

# Ramanna, tallest among the tall: Kasturirangan

VIJAY TIMES NEWS

**Bangalore:** A pall of gloom descended over the National Institute of Advanced Studies, founded by Dr Raja Ramanna, when the news of his demise trickled in, on Friday. Describing the eminent scientist as one of the best team leaders, and a 'boss,' who nobody could ever forget K S Ramakrishna, his secretary said, "He is an inspiration to all of us."

Having worked as his assistant for more than 14 years, Ramakrishna said Dr Ramanna had a strong foresight and was always ahead of his times.

"When I last met Dr Ramanna, at a meeting on Friday, he was very quiet. He advised me to think about my future," Ramakrishna said.

He recalled that the meeting was not attended by many because of *Ganesh Chaturti* and added that at the end of the function, Ramanna had said, "Though not many have turned up, the food was good."

The man had a knack for conveying strong messages with humour instead of

He was the tallest among the tall in the country's scientific community. I have interacted with him for the last 20 years, and, for me, it's bewildering and difficult to come to terms with this tragic loss. He had the ability to easily integrate natural sciences with human sciences, which is so rare among scientists of today. It is only



Dr K Kasturirangan my role model

now as the present Director of NIAS that I am learning about how intelligently he had developed this unique institution. The scientific community stands to lose the wisdom he possessed. As for me, I have lost

getting aggressive, Ramakrishna said. Ramanna was due to visit the City to receive a life-time achievement award from the Bangalore Management Association on September 20, he said.

## A gem of a person...

**Bangalore:** A nature lover, an ardent pianist and a caring person — is what friends and family of India's top nuclear scientist describe him as.

Syed Muzamil Ahmed, Dr Ramanna's neighbour at RT Nagar recalls that everyday he and his family eagerly awaited for the scientist to return home to listen to him playing the piano.

"We could hear him perform from our house and it gave us immense pleasure," he says adding that he was gem of a person and never indulged in any controversy all his life.

Dr Ramanna's driver, Shivakumar, was at loss trying to control his emotions. "He was very caring. Every time, before he got into the car he often enquired if I had had my food. I can't believe that he is no more," he

says with tears rolling down his cheeks.

Dr Ramanna loved dogs. His dog, Nishka, may not have understood why her master has not returned since the past few days, nor the tragic fact that he is never to return. "She has not eaten her food since the past two days," says Shivakumar. Madhumathi, a doctor and Dr Ramanna's neighbour for several years, says, "He was a friendly neighbour and very down-to-earth man. The lush greens, trees, plants and flowers at the campus of the National Institute of Advanced Studies, founded by the eminent scientist will continue to remind its visitors of the 'nuclear man.'



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