

Baldev Raj in 'Nobel' panel

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March 12: Dr Baldev Raj, director, Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam, has joined a select band of international scientists who will decide the winner of the Global Energy International Prize, the equivalent of Nobel Prize.

Dr Raj is the first Indian to be elevated to this position and will be the jury member for three years starting 2009. Dr Raj and Dr Masaji Yoshikawa, president, Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute, are the only representatives from Asia in the jury. The annual GEIP carries a prize money of \$100,000 and a plethora of responsibilities. Instituted by three leading Russian energy corporations, GEIP, as it is known, is one of the most prominent world scientific awards. The winner is selected by the international jury based on recommendations made by Nobel laureates.

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"It is recognition of India's nuclear energy programmes. The developed world has accepted India as the global leader in Fast Breeder Reactors," Dr Raj told *Deccan Chronicle* when asked about the honour.

The main criteria for the GEIP is scientific achievements in the field of energy and power engineering, theoretical studies, discoveries on new energy sources, and inventions that have led to the use of new methods for the transformation of energy and bringing a significant contribution to the solution of ecological and environmental protection issues; research, discoveries and inventions resulting in breakthrough solutions for energy saving and transmission issues.