

Obituary

Dr KN Raju
(April 27, 1936 -April 30, 2021)



Dr K N Raju, FNAE, was one of the key personalities who shaped Aerospace Research and development in India. He was an internationally known expert in the areas of Fatigue, Fracture and Structural Integrity of Aerospace Structures.

Dr. K.N. Raju did his B. E. in Mechanical Engineering from Govt. college of Engineering (now known as UVCE), Bangalore, M.E (Aeronautics) and Ph.D. (Engineering) from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). He served the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) for 35 years and retired as Director in 1996. After retirement he served as a consultant to Civil Aircraft Design (CCAD) at NAL for more than a decade. Dr. Raju nurtured the field of Fatigue and Fracture Mechanics and was the principal architect in building Full Scale Aircraft Fatigue Test facility which has become a National Facility in India. He had taken up the challenge and successfully carried out the Light Combat Aircraft carbon composite wings from the conceptual stage, design activity and supervised fabrication of the first two prototypes in Italy. As a passionate teacher he participated in several continuing education programs in Fatigue and Fracture at NAL, IISc and several Industrial establishments. He served at the fatigue and Fracture branch of the NASA Langley Research Centre (LARC), the laboratory which pioneered research in the field of Structural Integrity. He was a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering, the Aeronautical Society of India and received the Distinguished Alumnus award and Platinum Jubilee Award from the Department of Aerospace Engineering, IISc.

Dr Raju Passed away on the morning of April 30, 2021 after prolonged illness. In his passing away, the nation has lost a towering personality whose contributions to Aerospace programs of the country were substantial. INAE would like to send its deepest condolences to his family on his passing away.

May God Bless his Soul to Rest in Peace