V. K. Saraswat elated over new assignment

HYDERABAD: V.K. Saraswat, the newly appointed Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister and Director-General, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has expressed happiness over his new assignment.

Dr. Saraswat, Chief Controller R&D (Missiles and Strategic Systems) DRDO, said he was happy that the government had reposed faith in his abilities to develop new technologies and weapon systems for the armed forces and take the DRDO to greater heights with increased emphasis on self-reliance.

Dr. Saraswat will take over from M. Natarajan on September 1.

An eminent missile scientist, Dr. Saraswat, a Ph.D. in Combustion Engineering, spearheaded the development of the country’s strategic and tactical missile systems, including the ‘Agni’ series of strategic missiles that cover a range up to 3,000 km.

He started his career in 1972 at the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) and was responsible for the development of the country’s first Liquid Propulsion Engine. He was also the project director of the first indigenous surface-to-surface missile Prithvi.

As Programme Director Air Defence, he pioneered the concept of theatre defence systems and integration of national air defence elements. He also spearheaded India’s Ballistic Missile Defence programme by demonstrating the capabilities of the indigenously developed anti-missile shield to intercept incoming ballistic missiles in both exo and endo-atmospheric regions.

Dr. Saraswat played a key role in developing a number of critical technologies which were denied to India due to the Missile Technology Control Regime.