



M.R. Srinivasan, a key architect of India's nuclear programme, no more

Why in news: M.R. Srinivasan, former **Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission** and **Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy**, passed away in **Udhagamandalam** at the age of 95.

- He began his career in **1955**, working with **Dr. Homi J. Bhabha** on India's **first nuclear research reactor Apsara**.
- He was appointed **Principal Project Engineer** in **1959** for India's **first atomic power station** and later became **Chief Project Engineer** of the **Madras Atomic Power Station** in **1967**.
- He became **Director of Power Projects Engineering Division** in **1974**, & **Chairman of the Nuclear Power Board** in **1984**, overseeing all **nuclear power projects** in India. In **1987**, he was appointed **Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission** and **Founder-Chairman of NPCIL**, under whose leadership **18 nuclear power units** were developed.
- He was awarded **Padma Vibhushan** in **2015** for his immense contributions to India's nuclear energy programme.

Do you know?

Three-stage nuclear programme

- **Stage 1:** Involves **Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs)** using **natural uranium** to generate electricity and produce **plutonium-239**, with **heavy water** as coolant and moderator; supplemented by imported **Light Water Reactors (LWRs)**.
- **Stage 2:** Focuses on **Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs)** using **plutonium-based fuels**, enhancing nuclear capacity and converting **thorium into uranium-233**; requires **reprocessing** of spent fuel.
- **Stage 3:** Utilises the **Thorium-U233 cycle**, employing **Advanced Heavy Water Reactors (AHWRs)** and possibly **molten salt reactors**, aiming for **long-term energy security** using **U233** from Stage 2.

[Current Affairs Course is now Live](#). Course will start in October 2025 1st week.

Modules will include class notes, monthly compilation, quarter compilation and annual compilation. This will help in regular revision r/t in the fag-end of preparation.

I will provide my annual compilation, like last year, on Telegram in May 1st week.

[Last year I had promised 20 questions in Prelims from my notes & 28+ Questions could be answered from the same.](#)

30 questions is my aim for 2026 prelims. To meet that, I have analyzed why I missed 5-6 C.A. questions in 2025 and I have increased my coverage accordingly.