



India seeks to join EU energy project

Sunday, March 13, 2005 (Brussels):

India has evinced interest in joining the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reaction (ITER) project.

The ITER is an ambitious multi-national project of the European Union aimed at producing nuclear energy equivalent to that of Sun.

Negotiations have already begun for India's inclusion in the project for building the world's biggest nuclear fusion reactor, a senior EU official told visiting journalists on condition of anonymity.

"Negotiations for India's inclusion are at extremely sensitive stage," the official said.

Bright chances

The project, estimated to cost 10 billion Euros, will produce 'star power' plasma.

India, who has already joined the ambitious 'Galileo' navigation project, stands a chance of getting into the multi-lateral ITER project considering its reputation in research and development field.

Differences between the EU and Japan over the venue of the reactor has also raised possibility of India's inclusion in the project.

The EU wants the reactor to be based at Cadarache in France while Japan's wants it in that country and if the differences persist, EU could consider taking financial help from India, Canada or Switzerland.

Other countries participating in the programme are the US, Russia, China and South Korea. (PTI)

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