

# Radiation is part of life, don't be scared of it, says AERB chief

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“Radiation is a part of life, and we should not be afraid but understand it,” said Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) chief SA Bhardwaj at a national symposium on environment that began at Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar on Thursday.

Addressing the participants, Bhardwaj, the chairman of AERB, asked the youth to undo the damage which has been done by the previous generation.

“India should to take the leadership to solve the environmental issues. The technology has to now undo what science and technology have done to the environment,” he said. He discussed about the recent achievement of Kaiga nuclear power plant that set world record with 941 days of uninterrupted supply. He said that have been people living near the boundary of the plant and have received practically zero radiations.

“We are addicted to radiation. People are using radiation in their day-to-day life, such as x-ray and CT scan machines, radiotherapy for cancer treatment, in malls, industries and medical fields. Ra-

## EXPERT SPEAK

India should take the lead in solving environmental issues. Technology has to now undo what science and technology have done to the environment, said AERB chairman SA Bhardwaj on Thursday.

diation is all around us and the technology is safe. What is required is to understand the radiations,” he said.

On the sidelines of the event, when DNA asked him about the health issues faced by villagers in Pokharan, he said, “Their allegations of linking cancer diseases to radiation has not scientific evidence. Don't people of Ahmedabad get such diseases?” On educational institutions training students for radiological safety, he said, “Our biggest concern is that not many are able to pass the exam conducted by us.”

Remembering the vision of Dr Homi Bhabha to recycle the energy/ fuel waste, he said, “India has always and consistently followed the approach of closing the fuel cycles, which is done by very few countries.”

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