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Indian Nuclear Group Demands Moratorium on Nuclear Reactor Construction After the Fukushima Disaster in Japan

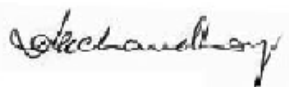
The Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace (CNDP) expresses its deep grief and sorrow at the devastation caused by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan and the explosion at the Fukushima nuclear reactor, which reportedly suffered a loss-of-coolant accident.

The accident, in which unspecified quantities of radioactivity were released, highlights the grave inherent hazards of atomic power generation the world over, and confirms the scientific assessment that all nuclear reactor-types can undergo a catastrophic accident like Three Mile Island (US, 1979) and Chernobyl (Ukraine, 1986), irrespective of the precautions taken and safety systems installed.

An estimated 65,000 to 110,000 people perished in Chernobyl. The toll from Fukushima is as yet unknown, but is likely to be high.

The incident calls for a thorough review and transparent audit of the safety performance of all nuclear reactors in India, as well as of evacuation and other emergency procedures, which are known to be flawed.

CNDP demands a moratorium on all further civilian nuclear activities in India, including the construction of reactors at Jaitapur in Maharashtra, based on an untested French design, until India's nuclear power policy is radically reviewed for safety, viability, appropriateness and costs.



Anil Chaudhary (9811119347)

Achin Vanaik

Praful Bidwai (24377278/79, 9868129242)

Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace (CNDP)

A-124/6, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110016, Ph: 011-65663958, Telefax: 26517814,

E-mail: cndpindia@gmail.com, Website: www.cndpindia.org