

Mates mourn loss of a great mind

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Sept 24: The demise of eminent nuclear scientist Dr. Raja Ramanna came as a severe blow to the Indian scientist community, even as his close associates are yet to come to terms with the great loss.

"Dr Ramanna was one of the most illustrious creative minds I have ever experienced and his sudden departure is unexpected and shocking," said MP and NIAS (National Institute of Advanced Studies) Director Dr. K. Kasturirangan. "In fact, when I saw him a few days ago he was fully agile, mentally alert and very jovial. We all revered his exceptional intellectual capacities," he said.

The NIAS Director said Dr. Ramanna, as the founder of NIAS, had given it a great vision. "I was lucky to have interacted with him in the capacity as ISRO Chairman, at NIAS and during various academic forums. He was a multi-disciplinary intellectual with his interests varying from science to music," he recalled.

Considering Dr. Rama-

nna the right mixture of a scientist, an artiste (a good pianist) and a philosopher, ISRO Chairman Dr. G. Madhavan Nair said he could not believe the news of his death. "A great loss it is. Only a few weeks back I met him at NIAS. He was in great humour," said Dr. Nair, deeply moved with emotion.

"The fast breeder reactor, which has already

been implemented in Kalpakam was his brainchild," Dr. Nair said.

Vibudheshwari Teerth Swamiji, Chairman of Poonnaprajna Institute of Scientific Research, Bangalore, with which Dr. Ramanna was associated as advisor noted, "The scientist of his eminence becoming the Minister of State for Defence enabled the country to advance to the level

of developed nations."

Staff and students of Bishop Cotton Boys' School, Bangalore, condole the death of Dr. Ramanna, an old boy of the school.

"I always remember him for his long term vision and support in areas which were generally considered difficult," said former DRDL director Lt. Gen. Sundaram.

Governor, CM express condolences

Bangalore: Karnataka Governor T.N. Chaturvedi and Chief Minister N. Dharam Singh on Friday expressed grief over the death of renowned nuclear scientist Dr Raja Ramanna and hailed the key role played by him in India's nuclear programme.

In his condolence message, the Governor recalled Ramanna's notable role in the shaping of India's nuclear policies as well as its premier nuclear installations. "He ably presented the country's policy of using nuclear power for peaceful purposes at various international fora with great conviction and success," the Governor noted.

Describing Ramanna as a nuclear scientist par excellence, Singh in his condolence message noted that Ramanna was the leader of the group which successfully conducted India's first peaceful nuclear explosion at Pokhran in 1974. Ramanna's contributions to the nuclear field in India were of inestimable value and would be remembered, he said. •ENS



Rajya Sabha member and National Institute of Advanced Studies Director K. Kasturirangan paying homage before a portrait of eminent nuclear scientist Dr Raja Ramanna during a condolence meeting held at the institute campus in Bangalore on Friday. -- PTI