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Only nuclear and solar power can meet India's needs: Kakodkar

PTI

Only the nuclear and the solar power can meet the mammoth energy requirements of India, former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission Dr Anil Kakodkar said here on Sunday.

“If India has to emerge as an economic power then per capita electricity production has to be brought on par with that in the advanced countries,” he said.

“Today the scenario is such that compared to advanced countries we are 14-15 times behind. The average per capita electricity production in an industrially advanced nation is at around 10,000 units, where as in India it is at around 800 units per person,” Dr Kakodkar said here speaking to reporters.

He was responding to a question about agitations against nuclear power plants in the country.

Dr Kakodkar was here to attend the second convocation at Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn), where the first graduating batch of M-Tech students was awarded degrees, besides 104 B-Tech students.

“Energy is also very important for any economic progress... We can't run industrial houses, if we don't have energy,” he said.

The Planning Commission has set a target of adding over 88,000 MW of power generation capacity in the 12th Five Year Plan period (2012-2017).

Earlier, in his convocation address, Dr Kakodkar emphasised the need for high quality research.

“IITs have the challenge to usher in domestic technology-enabled national development and enhance the numbers of quality engineers and researchers to support nation-building,” he said.

Keywords: [nuclear energy](#), [solar power](#), [Anil Kakodkar](#), [electricity production](#), [IIT Gandhinagar convocation](#)

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Angeli Alvares - Secretary in the Press Room at UNESCO Air India and Air France

Sorry, nuclear, will SCARE AWAY much needed FDI, due to still unsolved toxic waste problem in Bhopal (Union Carbide) FDIs know, even with assurance, from govt. a nuclear accident could wipe everyone out and our country standing on shaky legs economically, will collapse to a land of NO RETURNS. Germany with barely any sunshine is supplying nuclear France with MWs of electricity from solar, India could power the world with GIGAWATTS of solar energy it receives from Aditya. Why should a country so broke with 70% of it's population on WELFARE checks and free food handouts go in for COSTLY and LOSS generating, dangerous nuclear, which even WEALTHY nations are avoiding like a plague? No economist in his right mind would promote nuclear, unless our economists at the top already have their brains fried with contamination of radio active particles still wandering in from Fukushima and increasing daily in intensity.

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B Shaha

Solar power, hydro-power, wind power, tidal power etc. are renewable sources of energy and we must go for that. Nuclear power is not renewable. Besides, it has harmful side effects. We should go for nuclear energy only in exceptional cases after taking necessary precautionary measures.

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Darwin

It is a good change with the former Chairman of Atomic Energy. For quite long they have been maintaining that only nuclear energy is the alternative and now they have added solar energy to it. The success of wind energy in Tamil Nadu cannot be dismissed lightly. The fact is that all forms of energy that are economic to produce and friendly to the environment should be explored.

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