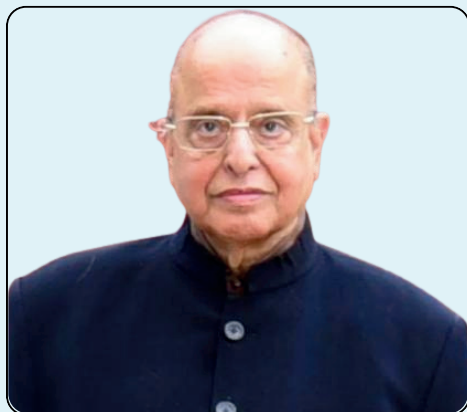


K. Kasturirangan

Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan



(Oct 24, 1940 - Apr 25, 2025)

Dr Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan was an eminent Indian astrophysicist, space scientist, and education reformer. As the **5th Chairman of ISRO (1994 - 2003)**, he played a pivotal role in strengthening India's space programme through satellite development, launch vehicle technology, and the early planning of **Chandrayaan - 1**. He was also the chief architect of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.

Major Scientific Contributions

- Led the development of **PSLV, GSLV**, and the **INSAT** and **IRS** satellite programmes.
- Project Director of **Bhaskara - I** and **Bhaskara - II**, India's first Earth observation satellites.
- Strengthened **remote sensing** for agriculture, disaster management, environmental monitoring, and resource mapping.
- Played a key role in planning **Chandrayaan-1**, India's first Moon mission.
- Chaired the committee that drafted the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.

Leadership Roles

- Chairman, **ISRO (1994 - 2003)**.
- Director, **ISRO Satellite Centre**.
- Director, **National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS)**.
- Member of the **Rajya Sabha, Space Commission**, and **Planning Commission**.

Major Awards & Honours

- **Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan**, and **Padma Vibhushan**.
- Fellow of the **Indian National Science Academy** and the **Indian Academy of Sciences**.
- Received numerous national and international honours for contributions to space science.

Legacy & Inspiration

Dr Kasturirangan transformed India's space programme, laid the foundation for lunar exploration, and revolutionised education through **NEP 2020**. His career demonstrated how science, technology, and policy can work together to drive national development, inspiring generations of scientists, engineers, and educators.

Conclusion

Dr K. Kasturirangan is remembered as a visionary scientist and nation builder who connected space science with national development and education reform. His legacy continues in ISRO missions, India's education system and Global space collaborations.