



# Dr V S Arunachalam Memorial Lecture



## Concept Note

The present times are marked by numerous challenges across the social, economic, environmental, and policymaking spheres. These complex and often intersecting challenges call for the adoption of an innovative, multidisciplinary, and collaborative approach. Science and technology form the base of this approach as they have the potential to provide evidence-based solutions. Dr V S Arunachalam, a visionary leader in science and technology and the Scientific Advisor to five Indian Prime Ministers, recognised the necessity for scientific insights and evidence in policy decision-making early on.

In 2005, he set up the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) to do just this. Guided by his vision, CSTEP has played a pivotal role in shaping policy initiatives in the fields of energy and climate change.

The V S Arunachalam Memorial Lecture is an initiative to honour the legacy of Dr Arunachalam by connecting thought leaders in the scientific arena to public policy practitioners. The memorial lecture aims to bring together thought leaders, innovators, and change makers from across the globe to foster interdisciplinary collaboration to help address pressing local and global challenges from different fields.

For our inaugural lecture, we invited Dr Raj Reddy, University Professor of Computer Science and Robotics and Moza Bint Nasser Chair in the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University. He spoke about 'The Promise and Perils of AI'.

This year's lecture will be delivered by Dr Vijay Kumar Saraswat. He is a Member of NITI Aayog, Government of India, and the former Director General of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). He has played a key role in the development of India's indigenous missile systems, including Prithvi, Dhanush, Prahaar, and Agni-V; the Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) programme; the initial operational clearance of the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, and the nuclear submarine INS Arihant. At NITI Aayog, he focuses on integrating science and technology for policy formulation, particularly in areas of innovation, energy security, and strategic self-reliance. Dr Saraswat has been a recipient of several national awards, including the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan, as well as several scientific awards for his contributions to India's missile and space programmes.

The lecture will be held on 18 December at the Faculty Hall, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, from 4 p.m. onwards.



## Agenda

Time	Session
<b>4:00–4:30 pm</b>	Interaction with CSTEP personnel currently engaged with initiatives at NITI Aayog
<b>4:30–4:35 pm</b>	Screening of a short video on <i>Dr V S Arunachalam: Life and Accomplishments</i>
<b>4:35–4:40 pm</b>	Introduction of the Distinguished Speaker, <i>Dr V K Saraswat</i>
<b>4:40–5:40 pm</b>	Keynote Lecture followed by Q&A
<b>5:40–6:00 pm</b>	High Tea and Networking

