

# Goal of net-zero emissions by 2070

## 'Plan to deploy 40-50 small modular nuclear reactors'

NEW DELHI, Aug 25 (PTI)

**INDIA** aims to deploy 40-50 small modular nuclear reactors, mostly to replace captive thermal power plants, as it aims to achieve the goal of net-zero emissions by 2070.

A top industry official said that the 220-MWe Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) was being redesigned using 3D design platforms with an aim to achieve a high degree of standardisation that would allow easy deployment, even in old thermal power plants used by the steel, aluminium, copper and the cement industries. The Department of Atomic Energy and Tata Consulting Engineers are redesigning the PHWRs to develop the Bharat Small Modular Reactor. "We are going to take the old design of the PHWR and

then reconfigure and redesign it to be modular, scalable and safety-aligned to post-Fukushima standards," Amit Sharma, the managing director and CEO of Tata Consulting Engineers, told PTI.

Sharma said in the case of small modular reactors (SMRs), the plan was to make 40-50 reactors in less than seven to eight years but added that it required a high degree of standardisation, safety and modularity.

Presenting the Union budget last month, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that the Government would partner with the private sector to set up Bharat Small Reactors and in the research and development of SMRs. She had said the Government would also partner with the private sector for research and development of newer technologies for nuclear energy.



# IOC, BPCL, GAIL fined for 5th straight quarter for not meeting listing norm

- The companies had faced fines for the same reason the previous four quarters as well

NEW DELHI, Aug 25 (PTI)

INDIA'S biggest oil firms including Indian Oil, BPCL and gas utility GAIL have been slapped with fines for a record fifth straight quarter for failing to meet listing norms of having the requisite number of independent and women directors on their board.

Stock exchanges BSE and NSE have slapped fines on oil refining and fuel marketing giants Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), explorer Oil India Ltd (OIL), gas utility GAIL

(India) Ltd, and refiner Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) for not meeting the listing requirement in April-June quarter.

In separate stock exchange filings, the companies detailed the fines imposed by the BSE and NSE for either not having the requisite number of independent directors or the mandated women directors in the quarter ended June 30, 2024 (first quarter of current 2024-25 fiscal year), but were quick to point out that appointment of directors was done by the Government and they had no role in it.

The companies had faced fines for the same reason the previous four quarters as well.

Listing norms require companies to have independent directors in the same proportion as executive or functional directors. They are also

required to have at least one woman director on the board.

IOC said, BSE and National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) imposed a fine of Rs 5,36,900 each on company for non-compliance of Regulation 17(1) of the SEBI (LODR) relating to composition of the Board of Directors during quarter ended June 30, 2024.

"In response to the notices, IndianOil vide letter dated August 22, 2024 has represented to the BSE and NSE that being a government company, the power to appoint directors vests with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and hence shortfall in independent directors including non-appointment of women independent director on board of the company during the quarter ended June 30, 2024 was not due to any negligence/default by the company," IOC said.

# 'Indian astronaut to join ISS under Indo-US space cooperation'

NEW DELHI, Aug 25 (IANS)

AN INDIAN astronaut from the 'Gaganyaan' mission is set to join the International Space Station (ISS), marking a significant milestone in the Indo-US space collaboration, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, said on Sunday.

Chairing a pivotal bilateral meeting on the US-India Civil Nuclear Commerce in the national capital, the Minister

highlighted the deepening cooperation between the two nations in critical areas of science, technology and clean energy. The high-level US delegation was led by John Podesta, Senior Advisor to the US President for International Climate Policy and David Turk, Deputy Secretary, the Department of Energy.

Both nations reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening their cooperation in emerging technologies, with mutual interests in enhancing eco-



Dr Jitendra Singh

nomie growth, national security and global leadership in technological advancements.

Dr Singh emphasised the importance of the partnership in securing global supply

chains, especially in sectors like semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, and clean energy technologies, which are increasingly vital in today's interconnected world.

The Minister also underscored the Green Hydrogen Mission as a cornerstone of India's strategy to decarbonise heavy industry, transportation and power generation.

"Through robust policy frameworks and international collaborations, India is poised to lead the transition to a sus-

tainable and resilient energy future," the minister told the US delegation.

The Centre is also exploring international partnerships, investing in research and development, and considering regulatory frameworks to support the deployment of small modular reactors (SMRs).

According to the minister, SMRs would play a significant role in India's clean energy transition, contributing to energy self-reliance and meeting climate commitments.

# India, Indonesia to boost anti-terror cooperation

NEW DELHI, Aug 25 (PTI)

INDIA and Indonesia have condemned the use of terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism amid Pakistan's support to terror groups carrying out terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The issue of cross-border terrorism figured at the sixth meeting of the India-Indonesia joint working group on counter-terrorism that was held in Jakarta on Friday.

The two sides focused on ways to effectively combat terrorism, including how to stop the use of new and emerging technologies by terrorists, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

"India and Indonesia strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and emphasised the need for

strengthening international cooperation to combat terrorism in a comprehensive and sustained manner," it said in a statement on Sunday.

The MEA said the two sides also condemned the "use of terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism."

"The two sides exchanged views on the domestic, regional and global terrorism threat assessment," it said.

"They discussed counter-terrorism challenges related to the use of new and emerging technologies by terrorists, misuse of Internet for terrorist purposes, terror financing, and the nexus between organised crime and terrorism," the MEA said.

It said the two sides also exchanged views on cooperation in regional, global and multilateral fora.

# UNPARDONABLE SIN: PM

'Guilty in **CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN** should not be spared'

JALGAON, Aug 25 (PTI)

**PRIME** Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday termed crimes against women an unpardonable sin, adding the guilty should not be spared.

Modi's strong remarks follow protests against the brutal rape and murder of a 31-year-old trainee doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Hospital and the sexual abuse of two four-year-old school girls in Badlapur near Mumbai.

Speaking at the 'Lakhpati Didi Sammelan' in north Maharashtra's Jalgaon, Modi said the safety of women should be a priority.

"The safety of mothers, sisters, and daughters is the country's priority. I have repeatedly raised this issue from the Red Fort. Be it any state of the country, I understand the pain and anger of my sisters and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an interaction with 'Lakhpati Didis' in Jalgaon on Sunday. (PTI)

daughters," he said. Modi said that he would tell every polit-

ical party and state Government that crime against

women is an unpardonable sin. Whoever is guilty should not be spared, he added.

"Those helping the perpetrators of crimes against women should not be spared. Be it a hospital, school, Government or police station, at whatever level negligence occurs, everyone should be held accountable.

"The message should go from top to bottom. This sin is unpardonable. Governments will come and go, but protecting life and women's dignity is a big responsibility of all of us, both as a society and as a Government," Modi said.

Modi said his Government has done more for women in the last ten years than all the previous regimes since Independence.

"Till 2014, less than Rs25,000 crore loans were given to (Contd on page 5)