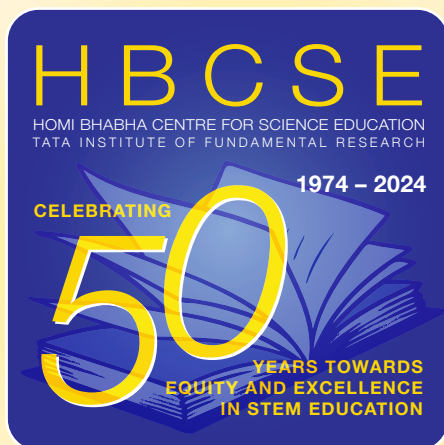


Shri V. G. Kulkarni (1932-2002)

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.



About the Speaker

Prof. Arvind Kumar

Prof. Arvind Kumar did his Ph.D. in physics at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai and post-doctoral research at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), Geneva. He taught at the University Department of Physics, Mumbai for 12 years, and joined HBCSE in 1984. He was Centre Director, HBCSE from 1994 till his retirement in 2008.

His main academic interests are theoretical physics and physics education. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India. During his notable academic career he received a number of awards including the 'Padma Shri' (2010) for 'distinguished service in the field of education'.

Abstract of the Talk

Nature of Modern Science

What is the nature of modern science? What are its methods of inquiry and what kinds of explanations does it accept or not accept? What norms and values underlie its practice?

In this talk we will engage with these issues, drawing on the views of some of the greatest pioneers of modern science. The narrative we build up may be simplistic from a philosopher's viewpoint, but should, hopefully, be still useful for science education.

Programme: 3:30 - 5:30 pm

- **Welcome**
Prof. Arnab Bhattacharya
- **Introduction**
Prof. Savita Ladage
- **V. G. Kulkarni Memorial Lecture**
“Nature of Modern Science”
Prof. Arvind Kumar
- **Vote of thanks**
Dr. Deepa Chari

**The Twenty-second
V. G. Kulkarni Memorial Lecture**



Nature of Modern Science

Prof. Arvind Kumar

Former Centre Director, HBCSE, Mumbai

Monday, September 4, 2023

3:30 pm

V. G. Kulkarni Auditorium

Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (TIFR)
V. N. Purav Marg, Mankhurd, Mumbai- 400 088