

## Mr. Raj Chengappa visits BARC

### Humanizing scientific research...

Science is not innate. Science is all about people and those who do it. Science is also about conflicts and the collaboration it has with the society. If you have to communicate science better, you have to bring the human dimension of it into all your expansion and in the media interactions you do. The human dimension is very critical to understanding science. You have to do science which directly serves the public, and that public must begin to appreciate the work you all do; for you all to not only get the recognition that you deserve but also for the funding that you need to do better and better research.

### Showcasing scientific work to the public...

It is very important that society and the public are sensitized to the work you do; for the kind of support that they can give you. We have seen that happen in Space (sector) where we have seen that the Moon Mission and others have captured the imagination of the public. And it is time that the work that's being done here (in BARC and DAE), whatever the constraints are, the magnificent work that you all do should start getting showcased. Not so much to do with publicity but because to inspire a nation and a whole generation of youngsters to take this very noble profession that you all are doing.

### Translating landmark developments in science into moments of excitement...

Space captured the imagination of public. Nuclear science is in the same trajectory. You have to increasingly market your talent and your capability to convince people. You all need to catch the public eye in a manner that excites them.

### Looking at media in a different manner...

The nuclear establishment often thinks that in their interaction with the media it always goes in the opposite direction. You expose something to the press and the press picks up something else and the whole thing goes to an uncontrolled explosion. In nuclear parlance WMD implies Waste Management Division and in media's case WMD may be very different. So, there has to be a kind of bonding where the more you all are open to simplifying the way you all do your business and make it of interest, then I think, that would be a great thing for all of us.

### On Indo-US nuclear deal...

Indian nuclear scientists very successfully negotiated the Indo-US nuclear deal. I covered the whole thing and I saw the swing that happened and a lot of objections that came from the political spheres. There are very interesting anecdotal points that come in on this subject. I haven't updated on them in my book, which I think, if I ever get time, I will write about the various things that were told to me. (Mr. Raj Chengappa has authored the book Weapons of Peace: The Secret Story of India's Quest to be a Nuclear Power and was published in 2000 by Harper Collins India).

## 'Nuclear should catch public eye in a manner that excites them'

Selected excerpts of the talk by Mr. Raj Chengappa of India Today Group at Special Trombay Colloquium on the topic Science and Media on 31st of May, 2024