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## **WNA Stresses Civil Nuclear Deal as Crucial for India's Economy and World Leadership**

London – The World Nuclear Association today stressed that India's economic future, its world leadership, and protection of the global environment are all closely linked to the fate of the still-pending U.S-India agreement to cooperate on civil nuclear energy.

"No single step could better strengthen India's future prospects on the world stage than ratification of this historic deal," said John Ritch, the WNA's director general. "It will end three decades of injustice to India, and open a wide path for India's international leadership."

"Opposition to this deal in both India and the United States is ill-founded" Ritch said. "Nothing about it will render India subservient to America, nor will it weaken non-proliferation efforts. In fact," Ritch added, "quite the opposite is true. This deal will make India an equal partner with the U.S., and strengthen non-proliferation by adding Indian leadership to that important cause."

Noting that this year's Nobel Prize was awarded jointly to Al Gore and the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for contributions to public education on the peril of global warming, Ritch said: "India should be proud of Dr R K Pauchauri's role as IPCC chairman, and India's parliament should heed his warning that India cannot meet its human and environmental needs without a major expansion of nuclear energy. This deal will accelerate India's progress in pursuing this essential policy at home."

"Meanwhile," said Ritch, "as the world turns to nuclear power for clean and sustainable development, India stands poised to be a global leader in nuclear technology. Once this deal is sealed, the export potential for India is almost unlimited."

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*The World Nuclear Association is the global organization  
of enterprises engaged in all aspects of civil nuclear energy.*

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