

## Dr. Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan

### **Member, Planning Commission, Government of India and Former Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation**

Dr. Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan took his Bachelor of Science with Honours and Master of Science degrees in Physics from Bombay University and received his Doctorate Degree in Experimental High Energy Astronomy in 1971 working at the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad. He is presently the Director of the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) at Bangalore, Honorary Professor of Physics, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad and at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Research at Bangalore. He is also a Member of Upper House of Indian Parliament. For over 9 years until 2003, Dr. Kasturirangan steered the Indian Space programme as Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation. Under his leadership, the programme witnessed several major milestones including the successful launching and operationalisation of the India's prestigious launch vehicles, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle and the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle. Further, he also oversaw the development and launching of some of the world's best civilian remote sensing satellites, IRS-1C and 1D, realization of new generation INSAT communication satellites, besides ocean observation satellites IRS-P3/P4. These efforts have put India as a pre-eminent space-faring nation among the handful of six countries that have major space programmes. As an Astrophysicist, Dr. Kasturirangan's interest include research in high energy X-ray and gamma ray astronomy as well as optical astronomy. He has made extensive and significant contributions to studies of Cosmic x-ray and gamma ray sources and effect of cosmic x-rays in the lower atmosphere.

Dr. Kasturirangan is a Member of the International Academy of Astronautics and served as its Vice President. He is a Member of the International Astronomical Union and a Fellow of Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). He is a Fellow of Indian Academy of Sciences and served as its President during 2001-03. He is Fellow of Indian National Academy of Engineering and was its President during 2005-06. He was also General President of the Indian Science Congress for the years 2002-2003. Besides, he is the Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy and the National Academy of Sciences of India. He is the Honorary Fellow of the Cardiff University, UK; an Academician of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Vatican City and the Trustee of the Nehru Trust for Cambridge University.

He was the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras from 2000-2005. Presently, he is the Chairman of Council of the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore. Also he is the Chairman of the Governing Council of the Raman Research Institute, Indian Institute of Astrophysics at Bangalore as well as of the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences at Nainital. Dr. K Kasturirangan was a Member in the Upper House of the Indian Parliament, and was also a member in the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy and Consultative Committee on Human Resource Development. He is currently the Chairman, Karnataka Knowledge Commission; Member, Karnataka Vision 2020. He is the President, India-Cyprus Parliamentary Friendship Group and Member, India-China Eminent Persons' Group.

He has won several awards including Brock Medal of International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, (2004), Allan D Emil Memorial Award of the International Astronautical Federation (2004), Theodore Von Karman Award by International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), France (2007), Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award in Engineering, Aryabhata Award 2003 of Astronautical Society of India, Lifetime Achievement Award of Asia-Pacific Satellite communications Council, Singapore, Aryabhata Medal by Indian National Science Academy (2000), Asutosh Mookerjee Memorial Award by the Indian Science Congress, Award of Jewel of Ruia, Ruia College Alumni Association, 2007; Maharana Udai Singh Award 2007-08 by Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation, Udaipur, 2008; Rajayogindra Award, Maharaja of Mysore, Mysore, 2008; Vikram Sarabhai Memorial Gold Medal, Indian Science Congress, Shillong, 2009; Shasthra Bhooshan Award by His Highness Pazhassi Raja Charitable Trust, Kerala, 2009 etc. He has been conferred with the highest civilian honours Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan by the President of India and Award of 'Officer of the Legion d'honneur' by the President of the French Republic, France.

He has published more than 244 papers in the areas of astronomy, space science and applications, delivered 61 Convocation Addresses in various universities of the country and also is the recipient of Honorary Doctorate from 16 universities, including Banaras Hindu University, Anna University, IIT- Bombay, University of Calcutta, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Mysore University and SRM University. He delivered nearly 304 public and memorial lectures. His recent important lectures include M.N.Saha Memorial

lecture of the National Academy of Sciences; J.C.Bose Memorial lecture at the Royal Society of London; Third Darbari Seth Memorial Lecture, New Delhi; K R Narayanan Oration at the Australian National University, Canberra; 28th Vikram Sarabhai Memorial Lecture, Ahmedabad Management Association, Ahmedabad; Prof. D.S. Kothari Memorial Lecture at University of Delhi, Delhi; Karnataka Rajyotsava Extension Lecture, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore; First Memorial Lecture of Sri Arthur C Clarke, ACCIMT, Colombo. More recently, he was one among the four global personalities and the only Asian to deliver a Keynote Address on 'Potential of Space Technology to serve Humankind: coming 50 years' at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris during the celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of the launch of Sputnik organized by International Astronautical Federation and UNESCO.