

PHYSICS

KALPANA

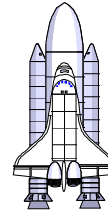
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2017-2018

A TRIBUTE TO PROF U R RAO

24th July 2017



Prof. Rao was a versatile space scientist, a technologist par excellence, and a passionate space application protagonist, all rolled into one; with sharp analytical bent of mind and enormous intellectual ability with uncanny knack of grasping the contemporary happenings; and astounding ability to quickly make back-of-the-envelope computations for complex solutions and decision making. While he was a tough task master with deep insight, abundant enthusiasm and indefatigable tenacity, and penchant for speedy action, his ability to instantly connect with his subordinates is an attribute often cited as his best quality with each one of them has one story or other to tell about his personal interactions and experience with him.

Above all, Prof. U.R.Rao was a great Institution builder of global repute, and ranks along with Dr Vikram Sarabhai and Prof. Satish Dhawan as the one who brought the vision and mission focus in the Indian space programme with unstinted commitment to align the goals of the organisation with national development. In this, he had to take in his stride the brunt of the innumerable initial difficulties, obstacles and failures of the satellites and launch vehicles in the experimental and its transition to operational era. He steadfastly brought in high levels of professional competence, mutual respect, and team