

VIKRAM A. SARABHAI

Department of Physics,
Indian Institute of Science,
Bangalore.
6-11-1941.

My dear Prof. Krishnan,

Thank you very much for your letter which I got on my return to Bangalore on the 2nd. I am sorry I could not write to Baroda earlier but two days back my father sent a letter to Sir Krishnamachari. He has asked him to arrange for good accomadation to be given to you and to me during the Science Congress Session at Baroda.

You must also have received a communication from the Local Secretary of the Congress, regarding the arrangements for stay at Baroda. I suggest that you reply to him saying that Sir Krishnamachari, who is the Chairman of the Reception Committee, will be making arrangements for us. If Prof. Vijaya Raghavan is coming to Baroda, you might also mention that he should be put up at the same place.

I was very sorry that I missed listening to your second lecture given at Bangalore. Since then I have been doing a lot of travelling in Malabar and South India, and needless to say I was quite swept away by its beauty and charm. I have not decided whether I am coming to the Academy meeting at Nagpur; if not we shall meet at Baroda.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Vikram Sarabhai

India Inst. of Sc

Bangalore.

29-11-41.

My dear Prof. Krishnan,

I hope you received
my earlier letter. I have at
last heard from Sir V. T. Krishnamachari.
He says that he has arranged
for us in two large tents in
the State Guest House compound at
Baroda — as it was difficult to
give us good rooms elsewhere.
It seems that my letter should
have been written ages earlier than
I did — but even as it is
I think we will be comfortable,
and near all the other Science
Congress crowd who will be

putting up there. It should not
be difficult to tick Vijaya Raghava
into our tents!!

I think it is very
likely now that I shall see
you at Nagpur.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Vijaya Raghava

P.S. When do you plan to come to
Ahmedabad and stay with us?
I understood that the Congress are
making a day excursion to
Ahmedabad on the 4th.

VR

VIKRAM A. SARABHAI.

Bangalore,
27--12--1948.

My dear Dr. Bhatnagar,

In July this year, I talked to Panditji about our plans of development at the Physical Research Laboratory and in particular at the assistance we seek in establishing departments of theoretical Physics and Electronics. In this connection, I enclose an application we made in April to the Ministry of Education, Government of India. That was before the establishment of your New Department of Scientific Research.

The Education Ministry does not seem to have taken any action on our application so far and I write this letter to ask whether:

1. In view of ours being principally a Research Laboratory our application for assistance can be considered by your Government.
2. Your Department would be good enough to help in establishing sections in Electronics and Theoretical Physics by making suitable initial and recurring grants.

I shall be grateful for your personal interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Sd. Vikram A. Sarabhai.

-/TRUE COPY/-

(Copy)

10th April 1948.

From
The Secretary,
Ahmedabad Education Society,
Lal Bhuvan, Bhadra,
Ahmedabad.

To
The Secretary,
Ministry of Education,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

Sir,

The Ahmedabad Education Society is maintaining a Physical Research Laboratory at Ahmedabad. This will grow into the Institute of Advanced Studies in Physics of the Gujarat University which is expected to come into being in approximately a year's time.

The Physical Research Laboratory has at present two departments - a Department of Cosmic Ray Physics under Prof. Vikram A. Sarabhai, M.A., Ph.D. (Cantab), and a Department of Atmospheric Physics under Dewan Bahadur Professor K.R. Ramanathan, M.A., D.Sc., F.N.I. The research programme of these departments is as follows:

1. Study of Cosmic radiation in all its aspects including
 - (a) the periodic and non-periodic variations of its components with a view to ascertain its nature and origin,
 - (b) correlation of these variations with relevant meteorological elements and with geo-magnetic and solar phenomena,
 - (c) the inter-action of the different components of the radiation with matter at various levels in the atmosphere and at different depths in the ground,
 - (d) the geo-magnetic effects on the various components as shown by measurements at various places.
2. Study of fundamental problems of atmospheric physics, including the study of the composition, thermal structure and winds of the earth's atmosphere at different levels, their periodic and non-periodic variations and the relationship of these variations to extra-terrestrial phenomena such as the incidence of wave and particle radiation from the sun, stars and space, by optical, radio-sonde, ionospheric and other physical methods.

The laboratory will be unique in character in this country inasmuch as it will undertake researches on various allied fields with a view to the elucidation of some of the very baffling problems concerning the cosmic radiation, atmospheric physics and their relation with solar and cosmic phenomena. Recently the Institute of Advanced Studies at Dublin has organised on similar lines with professorships in theoretical physics, atmospheric physics, cosmic radiation and astro-physics.

The laboratory has at present research students from the U.P., Kathiawar and Sind. From June, there will be provision for the postgraduate training of about a dozen research students. These students will be drawn from all parts of India selected solely on merit.

Apart from pursuing researches on the subjects mentioned above, the departments will promote the training of physicists with a sound all-round knowledge of the subject. Their active participation in the postgraduate work of the University will help to maintain high standards of training in all levels of education in Physics. The laboratory by developing facilities for postgraduate work will meet a great need in this part of the country.

Substantial financial provision has been made to equip the laboratory with basic apparatus, workshop facilities and library, and a suitable building is being planned to house the laboratory on the 500 acre campus of the University - close to the Engineering laboratory and the laboratories of the Textile Research Association. Pending the completion of the new building, the Physical Research Laboratory is housed in the M.G. Science Institute of the Society. It is already well equipped for research work on cosmic radiation, and is building up a good library. More apparatus, books and journals are on order for both departments and when they arrive, the Physical Research Laboratory will be one of the best equipped institutions for work in its chosen field of activity.

For the adequate development of the institution, it is necessary to add to the existing Professorships, two more Professorships, one on Theoretical Physics, and another on Electronics, 4 Readerships one in each department, and several posts of Research Assistant to help in the training of students. The four departments of the Institution will work in close cooperation, and in addition to tackling fundamental problems of modern physics, both pure and applied, will help to create specialists in these branches of science. It will be noted that the activities of the 4 departments would be such as to be mutually helpful to one another. A department of Electronics is contemplated, because that subject has come to play a very important role in modern experimental techniques, and besides being of great help in the progressive development of the sister departments of Cosmic Radiation and Atmospheric Physics, is also intrinsically of vital national importance.

A department of Theoretical Physics is also essential, because development in any branch of physics is nowadays impossible without the close collaboration of the experimenter with the theoretical physicist. Analysis of experimental data on sound lines will also be greatly assisted by the existence of such a department.

In the fulfilment of this educational project, the Society would greatly appreciate help from the Ministry of Education in the following forms:

- (a) a capital grant of Rs.15 lacs, and
- (b) a recurring annual grant of Rs. one lac.

We feel confident that in view of the fact that this laboratory would be one of All-India character and would play an important part in the training of personnel for advanced scientific work, the proposal made by us will receive the sympathetic consideration of the Ministry of Education.

I remain,
Sir,
Yours faithfully
Sd. B. K.

PHYSICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY

SHAHIBAG P. O.

AHMEDABAD.

(INDIA)

TELEPHONE:

2881.

TELEGRAMS:
"RESEARCH"

23/9

September 20, 1948.

No. 17/198

My dear Sir Krishnan,

I was very glad to receive your letter of 14th instant and also the two volumes of Lockwood Greene's Report sent by you. My brother Gautambhai looks after Calico Mills, and I am therefore passing on to him the application of Mr. Ramalingam. If there is a suitable vacancy for a person with Mr. Ramalingam's qualifications, I am sure Gautambhai will call him for an interview.

I have been eagerly expecting to hear whether the Science Congress is likely to invite Prof. Janossy for the next session. I have not yet officially communicated an invitation to Janossy pending news in this connection. I shall be grateful however if you can let me know whether there are any chances at all.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Vikram Sarabhai

Sir K.S. Krishnan, Kt., D.Sc., F.R.S., F.N.I.,
Director, National Physical Laboratory,
University Buildings, Delhi.

VIKRAM A. SARABHAI

Department of Physics,
Indian Institute of Science,
Malleswaram, Bangalore,
14th February 1944.

My dear Prof. Krishnan,

I have sent to you today by separate cover, a reprint of my paper on the results of my Kashmir trip. I was very sorry that I could not see you again before I left Hyderabad after the time I last met you in the morning. When I went back to the hotel, I had to make arrangements for taking an X-ray of my sister-in-law's ankle, and practically the whole morning was taken up in the hospital. We were ~~leaving~~ launching out that day and as the train for Aurangabad left in the afternoon I am afraid I could not even come to the Scientific Session. As it fortunately turned out, the X-ray showed no damage to the bone of my sister-in-law's ankle, and we could proceed according to the programme to Ajanta and Ellora. Even though her leg was in plaster, ~~and~~ I think she enjoyed the visit very much.

I trust you will however understand the reason why I could not pick you up at the Scientific Session as we had arranged. In conclusion, may I tell you how much I admired yours and Prof. Sahni's stand during the last Science Congress.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Vikram Sarabhai