



Obituary

स्मरणांजलि: डॉ. आर. के. गर्ग (1930-2026)

नाभिकीय पदार्थों के विकास में अग्रणी योगदान देने वाले
रासायनिक अभियंता

In memoriam: Dr. R. K. Garg (1930-2026)

A chemical engineer who made pioneering contributions to nuclear materials development

Dr. R.K. Garg joined Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in 1956 and was part of the team that was constituted for setting up and commissioning the Uranium Metal Plant in Atomic Energy Establishment Trombay (AEET), which produced India's maiden uranium metal ingot of nuclear purity in 1959. AEET was rechristened as BARC in 1967.

In a distinguished career spanning around four decades, Dr. Garg played a key role in the indigenous development of front-end nuclear materials, including uranium, zirconium, thorium, rare earths, and subsequently establishing industrial plants for their production. All these developments led to successful deployment of PHWR fleet pan-India.

Dr. Garg was integral to the core team that instrumentalised Uranium Enrichment Programme in DAE. Considered to be a highly daunting programme, he guided it with unflinching dedication and foresight. His extraordinary leadership qualities contributed significantly to the development of this technology from scratch to successful plant-scale demonstration.

In Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), he rose to the rank of the Director of Chemical Engineering Group. Prior to his superannuation in 1990, he served for four years as the Chairman and Managing Director of Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL). Dr. Garg also authored a book entitled *The Story Of Uranium In India* jointly with his counterpart in DAE Dr. D. S. Shukla. It was published in the year 2023.

Dr. Garg breathed for the last time on August 30, 2026.

A young R.K. Garg with the associates of Project Firewood - a term associated with early Uranium production activities in India. In this very old photograph from the archives of BARC, present next to Dr. Garg is Mr. N. Srinivasan, who was later associated with the establishment of India's maiden Reprocessing Plant in Trombay.

