

Memories of Govind:

Govind Swarup was a preeminent astronomer-engineer who created world class radio astrophysics facilities in India. The creation and great success of GMRT and the scientists and engineers he nurtured stands testimony to his monumental contribution. He carried forward and the vision of Dr Bhabha who founded the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and whom he greatly admired. He was deeply committed to education and the ascension of India to become a great scientific power. Simply put he said, "Unless we combine undergraduate education with research and experiments in all disciplines (e.g. in social sciences with field surveys) we cannot expect our universities to become world class".

In his passing away India has lost a great visionary of science and engineering and a committed educationist.

Some personal memories:

I got to know Govind for the first time when my wife Leena and I shared a taxi with him after the TWAS meeting in December 2005, from Alexandria to Cairo. There was wonderful and spirited conversation throughout the five-hour journey. That was almost fifteen years ago, and I do remember him talking about site for the Square Kilometer Array and also about how he thought about the GMRT telescope's light design having a glass of whisky. The next day we also met up at the Egyptian museum, which was also an amazing experience, the museum of course but also conversations with Govind as we went around the galleries.

In 2008 I was in IUCAA Pune during the first ICTS Cosmology Program. At that time, we were actively searching for a place to establish the ICTS, and Govind spoke to me to emphasize that Pune and neighborhood would be the best place to start the new Centre. He mentioned about the future growth of the Bombay-Pune economic corridor and the presence of good institutions in Pune. We did look for land in Pune, but all our efforts failed.

The ICTS finally came up in Bangalore and Govind did visit us in 2015 during the program on "Extra Galactic Relativistic Jets: Cause and Effect". He introduced Bernard Fanaroff who delivered a public lecture (<https://www.icts.res.in/lectures/astro2015>). After the talk he came up to me and said, "You had a vision, like Bhabha you had a vision". I will always remember those words.

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