

BRAHMANDA 2025 – *A Special Edition*



Rotary Mysore Midtown and Brahmanda 2025: Inspiring Tomorrow's Space Explorers Rotary Mysore Midtown, a dynamic and service-driven club in Rotary District 3181, has long been recognized for its commitment to education, community welfare, and youth-centric initiatives. Guided by Rotary's ethos of Service Above Self, the club consistently delivers projects that uplift communities and expand opportunities for young learners.

Among its most innovative initiatives is Brahmanda, a flagship program aimed at sparking curiosity in astronomy and space science among school and PU students. Brahmanda 2025, scheduled for 27th November 2025 at the Sahukar Channaiah Auditorium, Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering, Mysuru, continues this legacy with a renewed focus on inspiring the next generation of scientific minds.

The event brings together renowned scientists, researchers, and astronomy educators who will introduce students to the wonders of the universe—ranging from celestial phenomena to the latest advancements in aerospace technology. Through keynote sessions, interactive demonstrations, and engaging learning experiences, Brahmanda 2025 offers young participants a unique platform to explore the limitless possibilities of the cosmos.

By providing access to expert knowledge and hands-on exposure, Rotary Mysore Midtown aims to nurture scientific thinking, innovation, and ambition in young minds. Brahmanda 2025 stands as a testament to the club's unwavering commitment to empowering youth and fostering a culture of curiosity and exploration.

BRAHMANDA 2025 – *Resource Persons*



A Visionary Leader in Defence, Aerospace & National Security
(Article-style Biodata)

Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy is one of India's most distinguished defence and aerospace scientists, celebrated for his pioneering contributions to national security, advanced weapon systems, strategic technologies, and research leadership. With a career spanning four decades, he has played a central role in shaping India's defence R&D ecosystem and elevating the country to the league of technologically advanced nations.

Brief CV of Dr G Satheesh Reddy...

Current Positions

- Member, National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)
 - Honorary Adviser to the Government of Andhra Pradesh (Cabinet Rank)
 - President, Aeronautical Society of India
- These positions reflect his continued engagement in national-level strategic policymaking, aerospace leadership, and scientific advisory roles.

Brief CV of Dr G Satheesh Reddy...

Education & Early Career

Dr. Reddy holds a degree in Electronics & Communication Engineering from JNTU Anantapur, followed by MS and PhD in the same discipline from JNTU Hyderabad. Beginning his career at DRDL in 1986, he later joined the Research Centre Imarat (RCI), founded by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. His early work as a navigation engineer laid the foundation for several self-reliance achievements in guidance and navigation technologies.



Major Contributions & Leadership Roles

Dr. Reddy has held some of the most prestigious scientific leadership positions in India:

- Secretary, Department of Defence R&D
- Chairman, DRDO
- Director General, Missiles & Strategic Systems
- Director, Research Centre Imarat (RCI)
- Director General, Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)
- Scientific Adviser to the Raksha Mantri

He led the development of advanced avionics, India's first guided bomb, long-range precision weapons, drones, anti-drone systems, strategic missiles, armoured vehicles, underwater systems, radars, electronic warfare systems, lightweight tanks and numerous other critical defence technologies.

Architect of India's Strategic Breakthroughs

Dr. Reddy's leadership was instrumental in mega-projects such as:

- Mission Shakti – India's first Anti-Satellite (ASAT) missile test.
- Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) – positioning India among an elite group of nations.
- Development of new-generation long- and short-range missiles.
- Breakthroughs in Air Independent Propulsion and ATAGS (Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System).

His initiatives greatly strengthened India's defence capabilities and boosted indigenous defence exports.

Brief CV of Dr G Satheesh Reddy...

Strengthening India's Science & Innovation Ecosystem

A true visionary, Dr. Reddy:

- Established state-of-the-art R&D infrastructure
- Created DRDO–Industry–Academia (DIA) Centres of Excellence
- Founded Young Scientist Laboratories
- Enabled massive participation from private sector, MSMEs, startups, and academia

He has also served on Governing Councils and Committees of IISc, IITs, IISER, SERB, PM-STIAC, CSIR and many other national science bodies.

COVID-19 Contributions

During the pandemic, his leadership led to the development of over 75 essential products, including ventilators, oxygen plants, the 2-DG drug, PPE kits, and rapidly constructed DRDO hospitals across India—technology subsequently transferred to more than 100 industries.

Awards & Global Recognition

Dr. Reddy's path-breaking work has earned him some of the world's most prestigious honours:

- Honorary Fellowship & Silver Medal – Royal Aeronautical Society, London (first Indian in 100+ years)
- Missile Systems Award – AIAA (first non-US recipient in 40 years)
- Aryabhata Award, National Design Award, National Aeronautical Prize, Homi J. Bhabha Gold Medal, and several DRDO honours
- Over 25 honorary doctorates
- Fellowships, honorary memberships, and governing roles in 35+ scientific institutions worldwide



Dr. S. N. Prasad

Physicist, Science Educator & Astronomy Enthusiast

Dr. S. N. Prasad is an eminent physicist, former Principal, and Professor of Physics at the Regional Institute of Education (NCERT), Mysuru, where he served with distinction from 1964 to 1999. With over forty years of experience as a teacher, teacher educator,

researcher, consultant, and science communicator, he is widely respected as a scholar who seamlessly bridges academic science and public science education.

A postgraduate in Nuclear Physics from Central College, Bengaluru (1960), Dr. Prasad went on to earn his Ph.D. from the Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru, under the mentorship of the legendary Prof. S. Chandrasekhar, FRS. His doctoral work focused on the Vibrational Spectra of Liquid Crystals, using advanced Laser Raman Spectroscopy techniques.

Dr. Prasad received international training in Science Education at the Ohio State University, USA (1966–67) and later underwent training in Computer Education and Software Development in the UK as part of the Government of India's CLASS project (1985). He subsequently established a Computer Applications Lab at RIE Mysore and developed numerous educational software packages.

He has served as a consultant to the World Bank on school education initiatives in several Indian states and has been associated with NCTE and NAAC as an evaluator, visiting nearly 250 teacher-education institutions across India.

A passionate science populariser, Dr. Prasad has devoted decades to promoting observational astronomy through lectures, demonstrations, writing, and public engagement. His home hosts a unique Observational Astronomy Museum, featuring more than a dozen telescopes and related instruments. An avid eclipse chaser, he has witnessed total and annular solar eclipses in India, China, Indonesia, the USA, and other parts of the world—seven in total, including the Great North American Eclipse of 2024.

His love for travel and photography has taken him across nearly 40 countries, resulting in numerous travelogues and photo essays. He writes extensively on astronomy, physics, education, and travel on his blog: drsnprasadmysoreindia.blogspot.com. He has also seen all Seven Wonders of the World.

Today, at 87, Dr. Prasad continues to contribute to scientific outreach. He serves on the Advisory Board of the Education and Public Outreach Committee of the COSMOS Planetarium Project in Mysuru, a major initiative toward building a state-of-the-art planetarium.

He remains an articulate voice for scientific temper, humanism, critical inquiry, and reform, inspiring generations of learners and astronomy enthusiasts. Recently, his talks have included contemporary themes such as “Smart Telescopes and Astrophotography,” exploring how advances in imaging technology make deep-sky observations accessible to all.



Mr. M. Krishnamurthy

Astronomy Communicator, Science Educator & Champion of Scientific Temper

Mr. Mudugodu Krishnamurthy is a distinguished physics educator, passionate science communicator, and one of Karnataka's most dedicated proponents of astronomy and scientific-human values. His journey reflects a lifelong mission to make science accessible, inspiring, and experiential for learners of all ages.

A graduate of the prestigious Regional Institute of Education (RIE), Mysuru, with an M.Sc. (Ed) in Physics, he began his career at The School – KFI, Chennai, run by the J. Krishnamurti Foundation. Under the influence of philosopher J. Krishnamurti, his outlook on education, inquiry, and human development underwent a profound transformation.

His next tenure at the Indian School Muscat further shaped his professional philosophy, exposing him to high-quality educational systems and strengthening his conviction that science teaching must ignite curiosity rather than deliver content. After two decades abroad, he returned to India to devote himself fully to popular science education, inspired by the legendary Kannada science communicator Prof. G. T. Narayana Rao.

Over the years, he has taught physics at reputed institutions such as Acharya Vidyakula and BASE, while simultaneously building a parallel career in astronomy outreach. Astronomy has been his passion since childhood, and he has delivered numerous lecture-demonstrations on celestial phenomena across schools, colleges, cultural bodies, and informal stargazing circles.

In association with Dr. S. N. Prasad, he has addressed top-ranking students under a DST-supported national programme, motivating young talent to pursue careers in science. His home-based mini-observatory—equipped with computerized 200 mm telescopes, portable refractors, binocular telescopes, and sophisticated sky-simulation software—serves as a practical hub for training learners in astrophotography, telescope usage, and night-sky observation.

A committed “eclipse chaser,” Mr. Krishnamurthy has travelled widely to observe major astronomical events, including the Great North American Eclipse of 2024 in Ohio, USA. He frequently conducts guided deep-sky viewing sessions, enabling the public to appreciate star clusters, nebulae, and galaxies through hands-on exploration.

His work is driven by an unwavering commitment to scientific temper, critical thinking, social responsibility, and intellectual curiosity. Together with his wife, Mrs. Meenakshi Krishnamurthy (a chemistry educator), and daughter Dr. Maithri (a scientist specialising in molecular biology), his family represents a rare confluence of physics, chemistry, and biology, symbolizing the power of science as a way of life.



Rohan M Ganapathy is the visionary CEO & CTO of Bellatrix Aerospace, recognized globally for his pioneering contributions to space technology, propulsion systems, and India's emerging private aerospace ecosystem.

A distinguished Forbes 30 Under 30 India & Asia laureate, Rohan holds an engineering degree from Anna University and has led Bellatrix's mission to develop reliable propulsion, satellite

launch capabilities, and space services for commercial and national customers.

Under his leadership, Bellatrix Aerospace has become a beacon of innovation—collaborating closely with national space agencies, integrating deep-tech teams, and gaining recognition as an India-based firm at the forefront of NewSpace. His frequent LinkedIn updates reflect a sincere commitment to mentoring young technologists and shaping the future of space access.

Rohan's work is rooted in a bold belief: that India's space industry must not just participate, but lead—through resilient engineering, systems thinking, and global competitiveness. For him, every rocket engine tested or satellite module delivered is part of a larger mission to inspire future generations of engineers and explorers.

Beyond technology, Rohan actively engages in entrepreneurship, tech ecosystems, and outreach—positioning himself as both a leader and a catalyst. His story underscores how innovation, leadership, and entrepreneurial spirit can converge in service of a national vision.



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