

International Atomic Energy Agency in partnership with International Energy  
Agency

In cooperation with OECD Nuclear Energy Agency

Hosted by US Department of Energy

5<sup>th</sup> International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
(26 to 28 October 2022)

*[Walter E. Washington Convention Centre, Washington DC, USA]*

Agenda Item: National Statement INDIA

Statement by Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, INDIA

Dr. K N Vyas

**Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is my great pleasure and privilege to deliver the National Statement on behalf of the Government of India. India compliments the IAEA, the IEA, NEA-OECD and the US DoE for organizing this 5th international conference on nuclear power in the 21st century. I take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all the delegates and participants present here and also thank the people and the city of Washington, and the Government of USA for hosting us. We convey our best wishes to Ms. Jennifer Granholm, Secretary of Energy, USA, for presiding over the conference.

It is very pertinent to note here that this conference is being held at a time when many parts of the world are battling a looming energy crisis and at the same time, many countries are ramping up their clean energy initiatives as a part of their commitments under the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the United Nations.

**Madam President,**

The need of the hour is to not only expand the deployment of large size reactors, but also to develop and deploy newer and more flexible advanced nuclear technologies like the SMRs. This will help in deploying nuclear energy for non-electrical applications and decarbonize the hard-to-abate sectors needing source of heat.

Towards creating an enabling environment for nuclear, the global nuclear fraternity needs to act in unison and address two issues - public perception and economics. While the perception management can be addressed through transparency and public awareness initiatives,

innovative and low-cost financing schemes are required to incentivise the production of nuclear energy. It is essential to provide access to green (or transition) funds for capacity building and R&D in the nuclear sector.

I would take this opportunity to emphasise the efforts, which all member states need to put in towards life extension of existing reactors. The USA has a systematic LWR sustainability programme. In India, the Tarapur Atomic Power Station, built in collaboration with General Electric, started commercial operation on 28th October 1969. Today, after a little more than 50 years, it is among the oldest twin- reactor stations in the world providing electricity at a cost lesser than solar. This is an example, where the operator is able to carry out the necessary inspections and obtain regulatory clearances.

Towards early deployment of ‘Advanced Nuclear Technologies’, including SMRs, we need to manage the transition from water reactor technology-based reactors to advanced Gen IV reactors in a balanced manner. It is important to note the fact that it takes about 2 decades to roll out a commercial reactor after technology demonstration.

In order to harmonise the industrial and regulatory requirements for nuclear reactors on a global scale, the IAEA’s Nuclear Harmonization and Standardization Initiative (NHSI) is an important step.

**Madam President,**

India is among the world’s fastest growing economies today and like many other countries, faces the dual challenge of meeting energy requirements for a sustained growth while honouring its climate goals.

India has the 2nd largest fleet of ‘under-construction reactors’ in the world today. Efforts are also being made to construct and commission more LWR based large nuclear reactors through international co-operation. For optimum utilisation of its nuclear resources and also for effective waste management, India has opted for a closed fuel cycle.

**Madam President,**

Through your chair, I appeal to the nuclear communities across the world to come together and address the existential challenge of climate change, as there is only ONE EARTH to live for all of us.

I once again wish this conference a grand success.

Thank You.