

The Big Deal behind the Ruckus over AUKUS

The AUKUS (Australia, the U.K. and the U.S.) security partnership announced in September last it would facilitate Australia getting technology to build nuclear-powered submarines.

The sources said, on September 30, China argued that this initiative was in violation of their responsibilities under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). It also criticised the role of IAEA in this regard.

“India took an objective view of the initiative, recognising the soundness of the technical evaluation by IAEA. The Indian Mission to the IAEA in Vienna worked closely with many IAEA member states in this regard,” said a source.

“India’s considered role helped many smaller countries take a clear stand on the Chinese proposal. Realising that its resolution would not get majority support, China withdrew its draft resolution on September 30,” the source said.

The sources said India’s “deft and impactful” diplomacy was deeply appreciated by IAEA member states, particularly the AUKUS partners.

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