



S S SUNDARASWAMY

MEMORIAL LECTURE



Dr. Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan, an Astrophysicist, completed his Bachelor of Science with Honours and Master of Science in Physics from Bombay University and received his Doctorate in Experimental High Energy Astronomy in 1971 while working at the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad. He has wide-ranging interests in space science applications, technologies, national and international science-related policies, and legal regimes.

Dr. Kasturirangan was with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for over a period of nearly 35 years including nearly 10 years as its Chairman from 1994-2003. He worked on the design and development of early satellite systems of ISRO and played a key role in shaping India's remote sensing satellite capabilities.

Dr. Kasturirangan is currently Chancellor, Central University of Rajasthan; Chairman, Governing Board, Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune; Chairperson, NIIT University, Neemrana; Institute (RRI), Bangalore and Honorary

Member, Atomic Energy Commission, Emeritus Professor at National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore, Member of Council and Trust, Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bangalore and Honorary Distinguished Advisor, (ISRO). He was a Nominated Member, of Rajya Sabha (2003-2009) and later a Member of the erstwhile Planning Commission (2009-2014). More recently (July 2017-December 2018), he was the Chairman of the Committee that drafted the National Education Policy; presently he is the Chairman of the National Steering Committee for developing the National Curricular Framework.

Dr. Kasturirangan is a Member of all the four National Science Academies of India and several International academies. He is a Member of the International Astronomical Union and a Fellow of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). He is an Academician of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Vatican City, and an Honorary Fellow of Cardiff University, UK. Dr. Kasturirangan is the only Indian to be conferred the Honorary Membership of the International Academy of Astronautics.

He has won several awards including Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award (1983), 4th SIES Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award (2001) from South Indian Education Society, Mumbai, Brock Medal (2004), Allan D Emil Memorial Award (2004), Theodore Von Karman Award (2007), Basava Shri Prashasthi (2020) from Shri Muruga Mutt, Karnataka among others. He has been conferred with the Rajyotsava Prashasthi (2014) from the Government of Karnataka, the highest civilian honors Padma Shri (1982), Padma Bhushan (1992), and Padma Vibhushan (2000) by the President of India, and Award of 'Officer of the Legion d'honneur' (2002) by the President of the French Republic, France.