

IISER Pune hosts Inaugural Session honouring Space Pioneer Prof. E. V. Chitnis

Posted On: 28 JUL 2025 6:30PM by PIB Mumbai

Mumbai, 28 July 2025

The Centenary Celebration Conference in honour of Prof. Eknath Vasant Chitnis, one of the principal architects of India's space programme, commenced at IISER Pune with a day of reflection, celebration, and inspiration.

The event began with the inauguration of the "India in Space" exhibition, showcasing scale models of ISRO's launch vehicles—SLV, PSLV, GSLV and major payloads like Chandrayaan-3.



Welcome addresses by Dr. Sunil Bhagwat and Mr. A. P. Deshpande recalled Prof. Chitnis's contributions to India's early space programme and his commitment to science communication. Chairman, National Centre for Science Communicators (NCSC), Dr. A. P. Jayaraman, set the context by tracing Prof. Chitnis's collaborations with Dr. Vikram Sarabhai and his role in shaping indigenous satellite and launch vehicle programmes. Former SAC Director, Dr. Pramod Kale, shared personal reflections on Prof. Chitnis's leadership and ethical guidance, while, former DECU Director, Dr. Kiran Karnik spoke of his strategic role during ISRO's formative years. A moving personal tribute was delivered by Dr. Chetan Chitnis, who shared rare family anecdotes and insights into Prof. Chitnis's values and quiet strength.



Delivering the Keynote Address, Dr. A. S. Kiran Kumar, former ISRO Chairman, highlighted Prof. Chitnis's institutional contributions and lasting influence on ISRO's scientific culture. Drawing from the book "From Fishing Hamlet to Red Planet", he underscored the depth of Prof. Chitnis's influence on ISRO's institutional values and scientific culture.

The inaugural session brought together eminent scientists, science communicators, students, and admirers to pay tribute to his enduring legacy. The event marked a fitting tribute to a visionary who helped lay the foundation of India's space success and inspired generations of scientists.



PIB Mumbai | Edgar Coelho/Kunal Vyas/Darshana Rane

Follow us on social media: [@PIBMumbai](#) [/PIBMumbai](#) [/pibmumbai](#) [pibmumbai\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:pibmumbai[at]gmail[dot]com) [/PIBMumbai](#) [/pibmumbai](#)

(Release ID: 2149405)

Read this release in: [Marathi](#)

IISER Pune hosts Inaugural Session honouring Space Pioneer Prof. E. V. Chitnis. (n.d.). Retrieved August 21, 2025, from

<https://www.pib.gov.in/www.pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=2149405>