

PRESS RELEASE

Speech delivered by **Selvi J Jayalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the dedication of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant Unit I through Video Conference – 10.8.2016:

Your Excellency, President of the Russian Federation,

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,

Chairman and Managing Director, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited,

Mr. Limarenko, Head of "Atomstroyexport" Group of Companies!

The Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant is a monument commemorating the long-standing, abiding and deep friendship between Russia and India. Nuclear power is clean, green and firm power, which a rapidly growing State like Tamil Nadu, aspiring to even higher growth rates and shared prosperity, really needs. The dedication of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant is a major milestone in Indo-Russian Friendship and Co-operation.

Throughout my tenures in office as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu I have always extended support to the implementation of the Kudankulam Project while at the same time laying emphasis on allaying the fears of the local people by convincing them about the safety aspects of the plant. A Nuclear Power Plant takes longer to build and commission than conventional power plants. Not only is the engineering complex, very high safety standards need to be observed. The smooth commercial operation of this Project overcoming many obstacles – economic, political and social; global, national and local – stands testimony to the unwavering commitment to the Project of the Governments of Tamil Nadu, India and Russia.

The successful commissioning of the Kudankulam project is an object lesson on how the fears and apprehensions of the local population can and should be allayed, through a process of engagement and reassurance, and by building community assets and infrastructure. When the commissioning of the first Unit of the Project was getting delayed due to local agitation, I took up the matter with the Union Government to ensure that the fears and concerns of the people were heeded and addressed. To allay the fears of the citizens, an Expert Committee was formed by the State Government in February, 2012; The Committee heard the concerns of the people and reassured them on the safety

features of the Project. Based on the report of the Expert Group, the Government of Tamil Nadu resolved to take steps, for the early commissioning of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant and to allocate 500 crore rupees for the development of works in the areas neighbouring Kudankulam. Due to the confidence building measures undertaken by my Government Unit I of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant has started commercial operation.

I request that the second Unit may also be commissioned as early as possible considering the needs of our fast growing economy and the needs of our industrial and agricultural sectors.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has played an important role in reassuring the local people of the high safety standards that would be maintained in the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant. I am confident that the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited will maintain the highest safety standards and also ensure continuous power generation at the two Units so that Tamil Nadu and the neighbouring States, can rely on Kudankulam as a reliable base load power station.

I thank the President of the Russian Federation and the people of Russia for their contribution to the development of Tamil Nadu. I also thank the Prime Minister of India for dedicating the Unit-I of the Kudankulam Power Plant jointly with the President of the Russian Federation. I also request that the commissioning of the second unit may be expedited.

Thank you.

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