of research and analysis on India.

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