

India Russia Sign Deal For Nuclear Plant

Why In News

- With **PM Narendra Modi skipping Russia** for the annual summit for the second year in a row, **Jaishankar is in Moscow** on a five-day visit to meet the Russian leadership.



- **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar** addressing a community event during his five-day trip to Russia, where he met with the Russian leaders.
- He said, “Today, we signed some very important deals for building more units of the **Kudankulam nuclear power plant**.”

Key Facts

- The **Kudankulam nuclear power plant** is a joint project between **India and Russia**, who are providing the technical expertise.
- The Kudankulam nuclear power plant is being built in **Tamil Nadu** with the technical assistance of Russia.



- The construction **began in March 2002**. Since February 2016, the first power unit of the Kudankulam NPP has been steadily operating at its design capacity of **1,000 MW**.
- The plant is expected to start operating at **full capacity in 2027**.
- **Jaishankar called Russia a “special partner”** in several domains such as defence, nuclear power and space.



- He said, “We collaborate in areas of defence, space and nuclear [energy] with countries that we trust deeply.”
- He also revealed that the two countries have decided that their negotiation teams will convene by the end of January to begin face-to-face talks on the **free trade agreement between India and the Eurasian Economic Zone**.
- To a question on payment problem between Russia and India, he said in “an unusual situation, we are trying to find ways by which banks deal with each other”.

- The ties between India and Russia remained strong notwithstanding Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.
- **India has not yet condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine** and it has been maintaining that the crisis must be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue.
- **India's import of Russian crude oil** has gone up significantly despite increasing disquiet over it in many Western countries.

