



# 37<sup>th</sup> KERALA SCIENCE CONGRESS

7 - 10 February 2025  
Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur

## P.K. IYENGAR MEMORIAL LECTURE

(A prelude to 37<sup>th</sup> Kerala Science Congress)

Date: **24 January 2025**

Venue: **School of Chemical Sciences**  
M.G. University, Kottayam

10.30 AM- 12.00 PM

### PROGRAMME

Welcome: **Dr. Bismi Gopalakrishnan**  
Registrar, M.G. University  
Kottayam

Presidential Address: **Prof. C.T. Aravindakumar**  
Vice Chancellor,  
M.G. University, Kottayam

Introduction to P.K. Iyengar and Introducing the Speaker: **Prof. K.P. Sudheer**  
Executive Vice President, KSCSTE & President, 37<sup>th</sup> Kerala Science Congress

P.K. Iyengar Memorial Lecture: **Dr. S. Unnikrishnan Nair**  
Director, VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram

Word of Thanks: **Dr. Binuja Thomas**  
Principal Scientist, KSCSTE & Convener, Focal Theme & Memorial Lecture 37<sup>th</sup> Kerala Science Congress



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**Dr. P.K. Iyengar (1931 – 2011)**, was a prominent Indian nuclear physicist who significantly advanced India's nuclear program. Beginning his career in 1952 at the Tata Institute for Fundamental Research, he conducted notable research in neutron scattering. In the 1960s, he designed the PURNIMA reactor, successfully commissioned in 1972 at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). As a key figure in Operation Smiling Buddha, he contributed to India's first nuclear device test in 1974, earning the Padma Bhushan in 1975. Later, as director of BARC and chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, he oversaw significant developments in India's nuclear capabilities. Dr. Iyengar was the former chairman of Science, Technology and Environment Committee (STEC), Govt of Kerala.



**Dr. S. Unnikrishnan Nair**, Distinguished Scientist, serves as Director of VSSC. A founding leader of ISRO's Human Space Flight Centre, he spearheaded India's Gaganyaan mission and key projects like SRE, CARE, and Pad Abort Test. With a BTech from Kerala University, ME from IISc, and PhD from IIT Madras, he has significantly contributed to aerospace systems for PSLV, GSLV, and LVM3. Dr. Nair holds several awards, including ISRO Excellence and Atmanirbhara Awards. An accomplished author, patent holder, and nature enthusiast, he has also contributed to finite element analysis and published short stories in leading Malayalam magazines.

