### **Document of the Month: August 2023**

### Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, IIMA and ISRO

"2nd Convocation Speech by Chief Guest, Dr. Vikram A. Sarabhai, April 1967"

PRESERVATION AND INNOVATION The Tasks of Government in Developing Countries

Dr. Vikram A. Sarabhai Chairman Atomic Energy Commission Government of India

Convocation Address to the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad

April 1967

#### PRESERVATION AND INNOVATION \*

The Tasks of Government in Developing Countries

By

Vikram Sarabhai

I suggest that the main obstacles to growth and development are neither technological nor economic, but social factors. This assertion may jar on those who hold the view that given the economic inputs, the rest of the complex facets of the economy and the nation take care of themselves and produce the desired change. I shall therefore share some of my thoughts on this subject.

It was not until I was made responsible for the Atomic Energy programmes of this country and came face to face with problems of development through the application of advanced technologies and basic research, that I became conscious of the problems -that are encountered when Government has to perform a role which goes much beyond the maintenance of law and order and the security of the nation. Collaborating with Dr. Kamla Chowdhry in a study\*\* of the growth of the activities of the Atomic Energy Commission of India, an organization for developmental tasks, and of Bhabha, an outstandingly successful innovator of our times, I was struck by the illumination of many complex issues.

I recognize that governments are involved in providing stability as well as change to society, two seemingly conflicting goals. At one end of the spectrum are certain administrative services, acting on past precedents and traditions providing security and continuity, impersonalized to the extent that if one person is substituted by another, every one knows how the successor will behave and operate under a given set of circumstances. At the other end, there are organizations based on research and development, involving individuals who act on insights and hunches, non-conformists questioning assumptions, innovating and learning. The two extremes require organizations and working cultures, which are rather different. We would have near disaster if we have a judge who is an 'innovator' instead of a 'preserver'. On the other hand, an educational or a scientific administrator would be sterile and ineffective if he is a preserver rather sn an innovator. Most tasks encountered in the contemporary world call for organizations wherein creative thinking and innovation are essential ingredients of survival as well as growth. Industrial and agricultural development, and the conduct of foreign affairs call for innovators, rather than traditional administrators.

\*Convocation Address to the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, April 1967.

It is perhaps useful to note that if in a given situation we are content to leave all environmental conditions unchanged, we can at best achieve an evolutionary change through the natural course of survival and growth. On the other hand, forcing the pace of development needs probing the boundary conditions of each situation so as to push in the direction in which change is possible. The instruments of change have therefore to be those who do not take their environment for granted.

Most of us are familiar with the hierarchical organization structures involving vertical controls which continue to dominate governments whose principal role until recently was one of preserving a social order. They carry an administrative service, characterized by anonymity coupled with security of tenure, insulating individuals from outside pressures. The system has built in controls, which act negatively, attempting to stop a wrong thing from happening.

To realize how distant this culture is from one wherein innovators are involved in developmental tasks, we can examine some of the factors, which have been observed in the study of Atomic Energy. Organizations were built round men, and no organization chart stood in the way of recognizing and rewarding talent. Amongst professional groups of scientists and engineers, motivation and control was largely inherent and contained in professional commitments. Control was exercised through discussion and judgment of peers with administration performing largely the role of service. Autonomy of working conditions and selfdevelopment were important to the innovators. Horizontal control systems are effective when they involve mobility and interactions. The economic analogue of horizontal controls is competition. Horizontal controls are implicit and do not have to be imposed from above. For instance, if there is a situation where supply exceeds demand, the price is controlled by competition rather than by price control. Each competitor, without having to be told so, fully realizes the negative implications of his charging a higher price than others. The military application of it is seen in arms control through the balance of terror. Armed conflict between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. during the last twenty years has been prevented not by action of the United Nations, but by the implicit threat of reprisals.

While vertical controls are dependent on a system of reporting and feedback involving more than one level, horizontal controls are dependent on direct interaction at the same level. The 'hot line' between Moscow and Washington is necessary to preserve stability through horizontal controls between the two power blocs. The effectiveness of vertical controls are dependent on the time span of delegation. For instance, if the Public Accounts Committee reviews the operation of a Government undertaking two to three years after an event has occurred, its comments cannot have any possible effect in producing control on tactical decisions by the management. With a time span of this order only a strategic decision such as one involving the establishment of a steel plant could be questioned with relevance to controls.

One may ask why competition, which is synonymous with horizontal controls, has become associated with capitalism? Are horizontal controls contrary to socialism or the State ownership of the means of production? Would it hurt if Hindustan Steel were not just one company? Would not the managements of Bhilai and Durgapur have positive incentives if they were competing with each other and with TISCO and Indian Iron? Can vertical controls of a Board of a monolithic corporation or of the Bureau of Public Enterprises, or of the Parliamentary Committee on Public Enterprises, or the Auditor General provide adequate substitutes for what can be gained through accountability for task performance in a situation of survival and growth in a competitive economy?

Vertical controls usually specify what cannot be done. The Industries Development and Regulation Act is a typical example of such control. Top bodies involved in such control can rarely function in anything but roles of strategic decision-making. When they involve themselves in the decision-making processes of day-to-day administration, the system indeed gets fouled up. I would suggest that since vertical controls inhibit innovation and remove the decision-making process from the operating level, they are unsuitable as a system for the developmental tasks of government.

We are not suggesting here the abdication of supreme authority at the top most echelon of government. But one is talking of a self-restraint and exercise of power based on understanding of the control systems appropriate to developmental functions. One is moreover asking for a sophistication which recognises that there is a distinction between a formal and a real organisational structure, the social culture of an organization being influenced mainly by the men who are in it, the determining factors being their assumptions and outlook on life and their attitudes related to their past training and traditions. It is because of this that one despairs of finding solution to our real problems by only organisational changes.

In research laboratories, and in other developmental tasks it seems important that the Chief Executive, besides being involved in policy-making and administration, maintains direct contact with his professional role. The creation of administrative practices appr priate to a given technology or set of tasks comes with familiarity and knowledge-of-acquaintance of the technology or tasks concerned.

There is a need for a constant interplay between the basic sciences, technology and industrial practice if economic progress is to result from the activity undertaken. The wearing of several hats by the same person, and the mobility of personnel from one type of activity to another have undoubtedly provided the impetus for growth in the projects of the Department of Atomic Energy. We may contrast this with the practice prevalent in higher educational institutions for basic sciences and technology and national laboratories where the work of applying the results of research to practical ends had to be done through other units, not originally related to the laboratories or the men that work in them.

The various factors indicated earlier are interrelated and mutually dependent. A change in one influences the total scheme of things, for in organisational structures and culture, the whole is more than the sum of its parts. Structures, procedures and techniques are important but these must be sustained by a cluster of attitudes conveying care, trust and nurturance on the part of responsible persons.

With the problems that we are facing in the country today, it is pertinent to ask how the considerations, which we have discussed, are relevant to Government. The foremost need would be to identify activities where developmental functions are primarily involved. Organizational reforms involving systems of horizontal and vertical controls would grow naturally when men who are appropriate for these tasks are placed in positions of responsibility.

Will we have the conviction and courage to introduce these changes? The answer is surely crucially related to our survival.

The Convocation is a ritualistic farewell to those who have graduated after two years of exposure to what the Institute stands for. There is a great emphasis here on the decision making process. What is equally important is an understanding of the backdrop of the physical and social environment in which we operate. For it is through assumptions made from an understanding of the background that innovators derive their nourishment. I am sure you have acquired plenty of this here, but hope that you will continue to test and renew your assumptions on the experiences that you gain. I wish that you would perform successfully the role of innovators.

\*\* Paper "Organisation for Developmental Tasks: Atomic Energy Commission of India" by Kamla Chowdhry and Vikram Sarabhai, 1968.

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# "Atomic Energy Commission Electronic Project: A Study of the Transformation of a Departmental Production Unit into a Commercial Public Sector Enterprise, Sixth Annual Report, 1967-68, Pg. 24"

	Project	Faculty	Sponsor
5.	Atomic Energy Commission Elec- ronic Project: A Study of the Transformation of a Departmental Production Unit into a Com- mercial Public Sector Enterprise	Profs. Kamla Chowdhry, John Dearden, Ravi J. Matthai, V.L. Mote & Samuel Paul	Atomic Energy Commission & IIMA

## "Organizations which have employed IIMA students for permanent and summer jobs, Appendix I, Campus Recruitment Programme, 1972, Pg. 10"

Calico Mills, Ahmedabad Canara Bank, Bangalore Carborundum Universal Ltd., Madras Ceat Tyres of India Ltd., Bombay Cement Agencies Ltd., Bombay Central Distillery and Chemical Works Ltd., Delhi Chartered Bank Ltd., Calcutta Chesebrough-Pond's Inc., Madras Clarion McCann Advertising Services Ltd., Bombay Coates of India Ltd., Bombay Coca-Cola Export Corporation, New Delhi Coelho Brothers, Mangalore Continental Device India, Faridabad Cooper Engineering Co. Ltd., Poons Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi Cutler Hammer India Ltd., Faridabad Cyanamid India Ltd., Bombay

Deccan Embroidery Mfg. Co., Poona
Delhi Cloth & General Mills Co. Ltd., Delhi
Devidayal Cable Industries Ltd., Bombay
Dharamsi Morarji Chemical Co. Ltd., Bombay
Digvijay Cement Co. Ltd., Ahmedabad
Dinesh Mills Ltd., Baroda
Dr. Beck & Co. (India) Ltd., Bombay
Duncan Brothers Ltd., Bombay
Dunlop India Ltd., Calcutta

EID Parry Ltd., Madras
Electric Steel Ltd., Calcutta
Electronics Corporation of India Ltd., Hyderabad
Electronics Ltd., Faridabad
Enfield (India) Ltd., Madras
Enterprise Development Private Ltd., Hyderabad
Escorts Ltd., Faridabad
Esso Eastern Inc., Bombay

Fabril Gasosa Ltd., Goa
Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Ltd., Alwaye
Fibreglass Pilkington Ltd., Bombay
First National City Bank, Bombay
First National City Bank, Delhi
Food Corpn. of India, Ahmedabad
Food Fats & Fertilizers Ltd., Tadepalligudam
Ford Foundation, New Delhi
Forgings Pvt. Ltd., Faridabad

Gabriel India (Pvt.) Ltd., Bombay
Ganesh Flour Mills Ltd., Bombay
Ganju House, Srinagar
Gannon Dunkerley & Co. Ltd., Bombay
Geo Industries & Insecticides (India) Pvt. Ltd., Madras
Glaxo Laboratories (India) Ltd., Bombay
Godfrey Philips India Ltd., Bombay
Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co. Pvt. Ltd., Bombay
Godrej Soaps Pvt. Ltd., Bombay
Greaves Cotton & Co. Ltd., Bombay
Grindwell Norton Ltd., Bombay
Guest, Keen, Williams Ltd., Calcutta

Gujarat Bottling Company Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad
Gujarat Metal Box Company, Ahmedabad
Gujarat Nets Ltd., Ahmedabad
Gujarat Small Industries Corpn. Ltd., Ahmedabad
Gujarat State Co-operative Marketing Society Ltd.,
Ahmedabad
Gwalior Rayons Ltd., Delhi

Handicrafts & Handlooms Export Corpn. of India Ltd.,
Bombay
Hindustan Brown Boveri Ltd., Bombay
Hindustan Lever Ltd., Bombay
Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd., Bangalore
Hindustan Precision Instruments Ltd., Poona
Hindustan Steel Ltd., Bhilai
Hindustan Thompson Associates Ltd., Bombay
Hindustan National Glass Manufacturing Co. Ltd.,
Bahadurgarh
Holy Family Hospital, New Delhi
Home Products Marketing Agency, Bombay
Hotel Oberoi Intercontinental, New Delhi
Hyderabad Allwyn Metal Works Ltd., Hyderabad

IBM World Trade Corpn., New Delhi Indequip Engineering Ltd., Ahmedabad India Hume Pipe Ltd., Bombay India Pistons Ltd., Madras India Tobacco Co. Ltd., Calcutta India Tourism Development Corpn. Ltd., New Delhi Indian Airlines, New Delhi Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd., Bombay Indian Banks' Association, Bombay Indian Detonators Ltd., Hyderabad Indian Explosives Ltd., New Delhi Indian Express Newspaper (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd., Bombay Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi Indian Oil Corpn. Ltd., Bombay Indian Oxygen Ltd., Calcutta Indian Plywood Co. Ltd., Bombay Indian Rare Earths Ltd., Bombay Indian Space Research Organization, Ahmedabad Indian Tube Co. Ltd., Calcutta Indo-Burmah Petroleum Co. Ltd., Bombay Industrial & Agricultural Engineering Co. (Bombay) Pvt.. Ltd., Bombay Industrial Credit & Investment Corpn. of India Ltd., Bombay Ingersoll-Rand (India) Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad Institute of European Studies, Vienna, Austria International Computers Ltd., Ahmedabad

J. B. A. Printing Inks Pvt. Ltd., Bombay
J. K. Synthetics Ltd., Kota
J. N. Marshall & Co., Poona
J & P Coats (India) Pvt. Ltd., Bombay
Jafkay Engineering Corpn., Bombay
Jaipur Metals & Electricals Ltd., Jaipur

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### "Organizations which have employed IIMA students for permanent and summer jobs, Appendix I, Campus Recruitment Programme, Post-Graduate Programme in Business Administration, 1973, Pg. 11"

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Central Distillery and Chemical Works Ltd., Delhi
Chartered Bank Ltd., Calcutta
Chesebrough-Pond's Inc., Madras
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Hindustan Thompson Associates Ltd., Bombay
Hindustan National Glass Manufacturing Co. Ltd.,
Chesebrough-Pond's Inc., Madras
CIDCO, Bombay
Clarion McCann Advertising Services Ltd., Bombay
Coates of India Ltd., Bombay
Coca-Cola Export Corporation, New Delhi
Coelho Brothers, Mangalore
Comet Paints Pvt. Ltd., Vallabh Vidyanagar
Continental Device India Ltd., Faridabad
Cooper Engineering Co. Ltd., Poona
Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi
Cutler Hammer India Ltd., Faridabad
Cyanamid India Ltd., Bombay
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Holy Family Hospital, New Delhi
Home Products Marketing Agency, Bombay
Hotel Oberoi Intercontinental, New Delhi
Hyderabed Allwyn Metal Works Ltd., Hyderabad
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ICI (India) Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta
Indequip Engineering Ltd., Ahmedabad
India Hume Pipe Ltd., Bombay
India Pistons Ltd., Madras
India Tobacco Co. Ltd., Calcutta
India Tourism Development Corpn. Ltd., New Delhi
Indian Allignes New Delhi
  Deccan Embroidery Mfg. Co., Poona
Delhi Cloth & General Mills Co. Ltd., Delhi
Devidayal Cable Industries Ltd., Bombay
Dharamsi Morarji Chemical Co. Ltd., Bombay
Digvijay Cement Co. Ltd., Ahmedabad
Dinesh Mills Ltd., Baroda
Dr. Beck & Co. (India) Ltd., Bombay
Duncan Brothers Ltd., Bombay
Dunlop India Ltd., Calcutta
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  EID Parry Ltd., Madras
Electric Steel Ltd., Calcutta
Electronics Corporation of India Ltd., Hyderabad
Electronics Ltd., Faridabad
Enfield (India) Ltd., Madras
Enterprise Development Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad
Escorts Ltd., Faridabad
Esso Eastern Inc., Bombay
   Fabril Gasosa Ltd., Goa
Family Planning Association of India, Bombay
Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Ltd., Alwaye
Fibreglass Pilkington Ltd., Bombay
First National City Bank, Bombay
First National City Bank, Delhi
Food Corporation of India, Ahmedabad
Food Fats & Fertilizers Ltd., Tadepalligudam
Ford Foundation, New Delhi
Forgings Pvt. Ltd., Faridabad
       Fabril Gasosa Ltd., Goa
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Ingersoll-Rand (India) Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad
Institute of European Studies, Vienna, Austria
International Computers Ltd., Ahmedabad
International Tractor Company of India Ltd., Bombay
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J. B. A. Printing Inks Pvt. Ltd., Bombay
J. K. Synthetics Ltd., Kota
J. N. Marshall & Co., Poona
J. & P. Coats (India) Pvt., Ltd., Bombay
Jafkay Engineering Corpn., Bombay
Jaipur Metals & Electricals Ltd., Jaipur
  Gabriel India (Pvt.) Ltd., Bombay
Ganesh Flour Mills Ltd., Bombay
Ganju House, Srinagar
Gannon Dunkerley & Co. Ltd., Bombay
Geo Industries & Insecticides (India) Pvt. Ltd., Madras
Glaxo Laboratories (India) Ltd., Bombay
Godfrey Philips India Ltd., Bombay
Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co. Pvt. Ltd., Bombay
Godrej & Soaps Pvt. Ltd., Bombay
Greaves Cotton & Co. Ltd., Bombay
Greaves Cotton & Co. Ltd., Bombay
Greaves Cotton & Co. Ltd., Bombay
Grindwell Norton Ltd., Bombay
Guest, Keen. Williams Ltd., Calcutta
Gujarat Bottling Company Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad
Gujarat Metal Box Company, Ahmedabad
Gujarat Small Industries Corpn. Ltd., Ahmedabad
Gujarat State Co-operative Marketing Society Ltd.,
Ahmedabad
Gujarat State Textile Corporation Ltd., Ahmedabad
Gujarat State Textile Corporation Ltd., Ahmedabad
Gwalior Rayons Ltd., Delhi
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Kamani Services Pvt. Ltd., Bombay
Karamchand Thaper & Bros. Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta
Khira Steel Works Pvt. Ltd., Bombay
Killick Slotted Angles Ltd., Bombay
Kirloskar Consultants Ltd., Poona
Kirloskar Electric Co. Ltd., Bangalore
Kirloskar Electric Co. Ltd., Poona
Krishi Engines Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad
Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur
        Handicrafts & Handlooms Export Corpn. of India Ltd.,
                        Bombay
        Bombay
Hindustan Brown Boveri Ltd., Bombay
Hindustan Copper Ltd., Khetrinagar
Hindustan Lever Ltd., Bombay
Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd., Bangalore
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Larsen & Toubro Ltd., Bombay
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# "Organizations that have employed IIMA students for permanent and summer jobs, Appendix I, Campus Recruitment, Post-Graduate Programme in Business Administration, 1974, Pg. 15"

Electronics Ltd., Faridabad IBM World Trade Corpn., New Delhi Enfield (India) Ltd., Madras ICI (India) Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta Indequip Engineering Ltd., Ahmedabad Engineers India Ltd., Delhi Enterprise Development Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad India Hume Pipe Ltd., Bombay Escorts Ltd., Faridabad India Pistons Ltd., Madras Esso Eastern Inc., Bombay India Tobacco Co. Ltd., Ahmedabad/Bombay/Calcutta Eswaran & Sons Engineering Pvt. Ltd., Madras India Tourism Development Corpn. Ltd., New Delhi Indian Airlines, New Delhi Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd., Bombay Fabril Gasosa Ltd., Goa Indian Banks' Association, Bombay Family Planning Association of India, Bombay Indian Cable Co. Ltd., Calcutta Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Ltd., Alwaye Indian Detonators Ltd., Hyderabad Fibreglass Pilkington Ltd., Bombay Indian Explosives Ltd., New Delhi First National City Bank, Bombay Indian Express Newspaper (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd., Bombay First National City Bank, Delhi Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad Food Corporation of India, Ahmedabad Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi Foods Fats & Fertilizers Ltd., Tadepalligudam Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Co. Ltd., Calcutta Ford Foundation, New Delhi Forgings Pvt. Ltd., Faridabad Indian Market Research Bureau, Bombay Indian Oil Corpn. Ltd., Bombay Indian Oxygen Ltd., Calcutta Indian Plywood Co. Ltd., Bombay Gabriel India (Pvt.) Ltd., Bombay Ganesh Flour Mills Ltd., Bombay Indian Rare Earths Ltd., Bombay Gangappa Cables Ltd., Hyderabad Indian Space Research Organization, Ahmedabad/ Ganju House, Srinagar Trivandrum Gannon Dunkerley & Co. Ltd., Bombay Indian Tube Co. Ltd., Calcutta Garware Nylons Ltd., Poona Indo-Burmah Petroleum Co. Ltd., Bombay Geo Industrial & Insecticides (India) Pvt. Ltd., Madras Industrial & Agricultural Engineering Co., (Bombay) Glaxo Laboratories (India) Ltd., Bombay Pvt. Ltd., Bombay Godfrey Phillips India Ltd., Bombay Industrial Credit & Investment Corpn. of India Ltd., Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co. Pvt. Ltd., Bombay Bombay Godrej Soaps Pvt. Ltd., Bombay Industrial Finance Corpn. of India, Bombay Greaves Cotton & Co. Ltd., Bombay Ingersoll-Rand (India) Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad Grindwell Norton Ltd., Bombay Institute of European Studies, Vienna, Austria Guest Keen Williams Ltd., Calcutta International Computers Ltd., Ahmedabad Gujarat Bottling Co. Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad International Tractor Company of India Ltd., Bombay Gujarat Industrial Development Corpn., Ahmedabad Gujarat Metal Box Co., Ahmedabad J. B. Advani & Company Pvt. Ltd., Bombay Gujarat Nets Ltd., Ahmedabad J. B. A. Printing Inks Pvt. Ltd., Bombay Gujarat Small Industries Corpn. Ltd., Ahmedabad J. K. Synthetics Ltd., Kota J. N. Marshall & Co., Poona Gujarat State Co-operative Marketing Society Ltd., Ahmedabad J & P Coats (India) Pvt. Ltd., Bombay Gujarat State Financial Corpn., Ahmedabad Jafkay Engineering Corpn., Bombay Jaipur Metals & Electricals Ltd., Jaipur Gujarat State Textile Corpn. Ltd., Ahmedabad Gwalior Rayons Ltd., Delhi Jairamdas & Sons, Bombay Jairamdas Udyog Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore Handicrafts & Handlooms Export Corpn. of India Ltd., Jansatta, Ahmedabad Bombay Jardine Henderson Ltd., Calcutta Happy Home Enterprises, Bombay Jay Engineering Works Ltd., Calcutta Hindustan Brown Boveri Ltd., Bombay Jehangir Vakil Mills Ltd., Ahmedabad Hindustan Cooper Ltd., Khetrinagar Jenson & Nicholson (India) Ltd., Calcutta Hindustan Lever Ltd., Bombay Johnson & Johnson Ltd., Bombay Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd., Bangalore Jupiter Mills Ltd., Ahmedabad Hindustan Precision Instruments Ltd., Poona Jyoti Ltd., Baroda Hindustan Steel Ltd., Bhilai Hindustan Thompson Associates Ltd., Bombay Kalpalok, Bombay Hindusthan National Glass & Industries Ltd., Bahadurgarh Kamani Engineering Corpn., Bombay Holy Family Hospital, New Delhi Kamani Services Pvt. Ltd., Bombay Home Products Marketing Agency, Bombay Karamchand Thaper & Bros. Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta Hotel Oberoi Intercontinental, New Delhi Khira Steel Works Pvt. Ltd., Bombay Hyderabad Allwyn Metal Works Ltd., Hyderabad Killick Slotted Angles Ltd., Bombay

## "Organizations which have employed IIMA students for permanent and summer jobs, Appendix IV, Campus Recruitment, 1975, Pg. 14"

Handicrafts & Handlooms Export Corpn. of India Ltd., Bombay Devidayal Electronics and Wires Ltd., Bombay Devidayal Rolling and Refineries Pvt. Ltd., Bombay Happy Home Enterprises, Bombay Dharamsi Morarji Chemical Co. Ltd., Bombay Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Bangalore Digvijay Coment Co. Ltd., Ahmedabad Hindustan Brown Boveri Ltd., Bombay Dinesh Mills Ltd., Baroda Hindustan Copper Ltd., Khetrinagar Duncan Brothers Ltd., Calcutta Hindustan Everest Tools Ltd., New Delhi Dunlop India Ltd., Calcutta Hindustan Lever Ltd., Bombay Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd., Bangalore EID Parry Ltd., Madras Hindustan National Glass and Industries Ltd., Bahadurgarh Electric Steel Ltd., Calcutta Hindustan Precision Intruments Ltd., Poona Electronics Corporation of India Ltd., Hyderabad Hindustan Steel Ltd., Bhilai Electronics Ltd., Faridabad Hindustan Thompson Associates Ltd., Bombay Enfield (India) Ltd., Madras Holy Family Hospital, New Delhi Engineers India Ltd., Delhi Home Products Marketing Agency, Bombay Enterprise Development Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad Hotel Oberoi Intercontinental, New Delhi Escorts Ltd., Faridabad Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd., New Delhi Esso Eastern Inc., Bombay Hyderabad Allwyn Metal Works Ltd., Hyderabad Eswaran and Sons Engineering Pvt. Ltd., Madras IBM World Trade Corporation, New Delhi Fabril Gasosa Ltd., Goa ICI (India) Pvt Ltd., Calcutta Family Planning Association of India, Bombay IDL Chemicals Ltd., Hyderabad Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. Alwaye ITC Ltd. Ahmedabad/Bombay/Calcutta Fibreglass Pilkington Ltd., Bombay Indequip Engineering Ltd. Ahmedabad First National City Bank, Bombay/Calcutta/Delhi/Madras India Hume Pipe Ltd., Bombay Food Corporation of India, Ahmedabad India Leaf Tobacco Development Co. Ltd., Guntur Foods, Fats and Fertilizers Ltd., Tadepalligudam India Paper Pulp Co. Ltd., Calcutta Ford Foundation, New Delhi India Pistons Ltd., Madras Forgings Pvt. Ltd., Faridabad India Tourism Development Corpn. Ltd., New Delhi Fouress Engineering Co (India) Ltd. Bombay Indian Airlines, New Delhi Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd. Bombay G. G. Dandekar Machine Works Ltd., Bhiwandi Indian Banks', Association, Bombay Gabriel India Ltd., Bombay Indian Cable Co Ltd., Calcutta Ganesh Flour Mills Ltd. Delhi Indian Explosives Ltd. New Delhi Gangappa Cable Ltd., Hyderabad Indian Express, Bombay Ganju House, Srinagar Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad Gannon Dunkerley & Co. Ltd., Bombay Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi Garware Nylons Ltd. Poona Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore Geo Industrial & Insecticides (India) Pvt. Ltd., Madras Indian Market Research Bureau, Bombay Glaxo Laboratories (India) Ltd., Bombay Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bombay Godfrey Philips India Ltd., Bombay Indian Overseas Bank, Madras Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Pvt. Ltd., Bombay Indian Oxygen Ltd., Calcutta Godrej Soaps Pvt. Ltd., Bombay Indian Plywood Co. Ltd. Bombay Greaves Cotton & Co. Ltd., Bombay Indian Potash Ltd., Madras Grindwell Norton Ltd., Bombay Indian Rare Earths Ltd., Bombay Guest, Keen, Williams Ltd., Calcutta Indian Space Research Organization, Ahmedabad/Trivandrum/ Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Ltd., Ahmedabad Bangalore Gujarat Bottling Co. Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad Indian Tube Co. Ltd., Calcutta Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation, Ahmedabad Indo-Burmah Petroleum Co. Ltd., Bombay Gujarat Metal Box Co., Ahmedabad Industrial and Agricultural Engg. Co. (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd., Gujarat Nets Ltd., Ahmedabad Bombay Gujarat Small Industries Corporation Ltd., Ahmedabad Industrial Credit and Investment Corpn. of India Ltd., Bombay Gujarat State Co-op Marketing Society Ltd., Ahmedabad Industrial Finance Corporation of India, Bombay Gujarat State Fertilizer Co, Ltd., Baroda Ingersoll-Rand (India) Pvt, Ltd., Ahmedabad Gujarat State Financial Corporation., Ahmedabad Institute of European Studids, Vienna, Austria Gujarat State Textile Corporation Ltd., Ahmedabasi International Computers Ltd., Ahmedabad Gwalior Rayons Ltd., Delhi International Tractor Co. of India Ltd., Bombay ION Exchange (India) Ltd., Bombay 14

### Connections of IIMA students with ISRO and Space Research

Kiran Karnik, PGP 1968

The path chosen by KIRAN KARNIK (PGP '68) is in many ways unusual. For many years

he has been working in a most unbusiness like organization-Space Application Centre. Drawn by the personality of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, who was then Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, he joined the commission in Bombay after graduating from the Institute. There he spent a couple of years working on problems relating to organization, structures,



Kiran Karnik

costing of indigenous rockets, and techno-economic studies of food irradiation plants and of large nuclear-power based agro-industrial complexes. He then moved to Ahmedabad where he got involved with various projects related to space research such as "Krishi Darshan" pilot agricultural TV project, and a domestic communications satellite system. The first step towards promoting a domestic satellite system was the development (in 1975-76) of the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE), a joint Indo-US project. Kiran's involvement in this was total, and stretched from its conception to evaluation. As Manager of the SITE Management

Office, he had both a complete overview and involivement with the nitty-gritty details of a project. He found this work not only exciting but also "exhiberating." "The ferment and thrill amongst the people in remote villages of North Bihar or Orissa at seeing, for the first time ever, a moving picture, a television programme - this just cannot be described, nor can the sensation that one gets when

these feelings are transmitted to oneself. It not only makes years of effort and hard work seem worthwhile, but entices one to continue and make even greater effort (and not switch jobs.)" recalls Karnik with pride.

In 1975, he was made responsible for the ISRO's TV programme production for the SITE. This

involvement with television programmes became deeper and deeper, and Kiran is now the Director of the Development and Educational Communication Unit. In between he worked for UNESCO in Afghanistan, as a consultant on communications planning. For about 15 months from mid-81, Kiran worked for the United Nations in New York and (briefly) in Vienna, acting as Special Assistant to the Secretary General of UNISPACE 82, the second UN conference on Space. "This was a very different and interesting experience in the world of international politics-Space too having become an arena of politics, thanks to its increasing militarisation," he reminiscences. Recently Kiran had the opportunity of renewing his connections with the UN, when he was nominated as a member-and later elected as Chairman - of the Expert Group on Direct Broadcasting Satellites for Education, set up by the UN Secretary General.

As Director of ISRO's Development and Educational Communication Unit, Kiran has had a great deal of involvement in the planning of the TV system in the country and especially of the INSAT-related elements.

Working for the government has its frustrations. Not the least of these is the financial aspect, as compared to fellow-MBA's working in the private sector. But Kiran feels that there are other rewards, in terms of job satisfaction and in doing something which can have an effect on very large numbers of people. Looking back he explains the reason for the path he chose:

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less travelled by, And that has made all the difference."

On the academic front, apart from presenting papers at various conferences, he has published a number of articles and been a co-author of a couple of reports published by UNESCO and has edited a book, Alternative Space Futures and The Human Condition.

Source: Special Report, IIMA Alumnus, Vol. 16, Issue 3, September 1984, Pg. 9-11, IIMA Archives

### Prashant Duttagupta, PGP 1974

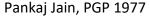


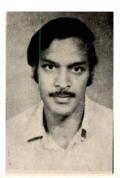
#### **DUTTAGUPTA P**

June 18. 1949

Prashant Duttagupta Prashant's electrical, elec tronics, BARC and ISRO background, and his emphasis on integrated circuits frequently took him for long spins into space and out of the campus. These launches into space were emphasised by his steady intentions of altering his marital status. PD's interests lie in cybernetics, information systems and Pathak's courses. His aspirations are possessing a workshop at home, making integrated circuits, predicting the environment five hundred years hence and keeping a safe distance from the I.P. R. course. The zenith of his achievements will arrive when he presents the D. J. with a self-made stereo sound system (Bless the D. J. 's fortune). P.D. will be going back to work after two years' holiday on the campus and mostly off the campus. Working will include selling of all sorts in foreign markets.

Source: IIMA Student Yearbook, 1974, IIMA Archives





### PANKAJ JAIN

The gentle giant, Pankaj is the engineer (from ISRO) turned economist. Largely known as "Punk Jain" claims to have tremendous contacts in SBI — IIM. Bubbling with enthu, he is motivated to the core (God! he has hardly learnt anything in the last 2 years).

Source: IIMA Student Yearbook, 1977, IIMA Archives

### D. N. Sastry, PGP 1977





D.N.SASTRY

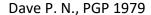


After PGP, I started with Dept of Space at Hyderabad. I also had a stint with HAL and then moved to Computer industry and private sector in '87. Career changes and moves were more frequent from then onwards. Visionlabs, Hinditron, Onward Computers, Indotronics are the companies I worked for in Hyderabad, before I moved to an overseas assignment to head Computer Systems House LLC in Muscat, Oman. After successfully establishing the company from ground zero and completing 2 large projects there, I moved to USA as Vice President for New Horizons Software Inc., (a start-up NRI company) based in Lowell USA. After 3 years with NHSI and a brief experiment with my own company, I am currently working as Software Development Manager with CISCO Systems

Married Lakshmi in '79, an Engineer from REC and with success stories of her own, she is currently Senior Process Manager at Sanmina Corporation, a large contract-manufacturing firm in North America. Elder son Aditya (20) is in 3rd year of college and younger son Sashanka (15) is in high school. Both enjoy playing basketball.

I enjoyed my career, travelling and working with different people and nationalities each having distinct culture. I would like to do things quietly. I enjoy visiting friends, reading and music and being a handyman at home repairing and then replacing most of the repaired items!

Source: The reunion batch of 1977, Funda, IIMA Yearbook, IIMA Archives, 2002





DAVE PN

If there is one man at IIM who is buzzing with ideas it is Dave, the man from Uganda. His copyrights include 'ejecting seats' in automobiles, offering professional services like pundits for marriages to Indians abroad and starting a casino in the dormitory. The last one he successfully accomplished was to be run on a 'Service Centre' basis. Has dazzled many a listener at IIM by rendering a new version each time of the only song he learnt in Uganda. Fond of transistorized music while bathing, was mistaken for a UFO in D-7 during summer training at ISRO.

Source: IIMA Student Yearbook, 1979, IIMA Archives