

Modi to dedicate to nation 2 N-power reactors today

CHENNAI, Feb 21 (IANS)

INDIA'S atomic power major Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) will soon connect its second 700 MW Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) to the grid, an official said on Wednesday, ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Gujarat on Thursday to dedicate to the nation the two 700 MW PHWRs at Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS).

While the KAPS-3 has been synchronised with the grid, KAPS-4 will also be connected to the grid soon, an official told IANS on condition of anonymity. With that, both the 700 MW PHWRs will supply power to

Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa and the Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

Modi will visit Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh on February 22 and 23 during which he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than Rs 61,000 crore in the two States.

While Modi will inaugurate, lay the foundation stone and initiate work commencement of multiple development projects worth more than Rs 48,000 crore in Gujarat, he will also launch and inaugurate projects worth over Rs 13,000 crore for transforming Varanasi and

its adjoining areas, according to a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on Wednesday.

On February 22 (Thursday), at around 10.45 am in Ahmedabad, Modi will participate in the golden jubilee celebration of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF).

At around 12.45 pm, the Prime Minister will reach Mahesana and perform 'pooja' and 'darshan' at the Valinath Mahadev Temple. He will participate in a public function in Tarabh, Mahesana, where he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than Rs 8,350 crore.

'Bhishma Pitamah' of Indian judiciary Fali S Nariman dies

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New Delhi: Some soldiers sleep with their boots on. Fali S Nariman, you would think, slept with his robes on. The indefatigable jurist, who passed away on Wednesday at 95, was prepping for a submission to be argued before a Constitution bench in what turned out to be the last day of

► **EDIT PG: Nariman Points**

an extraordinary life.

Born in Rangoon in 1929, he landed in Delhi as a refugee in 1942. He started practising law in Mumbai in 1950. The remarkable thing is how his evolution as a jurist over 70 years mirrors India's jurisprudential journey. Most of the cases that built its social, political and legal landscape had a Nariman imprint. Referred to as 'Bhishma Pitamah' of



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Indian judiciary, he was conscience keeper and guiding light for legal fraternity.

Widely considered as one of India's finest lawyers, Nariman not only guided fellow professionals and judges but for decades was the go-to legal expert Presidents first approached when they sought an opinion on a tricky issue.

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Eastern Ladakh border row

India, China hold talks; no breakthrough yet

NEW DELHI, Feb 21 (PTI)

INDIA and China held a fresh round of high-level military talks to resolve the over three-and-half-year-old border row in eastern Ladakh that saw both sides agreeing to maintain “peace and tranquillity” on the ground but there was no indication of any breakthrough.

The 21st round of India-China corps commander level meeting was held at Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on February 19, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Wednesday.

The Indian side strongly pressed for resolution of the lingering issues at Depsang and Demchok, people familiar with the matter said, adding there was no tangible forward movement in the talks.

The MEA said the two sides

agreed to maintain communication on the way ahead through the relevant military and diplomatic mechanisms.

“The discussions built on the previous rounds, seeking complete disengagement in the remaining areas along the LAC (Line of Actual Control) in Eastern Ladakh as an essential basis for restoration of peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas,” it said in a statement.

The MEA said the two sides shared their perspectives on this in the talks held in a “friendly and cordial” atmosphere.

“The two sides have agreed to maintain communication on the way ahead through the relevant military and diplomatic mechanisms. They also committed to maintain peace and tranquillity on the ground in the border areas in the interim,” it said.

'Delhi Chalo' march on hold for two days: Farmer leaders

CHANDIGARH, Feb 21 (PTI)

FARMERS leaders on Wednesday put the 'Delhi Chalo' march on hold for two days after a protester was killed and about 12 police personnel injured in clashes at Khanauri, one of the two protest sites on the Punjab-Haryana border.

Farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher said they will decide the next course of action on Friday evening.

Punjab farmers at Khanauri and Shambhu had resumed their

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Centre invites farmers for 5th round of talks

NEW DELHI, Feb 21 (PTI)

AGRICULTURE Minister Arjun Munda on Wednesday invited the protesting farmers for a fifth round of discussion on all issues including the MSP (minimum support price). The minister also appealed to the protesting farmers to maintain peace and engage in a dialogue to find a solution.

"We are ready to discuss all the issues, be it MSP or crop diversification. We can find a solution only through dialogue," Munda told reporters here.

Iran sent hundreds of ballistic missiles to Russia: Report

Dubai: Iran has provided Russia with a large number of powerful surface-to-surface ballistic missiles, six sources said, deepening the military cooperation between the two US-sanctioned countries. Iran's provision of around 400 missiles includes many from the Fateh-110 family of short-range ballistic weapons, such as the Zolfaghar, three Iranian sources said. This road-mobile missile is capable of striking targets at a distance of between 300 and 700 km, experts say. The shipments began in early Jan, one of the Iranian sources said.

Iran's Shahed drones have become a staple of Russia's assaults on Ukraine. Kyiv said in Dec that Moscow had launched 3,700 Shahed drones, which can fly hundreds of kilometres and explode on impact. REUTERS

LCA Tejas to get futuristic weapons, sensors; ADA, Air Force sign MoU

NEW DELHI, Feb 21 (IANS)

THE Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Air Force (IAF) for integration of futuristic weapons and sensors in the Tejas, Light Combat Aircraft (LCA).

In a statement on Wednesday, the Defence Ministry said that there is a continuous need of upgrading the weapons and sensors suite of the aircraft in the present war

scenario and towards this, ADA has initiated the know-how transfer for the integration of weapons and sensors to SDI.

"This will facilitate the IAF to independently carry out sensors, weapon integration and flight testing to enhance the operational capability of Tejas-LCA fighter," the ministry said.

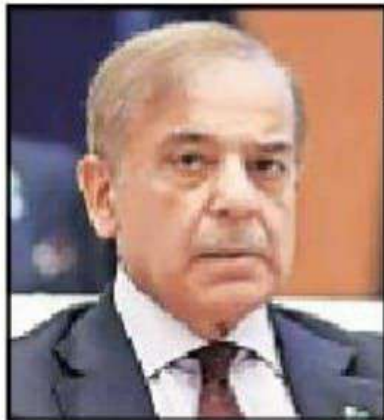
According to the statement, the ADA has successfully developed and type certified Tejas-LCA with a credit of more than 10,000 sorties of incident free flying. The IAF has already

formed two squadrons of the fighter aircraft and twin-seater aircraft are also being inducted. The ADA under the Department of Defence Research and Development is mandated to design and develop Tejas-LCA and its variants.

The MoU was signed by Prabhulla Chandran V K, Technology Director (Avionics and Weapon Systems) of ADA and Air Vice Marshal K N Santosh VSM, Commandant, Software Development Institute (SDI) of IAF.

PPP, PML-N strike power-sharing deal

~~Shehbaz~~ to be Pak PM, ~~Zardari~~ President



■ By Sajjad Hussain

ISLAMABAD, Feb 21 (PTI)

THE Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and the Pakistan Peoples Party have finally agreed on a power-sharing deal to form a coalition Government led by former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, a move that could effectively sideline



their arch-rival, Imran Khan.

Both the PML-N and the PPP won fewer seats in Parliament than candidates backed by jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan in an election mired in controversies, including vote rigging. Khan, who could not contest the February 8 elections due to his convictions in some cases including that of corruption has been barred from holding any public office for 10 years.

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