

Felicitation of Prof. P.D. Bhavsar on his 97th Birthday, by Director SAC

Born on 17 August 1926, **Prof. Praful D Bhavsar** was the **third Director of Space Applications Centre, ISRO during 1985-86**. He was the first Gujarati to head this prestigious and multidisciplinary ISRO centre. He also served as the Director of Indian Remote Sensing Utilisation Programme.

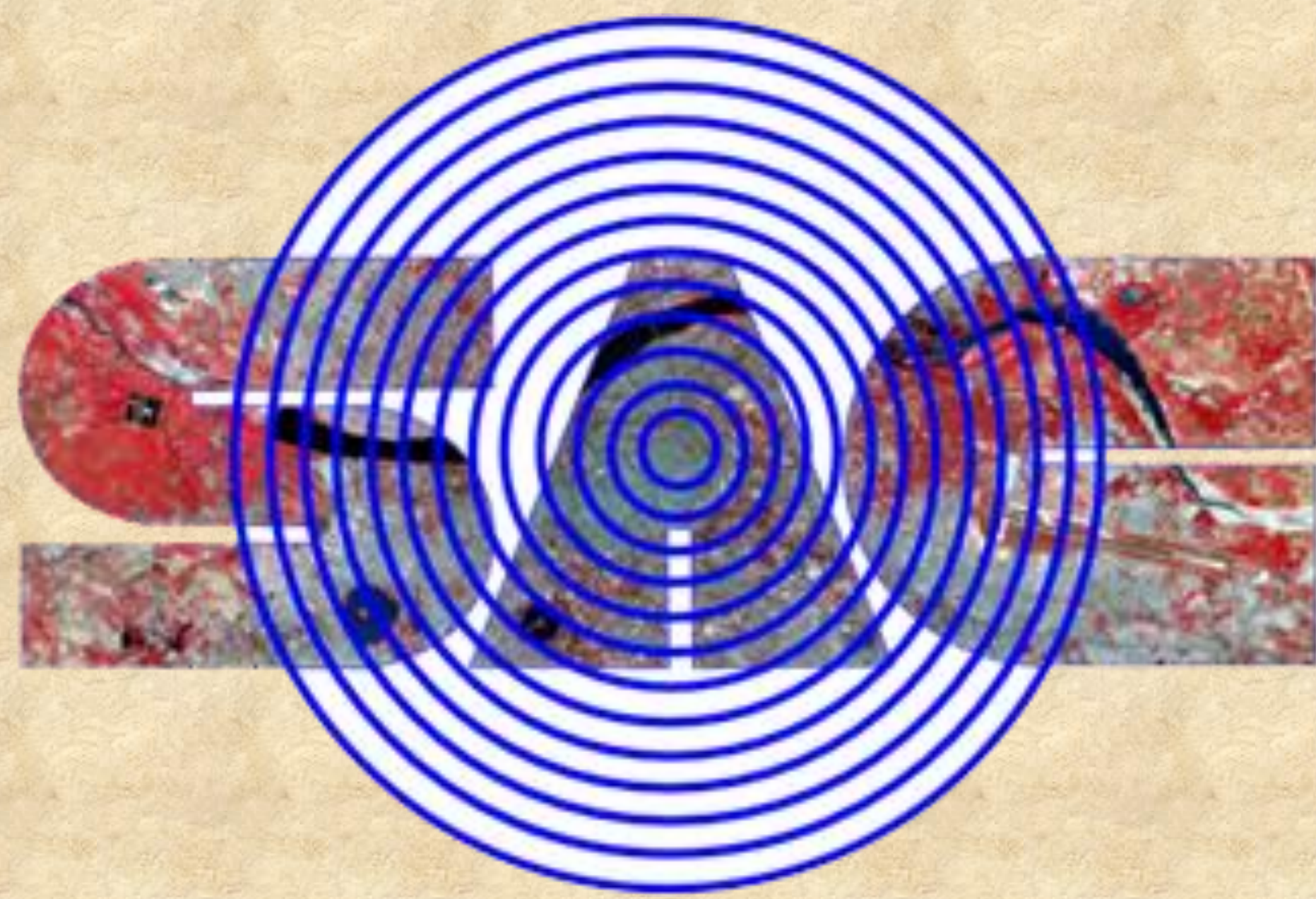
Prof. Bhavsar received his Doctorate in Physics from Gujarat University in 1958 for his research in cosmic rays at the Physical Research laboratory under the guidance of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai. He had conducted research and contributed to the study of the Cosmic Rays, Solar Protons, Aurora and Auroral X-rays, X-ray Astronomy and dynamics of the Upper Atmosphere. He was associated with the high altitude balloon experiments which first time detected the Solar Protons directly.

He was the Leader of the team, which conducted first rocket experiments in India and measured neutral atmospheric winds in the equatorial region. He has been a member of the faculty of the Physical Research Laboratory at Ahmedabad since 1962. Before that, from 1958 to 1962, he was a member of the Cosmic Ray Group and the faculty at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA.

He was Scientific Coordinator, Indian Space Research Organisation 1967-1975); Head, Space Physics Division, Space Science and Technology Centre, ISRO, Trivandrum 1968-1974); Scientific Secretary, ISRO (1973-75) and Member, ISRO Council (1973-75). He was also Member of All India Radio Programme Advisory Committee, Ahmedabad (1966-1970), Member, Research Committee on Atmospheric Science and Scientific Hydrology, CSIR (1968-1975); Member, Time and Frequency Project, Radio and Telecommunication Research Committee, National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi (1970-1972); Expert Member of the Advisory Committee to the Centre of Advanced Study in Radio Physics and Electronics, Calcutta University (1969-1976); Member, Indian Physics Association; Member, Astronomical Society of India; Member, Indian Science Congress Association and University Teacher for Post-Graduate Studies in Physics, Gujarat University and Kerala University. He was Member-Secretary of the Indian National Committee for Space Research (1971-1981), and President, Indian Society of Photo interpretation and Remote Sensing (1981-1983).

As Scientific Secretary, ISRO, he was In-charge of the ISRO Scientific and technical functions, planning, programming, coordinating, reviewing and monitoring of ISRO's scientific and technical programmes, foreign collaborations, etc. He was also the Project Director for ISRO component of the MONEX Project, in 1979-1980.

His major contributions are in the field of Remote Sensing, Satellite Geodesy and Space Meteorology.



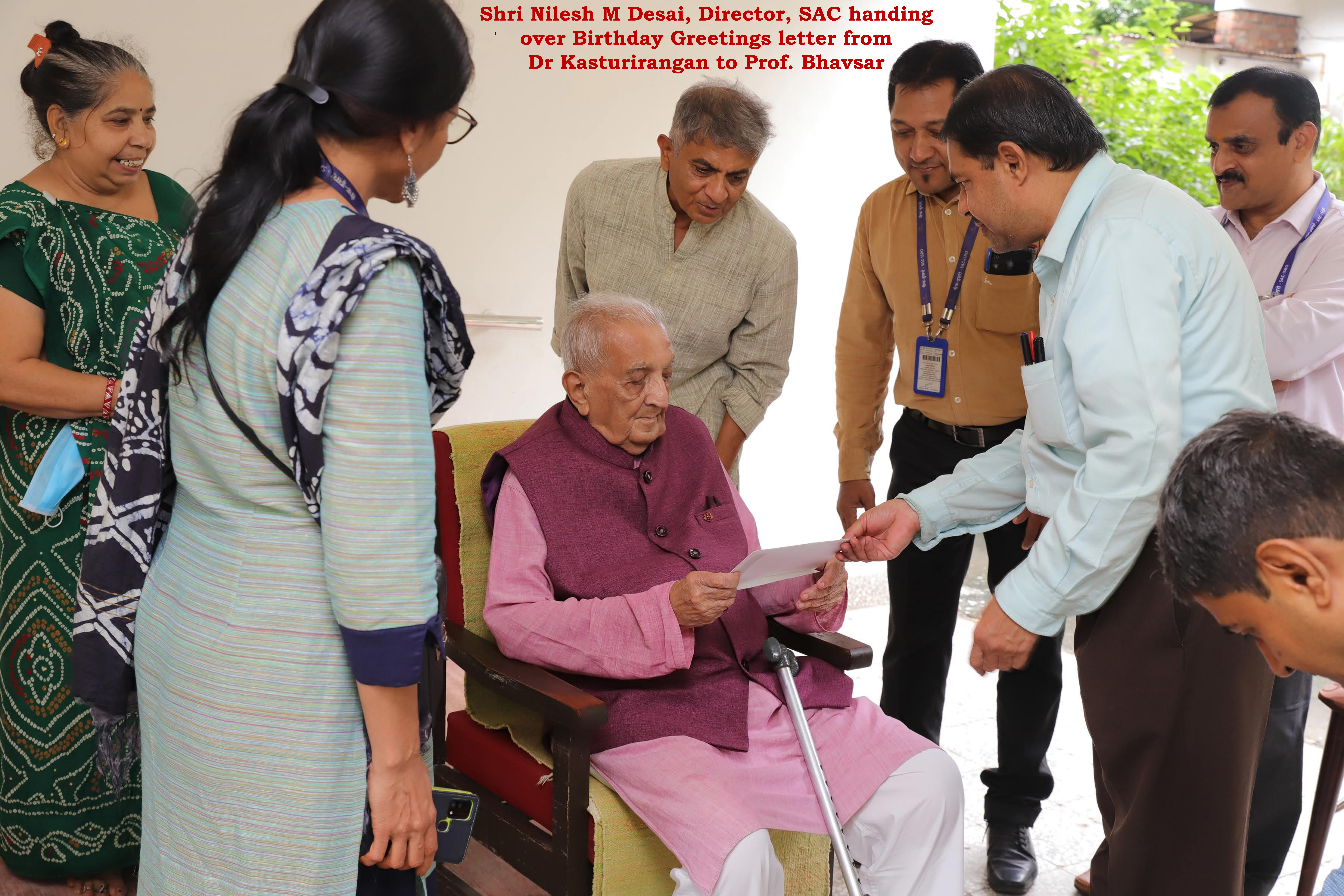
Glimpses

**Felicitatation of Prof. P.D. Bhavsar
on his 97th Birthday**

17 August 2022



**Shri Nilesh M Desai, Director, SAC handing
over Birthday Greetings letter from
Dr Kasturirangan to Prof. Bhavsar**



रामन अनुसंधान संस्थान

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K.KASTURIRANGAN

Former Chairman, ISRO

Former Chairman, National Education Policy Committee

Chairman, National Steering Committee for National Curriculum Frameworks August 08, 2022

Prof P D Bhawsar

No. 4 Rohini Society

Bhudarpura

Ambawadi Vistar Post

Ahmedabad 380015

Respected Prof Bhawsar,

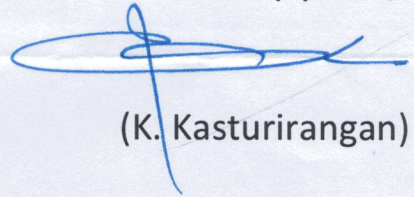
On the eve of your 97th Birthday, I offer my heartfelt pranams with prayers to Almighty to give me the privilege of your blessings and guidance for many years to come. Respected sir, I am what I am today, because of the care and concern that you personally have about me. Further, you extended that very important gesture to a youngster who was your student at that time, in terms of freedom of thinking and action, which in turn created special attributes in my life like original thinking and creative approaches. Also, you gave me lot of freedom which made me bold to act in all subsequent years of my life in different capacities. It is very rare that such an opportunity endowed with magnanimity is available to all youngsters who are being supervised by their seniors. The problems you suggested in Physics and Astrophysics, the experimental techniques that you thought me to master, the freedom and flexibility with which I could interact with many other academics and my contemporaries and above all gave me support and encouragement in times of despondency all of which made me prepare myself for a future which in retrospect today only make me realise how much I owe to you in my life.

Sir, only providence and blessings of the Almighty could've brought me to your attention and made you adopt me as your student. From then onwards, it was a question of things going right by my association with

you and Vikram bhai. To me, you two i.e. Vikram bhai and yourself, stand out as unique benefactors in my life, which has brought me to this special level of achievement, whatever it is worth. I owe you everything, I thank you for everything and I am eternally grateful to you for everything. Praying to Almighty for giving you health and long life, so that I can continue to count on you as the pillar of strength as the *years roll by.*

With my prayers and most respectful regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a horizontal stroke and a vertical line extending downwards.

(K. Kasturirangan)







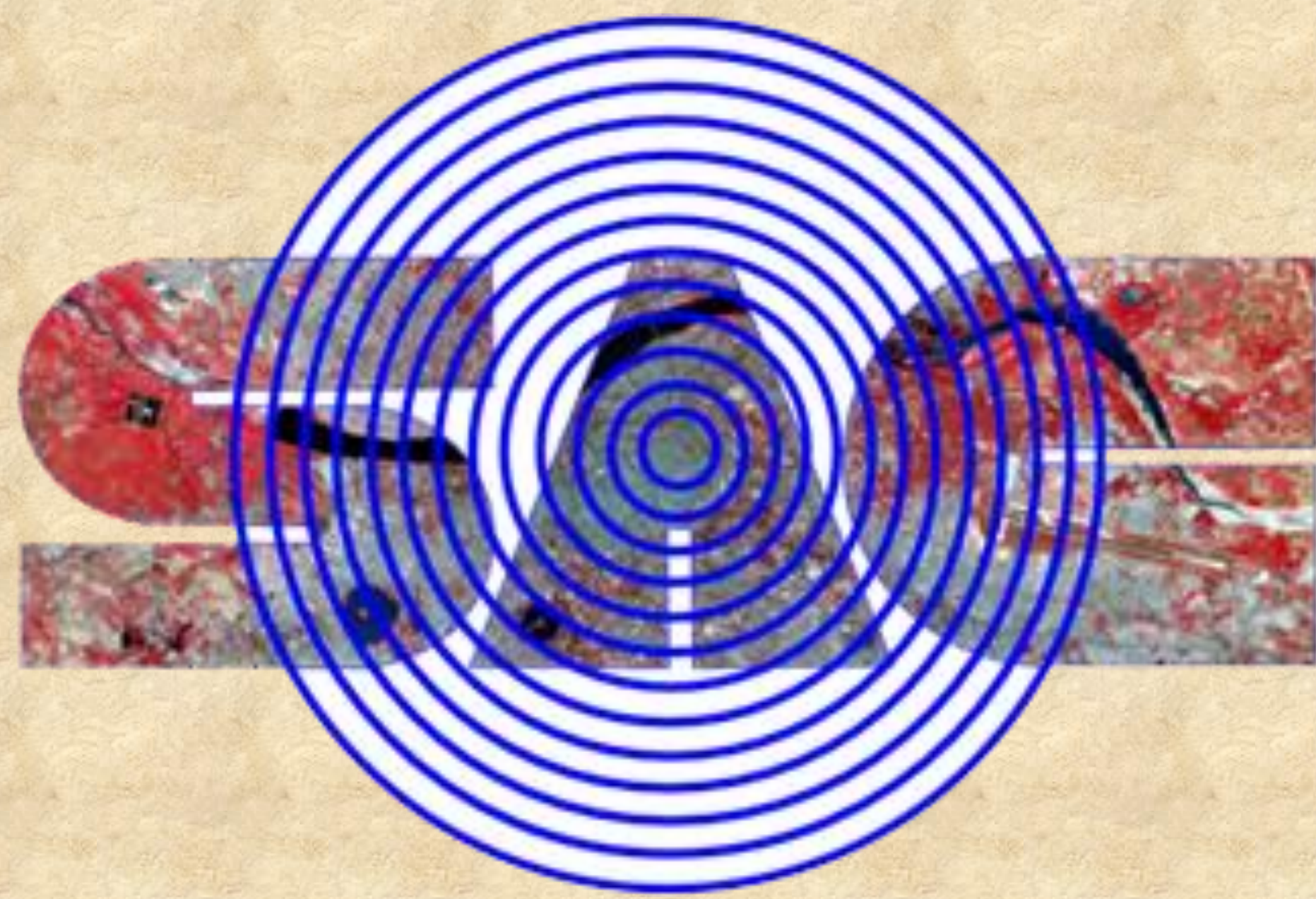












SAC & DECU TEAM WISHES

PROF. P. D. BHAVSAR

A HEALTHY & LONG LIFE