

**1984** The Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) programme to build a nuclear-powered submarine is conceived when Indira Gandhi is Prime Minister.

**1990** A pilot-scale Rare Materials Plant is set up at Ratnahalli, near Mysore, to enrich uranium after the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) takes the decision that enriched uranium will be the driver-fuel for the nuclear power pack aboard the submarine.

**Mid/late 1990s** Active work begins on building the reactor and the boat itself with the participation of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy. A Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR) of 80 MWt capacity will form the heart of the submarine.

**2004 (October 23)** Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visits the Plutonium Reprocessing Plant (PRP), the facade under which the PWR is being built at Kalpakkam.

**2006 (September 22)** The PWR built at Kalpakkam, which uses enriched uranium as fuel, is started up. It is being used to train the naval officers who will operate India's nuclear-powered submarine.

**2009 (July 26)** Gursharan Kaur, wife of Manmohan Singh, breaks a coconut on the hull of India's first nuclear-powered submarine and names it INS Arihant, which means "slayer of enemies". A PWR, identical to that of the Kalpakkam-based PWR, is installed in Arihant.

**2013 (August 10)** The PWR on board Arihant attains its first criticality, that is, the reactor is started up when the boat is already in sea. As per plans, the submarine will become operational in another 18 months after sea trials are done.