

Dr. V. K. Saraswat

Former Member, NITI Aayog

*Former Secretary, Department of Defence Research & Development (R&D) and
Former Director General, Defence Research and Development Organisation
(DRDO)*



Dr. Vijay Kumar Saraswat is India's most eminent defence scientist-administrator with over four decades of leadership across defence research, strategic technology development, and national science policy. He spearheaded indigenous **development of missile systems PRITHVI, DHANUSH, PRAHAR, AGNI-V** and **interceptor missiles for ballistic missile defence** and set up national **missile defence infrastructure**.

His expertise extends beyond missiles to building key **nuclear arsenal infrastructure**. In the aeronautical field, he steered **LCA TEJAS to IAF** induction while leading **AMCA** production planning.

Post-DRDO, as **Member (S&T) at NITI Aayog** for more than a decade, he drove national policy on critical and emerging technologies namely **Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Technology, Cyber Physical Systems, Small Modular Nuclear Reactors** and technologies for **Energy Security** with focus on **advanced materials, strategic supply chains** and **sustainable development**.

A recipient of the **Padma Shri** and **Padma Bhushan**, along with many other national science and government honors, he is Fellow

of INAE, INSA, AeSI and several leading scientific bodies. He currently serves as **Chancellor of Graphic Era University** and as Chairman of both the Quantum Ecosystems and Technology Council of India and Prof. C.R. Rao AIMSCS, Hyderabad. He also holds positions as Distinguished Professor at IIT Hyderabad and IIT Roorkee. The International Academy of Engineering, Russia, elected him as a Member and conferred the title of Academician.

Beyond his scientific career, he has held numerous leadership roles including serving as **Member of the Prime Minister's Science, Technology & Innovation Committee; Chancellor of JNU; Chairman of CSIR's Research Council** and its constituent laboratories; **President of TIFAC** and **Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology, Trivandrum** and **Chairman of Himalayan Region Development Council**. He also **chaired the Research Councils of IOCL, NTPC, and BHEL**, among other government institutions. In recognition of his contributions to science and technology research, more than **27 Indian Universities** have conferred Honoris Causa Doctorates upon him.

He is currently engaged on the development of technologies for Energy Systems (**Nuclear, Coal, Solar, Wind & Hydrogen**) pursuing S&T research in private sector and development and large-scale production of **Advanced Aerospace & defence systems** for changing war fighting scenarios.