



Eminent ISRO Scientist and Former Chairman, Space Commission, Prof. U. R. Rao passes away

The entire ISRO family is in deep sorrow over the sad demise of one of its Eminent Scientist and Former Chairman, Space Commission, Prof. Udupi Ramachandra Rao, who passed away on July 24, 2017.

Convinced of the imperative need to use Space Technology for the Nation's development, he undertook the responsibility for the establishment of Satellite Technology in India in 1972. Under his able guidance, beginning with the first Indian satellite 'Aryabhata' in 1975, over 18 satellites were designed and launched for providing Communication, Remote Sensing and Meteorological services.

Prof. U. R. Rao, was born on March 10, 1932 at Adamaru, Udupi, India. He completed his graduation from Banaras Hindu University and his Doctorate from Gujarat University. In his initial years he worked at PRL, Ahmedabad and served in different capacities before taking charge as Director, ISAC, Bangalore. He took charge as Chairman, Space Commission and Secretary, Department of Space in 1984 and accelerated the development of critical Rocket Technology which resulted in the successful operationalization of launch vehicles like ASLV and PSLV. He initiated the development of GSLV and the development of Indigenous Cryogenic Technology in 1991.

With over 350 Scientific and Technical papers covering a wide array of topics from Cosmic Rays to High Energy Astronomy, he also authored numerous books. He received D.Sc. (Hon. Causa) Degree from over 25 Universities including University of Bologna, the oldest University in Europe.

He was honored with 'Padma Bhushan' in 1976 and 'Padma Vibhushan' in 2017 for his exemplary contribution in the field of Science. He became the first Indian Space Scientist to be inducted into the highly Prestigious "Satellite Hall of Fame" at Washington DC, USA on March 19, 2013.

His immense contribution to the development of Space Science and Technology shall always be remembered and continue to drive the aspirations of the Indian Space Program.