



Concept Note

V S Arunachalam Memorial Lecture

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 have Dr Raj Reddy talking about 'The Promise and Perils of AI'. He is a University Professor of Computer Science and Robotics and Moza Bint Nasser Chair in the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University. Dr Reddy is the recipient of the Legion of Honour, Padma Bhushan, and the 1994 Turing Award (jointly with Edward Feigenbaum) 'for pioneering the design and construction of large-scale artificial intelligence systems, demonstrating the practical importance and potential commercial impact of artificial intelligence technology'.

The lecture will be held on 2 December at the Satish Dhawan Auditorium, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.