

## **AERB Grants License for Operation of India's First 700 MWe Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor**

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has concluded the Design and Commissioning Safety Reviews and issued the License for Operation of Units 3 and 4 of Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS-3&4), the country's first 700 MWe indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs).

Being the first reactor of its kind, the licensing process involved rigorous multi-tiered safety reviews and assessment of the reactor design, covering the entire lifecycle in multiple stages—from siting, construction to commissioning at full-power. Besides AERB, several reactor safety experts from the Technical Support Organizations made significant contributions towards review of the Design & Commissioning results, which spanned almost 15 years.

As a part of Phase-C Commissioning, KAPS-3 received permission for full power operation in August 2023, followed by KAPS-4 in August 2024. After further review of plant performance close to rated power, AERB has now granted the License for Operation to NPCIL for a period of five years.

The License was formally handed over by Dr. D. K. Shukla, Chairman, AERB, to Shri B. C. Pathak, Chairman & Managing Director, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), at a brief ceremony held at Niyamak Bhavan, AERB Headquarters, on July 3, 2025. The event was attended by senior officials from both AERB and NPCIL.



Dr. D.K.Shukla, Chairman, AERB (left) formally handing over the Licence of operation of KAPS 3&4 to Shri B.C. Pathak, CMD, NPCIL (right)