

**“AREVA’s perspective on Nuclear Power in India”  
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Good Morning Honorable Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, Atomic Energy Commission Chairman and Department of Atomic Energy Secretary Dr. Sinha, His Excellency Mr. Richier Ambassador of France, His Excellency Mr. Patel Canadian High Commissioner in India, friends and colleagues from the industry.

I’m very pleased to be here. This annual conference organized by ASSOCHAM is one of the few significant events focused on Nuclear energy in India. I am delighted to share my thoughts here today.

Both our countries, France and India, have increasing long-term energy requirements. Both seek solutions that will ensure their energy security and autonomy. And both endeavour to fight against climate change.

I come from a country which decided, decades ago, to make nuclear center-piece of its energy policy. Indeed, we had no serious and credible alternative, and we decided to invest heavily in nuclear. The result is:

- **58 reactors representing 63GW for 66 million inhabitants,**
- **75% of our power generation from nuclear,**
- **the cheapest energy tariffs in Europe,**
- limited dependency on foreign imports,
- **the lowest carbon emission per capita in Europe,**

India’s energy consumption is the fourth biggest after China, USA & Russia, and has more than doubled in past two decades. The required capacity to meet the electricity demand by 2032 will be almost 4 times its current level, assuming a 7 to 9% GDP growth.

India is facing a tough balancing act: the country has to considerably increase its power generation, keep it affordable for its large population, and all the while control the pollution generated by energy production.

Nuclear energy is a suitable answer as the amount of energy generated by nuclear plants creates a considerable increase in the country’s total production, in a low-carbon and reliable way. In the long run, the electricity coming from nuclear energy is also affordable, given the long lifespan and minimal, stable fuel costs. Nuclear is, therefore, perfectly adapted to India’s context and has to play a vital role in India’s energy mix.

India has clearly recognized the benefits of developing nuclear energy to support the country’s growth. Indeed, the country has a very ambitious and well thought-of 3-stage nuclear program for the development of indigenous technology. This has been planned over several decades, making India one of the earliest adopters of nuclear technology. However, the indigenous plan alone is insufficient to meet the targets and sustain the country’s growth for the next decades to come. Therefore, India decided to collaborate with foreign suppliers for civil nuclear energy.

India has shared a long history of collaboration with France, especially in technology and science. France has been a partner with India since the country opened up to foreign technology. In February 2009, AREVA and NPCIL signed a Memorandum of Understanding that paved the way for an Indo-French partnership in nuclear power generation, to build up to six EPR reactors on Jaitapur site in Maharashtra.

We are happy that after extensive discussions we have made good progress and a Pre-Engineering Agreement is now in place. We will be working along with Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) on the licensing of EPR reactor in India as well as the finalization of the technical configuration of Jaitapur project.

The government of India is looking to drive growth thanks to an ambitious industrial programme attracting foreign investors, "Make in India". The nuclear energy sector can, and should, be an integral part of this programme which will benefit all the stakeholders by bolstering employment and industry in the country, reducing costs of many components and, therefore, improving the overall competitiveness of the projects.

AREVA has been present in India since 2008, and as a result we started establishing a business relationship with local suppliers to participate in existing projects in other parts of the world. For the Jaitapur project, we are working actively to maximize the share of components produced in India.

With the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between AREVA and Larsen & Toubro, both companies will work to further develop the capabilities for sourcing major parts of EPR from India. This not only will contribute towards the Make in India program, it will also improve the competitiveness of the project. We are committed to make it a success.

2015 has started on a very positive note for us & for the nuclear industry in India. It will surely bring about positive changes to improve the electricity scenario of the country.

Globally speaking, all of you must be aware that the International Climate Change conference COP21 will be held in Paris in December, later this year. In this regards, all the worldwide nuclear organizations have come together to declare that nuclear energy is a key part of the solution in the fight against climate change. The 'Nuclear for Climate Declaration' recognizes that nuclear energy is one of handful of options available at scale which can help to reduce energy related greenhouse gas emissions.

I would urge all our associations in India too, to seize this opportunity to promote nuclear energy as playing a key role towards low-carbon economy transition. Reaching this target will take time and requires continuous long-term efforts from the world community as a whole.

**Thank you for your attention.**