

IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power (27 October 2026),
Incheon, Republic of Korea.

**National Statement by Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and
Secretary (Department of Atomic Energy) Dr. A. K. Mohanty**

Mr President

Director General of IAEA Mr Rafael Mariano Grossi

Excellencies

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Namaste and a very good morning to all of you.

It is my great honour to deliver this national statement on behalf of the Government of India at this International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power.

We are meeting at a time when the world, even while navigating an increasingly volatile energy landscape, is searching for reliable, low-carbon emitting, and scalable energy solutions that can support both the development aspirations and climate goals.

Realising the inherent strengths of nuclear energy to produce as a mature and high-density source of firm, low-carbon emitting electricity that can deliver continuous output at scale, along with the rapid advancements in reactor technology and safety, nuclear power has now emerged as an important policy option around the world.

Mr President

India is home to more than one-sixth of humanity. Our country's energy demand is projected to rise more than any other country in the coming decades, as we industrialise, urbanise, and lift millions of our fellow citizens to higher standards of living. At the same time, India has also committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

It is in this context, that the Government of India announced the Nuclear Energy Mission last year, with a target to create 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047. This represents more than eleven-fold expansion of our present nuclear power capacity of about 8.8 GW.

With 24 nuclear power plants already in operation, 18 under various stages of construction, we are well on our way to cross 22 GW nuclear power capacity by early 2030s.

Since the announcement of the Mission, we have completed the most ambitious legislative reform ever in the nuclear sector, with the passage of

The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India – the SHANTI Act in December 2025.

The historic SHANTI Act has opened up the nuclear sector to broader participation by public and private entities while retaining sovereign control over sensitive fuel-cycle activities. The Act has also granted statutory status to the nuclear regulator and aligns our domestic liability provisions with global liability regime.

With the strong momentum generated by the legislative and policy measures and the imminent entry of private sector in nuclear power generation, we are hopeful of achieving the target of 100 GW by 2047.

Mr. President

Our three-stage program with the Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors as the first stage, the Fast Breeder Reactors in the second stage, and thorium utilisation in the third, will continue to remain the backbone of our nuclear power program.

In a remarkable achievement in our three stage program, the 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam achieved criticality in April 2026 — making India only the second country in the world to reach this milestone with a commercial-scale fast breeder reactor.

While large reactors will continue to be the mainstay of our capacity addition, India is also investing heavily in advanced and flexible technologies. India aims to have at least five indigenously designed SMRs operational by 2033. These reactors will be particularly valuable for industrial captive power, repurposing of retiring thermal sites wherever possible, and applications beyond electricity generation, including process heat and hydrogen production.

Mr. President

The choices we make about energy today will shape the lives of future generations.

Nuclear power can contribute to a cleaner and more reliable energy future, but only when it is pursued responsibly, with public confidence and the highest standards of safety and security.

India looks forward to working closely with IAEA and all willing partners to share knowledge, strengthen safety and security, expand the benefits of nuclear science, and ensure that energy development serves humanity

Let this conference help build a future in which access to energy, technological progress and international responsibility go hand in hand.

I wish the conference a grand success.

Thank you and Jai Hind.