



# PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No.28.A

FOR RELEASE IN NEW DELHI AND OTTAWA  
AT 4:30 A.M. EST, SATURDAY,  
APRIL 28, 1956

The Department of External Affairs announced today that Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister of India, and Mr. Escott Reid, the Canadian High Commissioner, signed in New Delhi today an inter-governmental agreement on the Canada-India Atomic Reactor project. This agreement was forecast on September 16, 1955, in the joint announcement by the Governments of India and Canada that in April 1955 Canada had offered to India under the Colombo Plan a high powered atomic research and experimental reactor similar to the well known NRX reactor at the Canadian atomic energy establishment at Chalk River, Canada, and that India had accepted this offer shortly thereafter. Since the time of this announcement preliminary work has been going ahead at the site at the same time as further consultation between the two Governments.

The Canada-India Atomic Reactor will be erected at the atomic energy establishment of the Government of India at Trombay near Bombay. The building to house it will be a rotunda in the shape of a hermetically sealed steel shell some 135' high and 120' in diameter, which will be surrounded by buildings for auxiliary equipment and attached laboratories. Representatives of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited who have visited the site have been most favourably impressed by the location and the general facilities available in the area to carry out the work.

The reactor project is a joint Indo-Canadian enterprise. The costs and the responsibilities are shared between the two countries. When it is completed full title and complete control will pass to the Government of India. The total cost of the project will be about 7 crores of rupees or a little over 14 million dollars. The value of the Canadian contribution is about seven and a half million dollars, the value of the Indian contribution over six and a half million dollars. The general principle is that Canada pays for the external costs, India for the internal costs.

Thus Canada is providing the reactor itself and the steel for the rotunda which will surround it. Canada is also designing the reactor, the steel rotunda, and the foundations of the reactor.

Indian contractors and Indian labour will carry out the major part of the construction work at the site while Canada, represented by the publicly owned company, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, will be responsible for the supervision of the engineering and erection.

The Department of Atomic Energy of the Government of India will be responsible for building the foundations and basement of the reactor. Work on the basement has already started. The Department of Atomic Energy expects to have the work on the foundations and basement of the reactor completed before the end of June. Erection of the steel rotunda to house the reactor will start soon after the monsoon this year and is expected to near completion by the end of 1956. It is hoped that the reactor will be completed early in 1958 and that it will be in full operation by the middle of that year.

Arrangements have been made to send an adequate number of selected Indian technical personnel to Canada to obtain first hand experience and training in the operation of the NRX reactor at Chalk River. Chalk River is the Canadian Government's atomic energy establishment on the Ottawa River about 130 miles above Ottawa. Indian technical personnel will also be seconded to the engineering staff in Canada which is designing the reactor, the steel rotunda and the reactor foundations.

Thus, Canada, through the agency of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, will provide India with every opportunity for Indian scientists and engineers to become fully familiar with all aspects of the work. The visit of Indian scientists and engineers to Canada will be paid for by Canada under its normal technical assistance programme.

The Canada-India Atomic Reactor will add an advanced and versatile research facility to India's atomic energy programme. It is specifically designed to provide excellent facilities for fundamental research in physical, chemical, biological, and metallurgical problems relating to atomic energy. It is an efficient producer of radioactive isotopes for use in medical therapy, agriculture, and industry and for tracer element studies in chemical, biological, and medical research.

Above all, the reactor is specially suited for making engineering studies and research on reactor materials which can be tested under the conditions of high neutron intensity met inside reactors. The research and development facilities of the reactor will enable advanced engineering experiments to be performed in connection with the design of future power reactors.

India has offered to make the experimental facilities of the reactor available to scientists approved by the Government of India from other countries, including those belonging to the Colombo Plan in South and South-East Asia. Thus the installation of this reactor in India will advance the development of atomic energy not only in India but in the entire region.

The following message is from the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Louis S. St. Laurent to the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru:

I would like you to know how much I welcome the signing in New Delhi today of the Intergovernmental Agreement covering our atomic reactor project.

I am gratified to learn that Canadian scientists will be associated with Indian scientists in the good work now under way at Trombay. Through this friendly co-operation a reactor will be constructed which will serve the cause of human welfare far beyond the boundaries of our two countries. The research undertaken at Trombay in collaboration with work being carried on in other parts of the world should provide lasting benefits for agriculture, industry and medicine.

Our joint endeavour in this matter is another reminder that the origins of atomic science have been international and its development for peaceful purposes requires the kind of friendly co-operation between nations which so happily exists between India and Canada.

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The following message is from the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Louis S. St. Laurent:

I am happy to receive your message on the occasion of the signing of the Agreement between our two Governments covering the atomic reactor project.

Under this Agreement, Canada makes available to India a high powered atomic research and experimental reactor, and I should like to express to you the warm and sincere appreciation of the Government and the people of India of this generous gift. The provision of this new and important research facility in India has been made possible by the friendship and good will existing between our two countries, which will now be further strengthened by the close association of Canadian and Indian scientists and engineers in the construction of the reactor and in its uses for the progress of civilization and for the benefit of mankind.

It is our hope that the research centre at Bombay will prove useful to scientists from other countries in this region and beyond. To the fellowship of our own scientists will always be welcomed men and women from other lands moved by the same vision and dedicated to the pursuit of similar ends.

The research and technical facilities afforded by this reactor will promote advances of knowledge in agriculture, biology, and medicine, which, but for the use of radio-isotopes, would have taken decades to achieve. The reactor will also enable Canadian and Indian scientists and their colleagues from other countries to do advanced experiments in the technology of atomic power generation, which, we hope, will accelerate the practical use of atomic energy for the generation of electric power.

This close collaboration in a highly complicated field between the scientists and engineers of two countries, geographically as far removed as Canada and India, is a symbol of the manner in which the world has shrunk through modern technology, and a token, I hope, of the peace, understanding and cooperation, which will one day spread throughout the world.

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