



Heralding a new era in the spirit of Atoms for Peace

India - a nation blessed with a huge aspiring population - time immemorial has made no secret of its wish to take centre stage for safeguarding the interests of global commons. As a matter of policy, soon after becoming an independent nation, India crafted the policy of state-controlled planned economy with science and technology playing a pivotal role for ushering in an era of equitable national development.

“In a broad view of human history, it is possible to discern three great epochs. The first is marked by the emergence of the early civilizations....., the second by the industrial revolution ... and the third by the discovery of atomic energy and the dawn of the atomic age... Each epoch marks a change in the energy pattern of society,” Dr. Homi J. Bhabha said in his presidential address to the maiden UN Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy in Geneva, 1955.

Around the dawn of the new century, India proactively demonstrated its nuclear technology prowess, which characterised its true aspiration to position itself as an equal and responsible partner in transforming the course of mankind towards shared prosperity and peaceful coexistence.

The series of nuclear tests conducted on May 11th and 13th in 1998, under the Operation codenamed ‘Shakti,’ was a testament to India’s growing stature as a global power having advanced scientific and technological knowhow. Decades of restrictions imposed on the country over sharing of nuclear technologies did not deter its forward march albeit provided necessary impetus for achieving greater indigenization in wide spectrum of sophisticated technologies.

Countries which initially stood in disagreement over India’s new coveted status, soon acknowledged the country’s uncompromisingly strong nuclear non proliferation record to strike an “enduring” relationship. The diplomatic efforts that followed soon after the successful nuclear tests played a positive role in resetting India’s relationship with the technologically superior West.

Years of painstaking efforts by nuclear energy fraternity amid difficult conditions, finally paved way for forging new partnerships with the West for broad based tech sharing and co-development. India is now an active member of all major international bodies that work to address non proliferation of sensitive technologies having military applications, such as the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), the Wassenaar Arrangement, and the Australia Group. It secured a country-specific waiver from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) in 2008.

India’s science and technology landscape has clocked many unique feats in the last more than 25 years. New reactors coming up in fleet construction mode in the next decade-and-a-half period with the active involvement of private sector would ensure significant expansion in nuclear energy capacity generation within the country. The incremental growth in capacity would mostly come from indigenously developed 700 MWe capacity pressurized heavy water type reactors (PHWRs).

The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), through its strong multidisciplinary R&D culture, continues to play a pivotal role in the expansion of nuclear energy and allied activities in the country. This issue of newsletter presents newer outcomes from a range of R&D works in BARC. We take this opportunity to thank everyone for their committed efforts that contributed positively to the preparation and timely release of this issue of newsletter.

Text of Vajpayee's letter to Clinton

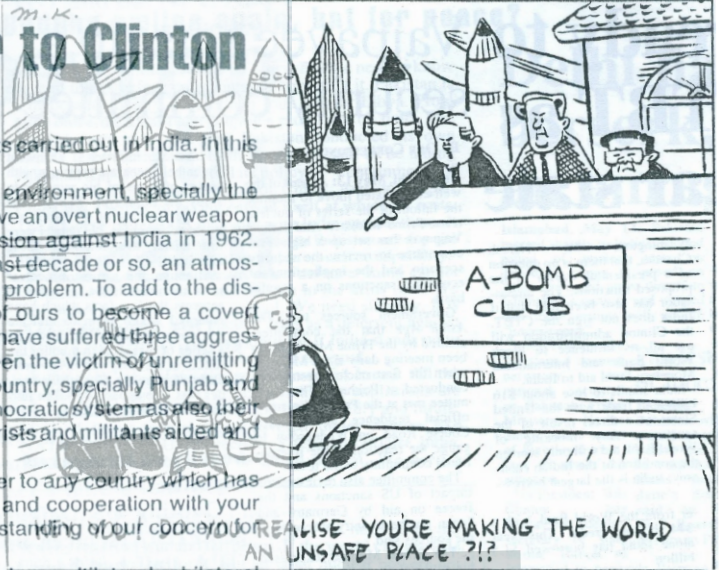
Dear Mr. President,
 You would already be aware of the underground nuclear tests carried out in India. In this letter, I would like to explain the rationale for the tests.

I have been deeply concerned at the deteriorating security environment, specially the nuclear environment, faced by India for some years past. We have an overt nuclear weapon state on our borders, a state which committed armed aggression against India in 1962. Although our relations with that country have improved in the last decade or so, an atmosphere of distress persists mainly due to the unresolved border problem. To add to the distress that country has materially helped another neighbour of ours to become a covert nuclear weapons state. At the hands of this bitter neighbour we have suffered three aggressions in the last fifty years. And for the last ten years we have been the victim of unremitting terrorism and militancy sponsored by it in several parts of our country, specially Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir. Fortunately, the faith of the people in our democratic system as also their patriotism has enabled India to counter the activities of the terrorists and militants aided and abetted from abroad.

The series of tests are limited in number and pose no danger to any country which has no inimical intentions towards India. We value our friendship and cooperation with your country and you personally. We hope that you will show understanding of our concerns for India's security.

I assure you that India will continue to work with your country in a multilateral or bilateral framework to promote the cause of nuclear disarmament. Our commitment to participate in non-discriminatory and verifiable global disarmament measures is amply demonstrated by our adherence to the two conventions on biological and chemical weapons. In particular we are ready to participate in the negotiations to be held in Geneva in the conference on disarmament for the conclusion of a fissile material control treaty.

The close to you information the text of the President's statement issued after the nuclear tests were carried out today, I close with the expression of my highest consideration for your newspapers and, barring *New York Post*, condemned by most



Indians overseas swell with patriotic pride over nuclear tests
“Indian scientists are the best in the world”
 People from all quarters hail nuclear tests

NRIS HAIL N-TESTS
 'Govt is the best judge in matters concerning security matters'

Buddha smiles once again after 24 years, but this time more powerfully



भारत की दलीलें
 संतुष्ट, सहयोग ज

'Post-Pokhran India needs to be taken more seriously as eco power'
best in the world”



India considers technology as a tool of the nation's progress, not a means to assert its dominance*.

*Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi said during his address on the occasion of National Technology Day 2023