



**The Seventeenth
V. G. Kulkarni Memorial Lecture**

Programme: (4.00 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.)

- ◆ **Welcome**
Prof. K. Subramaniam
- ◆ **India's Space Odyssey - Past, Present and Future**
V. G. Kulkarni Memorial Lecture
Prof. K. Kasturirangan
- ◆ **Vote of Thanks**
Prof. Sugra Chunawala

India's Space Odyssey - Past, Present and Future



Prof. K. Kasturirangan
Eminent Space Scientist

Tuesday, September 04, 2018
4:00 pm

Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education
Tata Institute of Fundamental Research
V. N. Purav Marg, Mankhurd, Mumbai – 400 088

V. G. Kulkarni Auditorium
Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education
Tata Institute of Fundamental Research

Shri V. G. Kulkarni (1932-2002)

Shri V. G. Kulkarni began his career in 1953 at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai. At the peak of his career as a solid state and nuclear physicist, he decided to devote himself to the cause of science education in the country. Under the guidance of Prof. B. M. Udgaonkar, he founded and nurtured the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE). He was its Director from 1974 until his retirement in 1994.

During his distinguished career as a scientist and educationist, Shri V. G. Kulkarni was connected with several educational institutions and organizations and was a recipient of many honours and awards including the Dr. Govardhandas Parikh award in 1985. With his students and colleagues he undertook many significant research projects especially for improvement of science and mathematics education of children from disadvantaged sections of the society. The place of language in education was a major focal point of his research. He wrote extensively, simply and convincingly in Marathi and English on science and the need for a scientific culture in society. A lover of books, he was a brilliant orator, known for his scholarship, mastery of words and a refreshing sense of humour. Shri V. G. Kulkarni expired on July 13, 2002. As a tribute to him, HBCSE has instituted a series of annual memorial lectures. These lectures, given by eminent scientists and educationists, deal with central issues in science, technology, education and society.



Prof. K. Kasturirangan

The seventeenth V. G. Kulkarni memorial Lecture will be delivered by eminent space scientist Dr. K. Kasturirangan. Dr. Kasturirangan is currently the Chair of the Committee for National Education Policy. He is also Chancellor, Central University of Rajasthan and Chair, Public Affairs Centre, (Bangalore). He is Chair of the Karnataka Knowledge Commission and a member of Atomic Energy Commission. He is Emeritus Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore, and an

honorary distinguished Scientific Advisor of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Earlier, as Chairman of ISRO, he oversaw the space programme of India between the years 1994 and 2003. He was a Member, Upper House of the Indian Parliament (2003-2009) and concurrently the Director of NIAS, Bangalore and subsequently, member of the erstwhile Planning Commission. His interests include astrophysics, space science and technology as well as science related policies.

Dr. Kasturirangan is a member of several International and National Science Academies and has won many distinguished awards for his professional achievements including the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award in engineering, the Allan D Emil Memorial Award of the International Astronautical Federation (2004), the Theodore Von Karman Award by International Academy of Astronautics (2007) and the Lifetime Achievement Award of Asia-Pacific Satellite communications Council, (Singapore) among others. He has been conferred with the highest civilian honours, Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan by the President of India and the award of 'Officer of the Legion d'honneur' by the President of the French Republic, France.

V. G. Kulkarni Memorial Lecture

India's Space Odyssey - Past, Present and Future

India's space endeavour is now more than 60 years old. From simple rocket borne scientific instruments flown from the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS), located over geomagnetic equator, the program has grown in several dimensions covering launch vehicles, satellites, applications and space science; besides vibrant international cooperation, industrial interface as well as setting up innovative organisational structures. The emphasis on the socio-economic aspects of the Indian space efforts gives it a unique character the likes of which we do not see in the space programs of other countries. The lecture proposes to cover the evolutionary aspects of the above components of India's space program and also provide a glimpse of the futuristic direction of the related activities.