

Unfortunately, Dhawan was no more with us when the first flight of SARAS took place on 29 May 2004. In recognition of the inspiration Dhawan had provided to this activity, NAL thought it highly appropriate to give the registration number of the first SARAS prototype as VT-XSD, SD standing for Satish Dhawan. A grateful NAL presented a model of SARAS during its rollout ceremony in February 2003 to Nalini Dhawan (wife of Satish Dhawan) who was a great source of support to him throughout his illustrious career (Figure 9). HANSA and SARAS bear testimony to the vision of Dhawan in initiating in a small way civilian aircraft design and development in the country (Figure 10).

Final remark

Dhawan's contribution to the Indian aerospace was manifold. He was an excellent teacher and an inspiring guide. He laid the foundation of experimental fluid mechanics in India with important contributions to many areas like two-dimensional and axisymmetric boundary layer transition and turbulence, boundary layer displacement effects, turbulent wall jets, base flows, reverse transition,

laminar separation bubbles, three-dimensional turbulent boundary layers, etc. He designed and developed several high-speed facilities and associated instrumentation in IISc.

Equally important, if not more, was the positive and inspiring leadership Dhawan provided to both IISc and ISRO with which he was associated for fairly long periods. In many ways, he transformed the character and culture of ISRO and built systems which have contributed a great deal towards its continuing success. Most important of all is Satish Dhawan the person – charming, informal, meticulous, friendly and humane with everybody around him. Perhaps this is what all those who knew him cherish the most.

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Satish Dhawan (25 September 1920–3 January 2002)

1. I have been an admirer of Prof. Satish Dhawan. I am not saying so just because we have been morally on same side. He has been a gentle giant of things to come. He was a moving force to me, and I lost one of my brethren. He was charming throughout and a lover of mankind. I miss him badly. He was a moral force.
2. His gentle ways of handling employees' problems were extraordinary and never done before. He brought an upswing in the faculty recruitment. The age old curriculum needed doing a lot of brushing up.
3. He was a Professor, Director, and Chairman, ISRO, often multitasking.
4. He was gentle at heart. I have missed him so badly.

May his soul rest in peace.

C. N. R. Rao