

Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad

PRL's 70th Foundation Day Celebrations, November 11, 2017

Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad celebrated its 70th Foundation Day on Saturday, the 11th November 2017 and honoured Dr. K. Kasturirangan with Shri Hari Om Ashram Prerit Senior Scientist Award for the year 2016 which was 10th of the series since its inception in 1998 and Dr. Durgesh Tripathi was conferred upon the Buti Foundation Award for the year 2017 which was 6th of the series since its beginning in 2007. The award ceremony was organized at the K. R. Ramanathan Auditorium, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad.

Dr. Anil Bhardwaj, Director, PRL, gave away the awards in the presence of distinguished guests from various institutions in Ahmedabad, invited representatives from the Hari Om Ashram Trust, Nadiad, Buti Foundation, New Delhi, Dr. Vikram A. Sarabhai's family, and staff members of PRL.

Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Chairman, National Education Policy, Chairman, Karnataka Knowledge Commission, an Honorary Distinguished Advisor, Indian Space Research Organisation, an Emeritus Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies and former Chairman of ISRO has been awarded the Hari Om Ashram Prerit Senior Scientist Award for the year 2016 *for his outstanding lifetime contributions in the Space Sciences and Technology and its impact on national development*. Dr. Kasturirangan delivered an award lecture on 'Vistas of Astrophysics and Planetary Science Research-The Indian Perspective'. He discussed about the major Astrophysical facilities currently available for research by the Indian scientific community in different electromagnetic wavelength bands. Further, he also give a brief description of some of the planned ambitious facilities such as Indian Neutrino Observatory. One more aspect of the talk was the level of India's participation in the establishment of some of the major Astrophysical observatories elsewhere in the world such as Thirty Metre Telescope promoted by USA and Square Kilometre Array promoted by Australia and South Africa.

The Buti Foundation Award for the year 2017 is given to Dr. Durgesh Tripathi of the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune, India. Dr. Tripathi was given the Buti Foundation Award *in recognition of his work in the area of Space & Plasma Physics, especially for his fundamental contributions to Solar Plasma Physics*. On this occasion Dr. Tripathi presented his work on heating and maintaining the Solar Coronal Plasma to a Million Degree.



Celebration of 70th Foundation Day of PRL, Ahmedabad