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Dust storms on Mars and how raindrops distort radio signals first intrigued Dr. V. Ramaswamy, who is internationally renowned for his expertise in the understanding and quantification of the factors that change global climate and his ability to clearly communicate his results to the public and policy makers. Over the years he has provided key information to the global debate on climate change. As a lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2001), he led a team of international experts evaluating the current scientific knowledge of the radiative forcing of climate that received widespread acclaim and distinction. His inferences on the climatic effects of greenhouse gases, aerosols, solar and volcanic forcings, clouds and ozone depletion have significantly advanced NOAA's quest for a robust knowledge base on the factors changing long-term regional and global climate and derived results of practical significance for the nation and the world.