

**International Ministerial Event to Launch the IAEA ATLAS Initiative on 26th
August 2026 Washington D.C, USA**

**National Statement of Republic of India delivered by Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty,
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission & Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy**

His Excellency, Director General of IAEA Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, His Excellency, Secretary, Department of Energy, United States of America Mr. Christopher Allen Wright, Heads of Delegation, Distinguished Delegates and Ladies & Gentlemen.

Namaskar

And Greetings from the Indian Delegation.

I am deeply honoured to join you all today for the historic launch of the IAEA's Atomic Technologies Licensed for Applications at Sea (ATLAS) initiative.

At the outset, I would like to commend the IAEA for the launch of this timely platform, that seeks to advance the safe, secure, and sustainable use of nuclear technologies —particularly small modular reactors (SMRs)—for civilian maritime propulsion and offshore energy.

Excellencies

ATLAS aligns closely with India's own long-term energy vision of reliable, low-carbon power that supports economic growth, energy security, and climate goals.

The launch of ATLAS coincides with the major transformation taking place in the Indian nuclear landscape.

The recently enacted Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act has for the first time opened up nuclear power generation to private participation and aligned the domestic liability framework with the global liability regime.

The SHANTI Act has further strengthened the status and powers of our independent Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.

Excellencies

Even as India looks forward to a massive boost to the sector from such initiatives, a series of remarkable achievements in recent months, have reinforced our strong belief in self reliance, indigenous technology and the three stage nuclear power program.

In April 2026, the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam achieved criticality, formally advancing Stage 2 of our programme and establishing India as a world leader in the Fast Breeder Program.

In June 2026, India commissioned the world's first nuclear process-heat-based hydrogen production facility using the indigenous copper-chlorine thermochemical cycle, demonstrating nuclear energy's potential beyond electricity for hard-to-abate sectors.

Excellencies

India's long coastline and our large number of offshore islands together with fast expanding commercial shipping sector present exciting opportunities for deployment of SMRs in offshore energy supply and, potentially, propulsion of civilian vessels.

Under the Government of India's ambitious Nuclear Energy Mission targeting 100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047, at least five indigenously designed Bharat Small Modular Reactors (BSMRs) are targeted for deployment by 2033.

The development work on this fleet which includes SMRs of varying capacities is in advanced stage. The smaller capacity BSMRs would be specifically designed as a barge mounted floating NPP.

Consistent with our impeccable safety record, all our Indigenous BSMR designs would have a strong focus on inherent safety, fuel cycle management and modularity—attributes key to floating nuclear power plants or marine applications.

Excellencies

While we see immense potential in the ATLAS initiative to deliver clean and reliable power to remote coastal communities and industry and to decarbonise

the shipping sector, we are also equally conscious of the complexity and challenges in taking forward this initiative.

Besides the key aspects of ensuring safety, security, nuclear liability and safeguards at sea in a manner that will uphold public confidence, the success of ATLAS initiative would depend much on timely development of global framework and standardization norms covering SMRs, floating platforms, fuel cycle, waste management and associated legal and policy issues.

Here, we would also like to re-emphasise the importance of adhering to the established implementation mechanisms of the Agency, and the need for such mechanisms to be efficient, inclusive and transparent.

Excellencies

As a frontline nuclear power with proven capabilities, India stands ready to share its expertise and experience in indigenous technology development, closed fuel cycles, peaceful applications and capacity building, in taking forward the ATLAS initiative.

As part of our commitment to this initiative, India has already nominated its experts to identified Technical Project Groups that will work to prepare the road map to implement this initiative.

We believe ATLAS offers a valuable forum to shape a future in which nuclear energy powers not only our grids and industries but also cleaner, more resilient maritime transport and offshore energy systems.

India looks forward to constructive engagement with all Member States and partners in this initiative and working together for a secure, sustainable, and prosperous future for all.

Thank you.

JAI HIND!