

Statement by Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission &
Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy
at the 70th General Conference of IAEA

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

Namaste

and a very good afternoon to all of you

It is my honour to address the 70th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, 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 also 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 this long and mutually rewarding partnership 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, the ATLAS Initiative in Washington D.C.

We believe the ATLAS initiative aligns closely with our Nuclear Energy Mission and our broader vision of reliable, low-carbon generating 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 the gathering on some of the key milestones crossed by India in recent time.

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

The SHANTI Act modernised the laws governing the nuclear sector and opened it to the broader participation of public and private entities while retaining sovereign control over sensitive activities.

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

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 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 at Kalpakkam.

Earlier this year, AERB, India's regulator, approved the restart and continued operation of Unit 1 and Unit 2 of Tarapur Atomic Power Station, the world's oldest functioning commercial nuclear reactors operated by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited. These two Boiling Water Reactors have now been in operation for more than five decades.

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

Mr. President,

In a shining example of India's Neighbourhood First Policy, under the BIMSTEC cooperation framework, the Tata Memorial Centre conducted a specialised Training Programme 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 and strengthening international regulatory collaboration.

Our independent regulator – Atomic Energy Regulatory Board – 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.

Mr. President,

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 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 and Jai Hind
