

SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF 77th REPUBLIC DAY

Dear Colleagues of AERB,

On the auspicious occasion of the 77th Republic Day of our nation, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all officers, staff members, and their families. As we celebrate this day, I am reminded of the Sanskrit shloka

जननी जन्मभूमिश्च, स्वर्गदापी गारियसी" (Janani Janmabhūmischa, Swargādapi Garīyasī")
— *Mother and motherland are dearer than heaven.*

This profound shloka aptly reflects the spirit of patriotism and duty that binds us as citizens of India. As we celebrate and commemorate the 77th Republic Day of our great nation, we reaffirm our commitment to the rights and responsibilities enshrined in the Constitution of India, always mindful that rights cannot exist in isolation from the dutiful discharge of responsibilities.

Our foremost collective responsibility today is to contribute meaningfully to the national vision of Vikasit Bharat 2047—India's aspiration to emerge as a fully developed nation. The country is making significant strides across multiple sectors and is firmly on course toward this goal. A developed nation is typically characterized by:

- High quality of life coupled with strong economic performance,
- Robust values, institutions, and governance systems,
- Technological leadership and innovation,
- State-of-the-art infrastructure and
- Universal access to better health and education.

Achieving these objectives is intrinsically linked to energy independence, where nuclear energy plays a pivotal role. As a sustainable, carbon-free clean energy source, nuclear power is an indispensable component of India's energy mix. This is further complemented by the extensive and beneficial use of ionising radiation in medical, industrial, agricultural, and research applications, contributing significantly to societal development.

On this auspicious occasion, it is important to remind ourselves that AERB is our "**karmabhoomi**". With a diverse workforce spread across the country, AERB truly represents a mini India, unified by a shared mission of safety and public trust.

Since its constitution in 1983, AERB has evolved into a robust and mature regulatory body. Today, we acknowledge the contributions of all employees and leaders—past and present—whose dedication and professionalism have shaped AERB into what it stands for today.

The evolving nuclear landscape, particularly with the paradigm shift introduced through the SHANTI Act, 2025, and the opening of nuclear power to private participation, has further strengthened our resolve to be effective, efficient, and forward-looking. This necessitates:

- Simplification of regulatory processes, maintaining the rigour of safety,
- Standardisation of procedures and practices,
- Competency building and manpower augmentation,
- Firm monitoring and auditing of activities, and
- Transparency, with data and evidence speaking for themselves.

In this spirit, let us symbolically reframe the ancient shloka by adding AERB to it. Let us make our work here so productive that it is heaven itself. Let this be our collective responsibility and pride, as we contribute our part to the nation-building.

Let us pledge to work together with cooperation, mutual support, and unity for meeting AERB's goals, keeping the bigger purpose of Vikasit Bharat 2047, at the centre of our everyday actions and decisions.

Jai Hind!!