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## GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

परमाणु ऊर्जा नियामक परिषद ATOMIC ENERGY REGULATORY BOARD

डॉ. ए. यू. सोनावणे प्रमुख, नियामक मामले एवं संचार निदेशालय

Dr. A. U. Sonawane Head, Directorate of Regulatory Affairs & Communications

Ref: AERB/DRA&C/2020/ July 22, 2020

## PRESS RELEASE

## The First 700 MWe Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor at Kakrapar, Gujarat Attains Criticality!!

The Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant, Unit-3 (KAPP-3), India's first 700 MWe Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) with innovative features, achieved criticality at around 0936 Hrs on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020. KAPP-3 is located at Kakrapar Site, Gujarat, where already two 220 MWe PHWRs (KAPS-1 & KAPS-2) are in operation and another 700 MWe PHWR (KAPP-4) is under advanced stage of construction.

Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has carried out exhaustive safety review of various safety aspects to ensure satisfactory compliances to regulatory requirements and granted permission for First Approach to Criticality of KAPP-3 on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2020.

In view of the prevailing situation due to COVID-19 pandemic, the safety review was carried out through working from home, partial working from office and by discussions and meetings through video conferencing while following the government guidelines. The criticality was witnessed by the AERB Observer Team posted at Kakrapar Site and by AERB experts at Headquarters through live streaming from KAPP-3 Control Room.

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(A. U. Sonawane)