

Statement by Dr Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission & Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy (Government of India) at the 70th General Conference of International Atomic Energy Agency on 14.09.2026 at Vienna.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Officials of IAEA, Friends from the Media, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Namaste! And a very Good Morning to all.

It is my honour to address the 70th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), on behalf of the Government of India.

Firstly, I extend my warmest greetings to all the Member States present here and representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency Secretariat.

Mr. President,

Our heartiest congratulations to you on your election as President of this milestone 70th Session of the General Conference of IAEA.

I wish you all success in this important role. You can count on India's full support.

Mr. President,

India's association with the International Atomic Energy Agency is as old as the Agency itself. From the earliest days of the Atoms for Peace vision, our scientists and diplomats have been fully involved in the foundational discussions that shaped the IAEA.

Our long association with IAEA finds a special expression this year, through the Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research,

Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA).

In May 2026, India assumed the Chairmanship of the RCA in Mumbai. Under the banner of Vishwa Bandhu Bharat - India as a friend to the world - we are deepening collaborative research, technology dissemination, and human resource development across the Asia-Pacific region.

India's chairmanship of RCA is a reaffirmation of our strong commitment to South-South cooperation and to ensuring that the benefits of nuclear science reach every nation that seeks them.

Mr. President,

I am happy to note that our mutually rewarding partnership with IAEA continues to evolve and expand into new frontiers.

Last month, India joined member States at the launch of the Agency's Atomic Technologies Licensed for Applications at Sea – ATLAS – Initiative in Washington D.C (USA).

We believe the ATLAS initiative aligns closely with our Nuclear Energy Mission and our broader vision of reliable, low-carbon power that strengthens energy security while supporting climate goals.

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 this timely initiative.

Mr. President,

As a representative of the largest member state of the Agency with advanced nuclear technologies, it is my great pleasure to brief this gathering on some of the key milestones crossed by India in the recent period.

To realise India's ambitious Nuclear Energy Mission and to boost our nuclear ecosystem, a transformative new law - The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act was passed by the Indian parliament in December 2025.

The new legislation has modernised the laws governing the sector and opened it to broader participation by public and private entities while retaining sovereign control over sensitive fuel-cycle activities.

The law has also granted statutory status to the nuclear regulator. We have further aligned domestic liability provisions with global best practices.

With the strong momentum generated by the policy reforms and the imminent entry of private sector in nuclear power generation, India is targeting to achieve 100,000 MW by 2047.

Mr. President,

I am also happy to share that on the technology front, the past year was a most memorable period for India.

In April 2026, the 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam achieved criticality, making India only the second country in the world to do so. This positions India as a leader in Fast Breeder Reactor Technology.

In June 2026, the world's first nuclear process-heat-based Hydrogen production using the indigenous copper-chlorine

thermochemical cycle was demonstrated in Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) in Kalpakkam.

Earlier this year, India's regulator – AERB approved the restart and continued operation of Units -1 and 2 of Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS), the world's oldest functioning commercial nuclear reactors operated by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL). These two Boiling Water Reactors have now been in operation for more than 56 years.

In March 2026, the Engineering Procurement and Construction contract for the mega science project – LIGO India Observatory in Hingoli, Maharashtra was issued, marking a key milestone in the project.

Mr. President,

In the area of Health Care, the Tata Memorial Centre (TMC) under DAE continued to provide affordable and cutting edge Cancer Care. In a shining example of India's Neighbourhood First Policy, under the BIMSTEC cooperation framework, TMC conducted a Specialized Training Program in Cancer Care for healthcare professionals from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar.

Under India's Chair for BRICS 2026, Tata Memorial Centre successfully led discussions among BRICS Member States on Nuclear Medicine regulatory issues, strengthening international regulatory collaboration to enhance access to safe and effective radiopharmaceuticals and support the advancement of theranostics across BRICS countries.

Our scientists from the Institute of Physics continued to play important roles in world-leading scientific collaborations, including the ALICE and CMS experiments at CERN, the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment (DUNE), and the IceCube

Neutrino Observatory, contributing to fundamental discoveries in particle physics, nuclear physics, and neutrino astrophysics. Their contributions in neuromorphic computing, quantum technologies, advanced functional materials, photovoltaics and ion-beam science have strengthened India's capabilities in next-generation science and technology.

Our independent regulator - Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) continued to maintain robust regulatory oversight of the nuclear and radiation installations in the country to ensure that activities are conducted in a safe and secure manner.

AERB also continued to strengthen its international engagement through active participation in IAEA activities, including the Commission on Safety Standards (CSS) meeting and other technical forums.

Mr. President,

The above achievements reinforce our steadfast belief in self-reliance, indigenous technology and investments in basic research and development.

Guided by our civilisational ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and abiding faith in humanity, India stands ready to offer its expertise and partnership to willing partners through both IAEA and regional or bilateral platforms.

We believe that the global challenges of energy security, climate change and technological inequality can be met only when nations work together as members of one human family.

We believe that every nation, large or small, has the right to peaceful nuclear applications that improves the quality of life of its people. As a regular contributor to the Agency's Technical Cooperation Fund, we hope that continued efforts can be made

to create not just capacities in nuclear science and technology, but also infrastructure and facilities that can benefit the people and contribute to tangible developmental gains.

I sincerely hope that this conference will help us move forward in this direction and ensure that advancements in nuclear science remains an effective force for the common good and for the collective progress of humanity.

I wish the 70th General Conference of IAEA, a grand success.

Thank you. Jai Hind.
