

Dr. Ram Narain Agarwal



(July 24, 1941– August 15, 2024)

Dr RN Agarwal, FNAE, Formerly Director, Advanced Systems Laboratory and Programme Director (AGNI), Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDO), Hyderabad born on July 24, 1941 passed away on August 15, 2024. Dr Agarwal was affiliated to Engineering Section – VII (Aerospace Engineering) and elected to INAE Fellowship in the year 2000.

Dr Agarwal had made outstanding contributions to the fields of Aero-Missiles, Re-entry and made significant contributions to the Agni missile program, launched in 1983, and served as its first program director. He was instrumental in India's Agni missile development programme right from its inception in 1983 till 2005. He inspired the team to successfully test the Technology demonstrator missile in May 1989. Thereafter, various versions of the missile were developed and inducted into the defence forces. Today, Agni V, the nuclear-capable, intermediate-range ballistic missile has the capability to strike targets beyond 5000 kms. Dr Agarwal retired as the founder and director of the Advanced Systems Laboratory (ASL), Hyderabad in 2005. Dr Agarwal played a key role in establishing the re-entry technology, all composite heat shield, onboard propulsion system, guidance and control etc for missiles during a distinguished tenure of 22 years. He was conferred the Padma Shri in 1990 and Padma Bhushan in 2000 by the President of India.

May God bless his soul to Rest in Peace