

Message by Director, IGCAR

The attainment of first criticality of the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) on 6th April, 2026 marks a defining moment and a major milestone in our nuclear power programme. This historic achievement reflects the strong support and encouragement of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Narendra Modiji, and the steadfast leadership and guidance of Dr. A.K. Mohanty, Chairman, AEC and Secretary, DAE whose vision and direction have been instrumental in bringing this complex programme to fruition.

It is also a proud realization of the long-standing vision of Homi Jehangir Bhabha, whose three-stage programme laid the foundation for harnessing our vast thorium resources. This milestone stands on the strong foundation laid by generations of retired scientists and engineers, whose pioneering work continues to guide and inspire us.

The lead role played by IGCAR in design, technology development and integration has been central to this achievement. The seamless translation of design into construction by BHAVINI has been pivotal in realizing PFBR, supported by the collective strength, technical excellence and perseverance of teams across BARC, NFC and NRB.

As we move forward, PFBR strengthens the second stage of the programme through a closed fuel cycle and opens the pathway towards large-scale utilisation of thorium, reinforcing India's long-term energy security and self-reliance. Looking ahead, this achievement paves the way for accelerated deployment of future Fast Breeder Reactors, strengthening the second stage and advancing towards large-scale utilisation of thorium in the third stage of our programme.

Let us take pride in this achievement and continue our journey with renewed commitment and purpose.

Congratulations to all the colleagues of IGCAR and BHAVINI.