

# Institute Lecture

## *Physics?*



Prof. T.V. Ramakrishnan

DST Year of Science Professor  
Emeritus Professor, Banaras Hindu University  
Distinguished Associate, Indian Institute of Science,  
Bangalore

24th February 2015, Tuesday, 6.00 PM\*  
Venue: Outreach Auditorium

### **Abstract of the talk:**

The title started long: 'Why do Research in Physics? Musings of a Theoretical Condensed Matter Physicist'. The thing above is a short form. After a prelude about modern science, and physics as a part of it, I go into questions such as why one does Physics at all, and why not have only teaching of Physics, do only translational research in it, do only applied physics, etc.. Espousing the Pastuerian view that there are no two different things such as 'applied' and 'basic' science, or technology and science, I make bold to mention the 'standard' frontiers of Physics, namely the very small, the very large, the very complex and the very unclear! Some examples of the third (the speaker's predilection) are given, as also of connections with other areas of natural science, and of the variable distance between basic and applied physics. I conclude with a statement that the ideal is diffusion of Physics in an atmosphere where it is a living reality.

### **About the Speaker:**

Prof. T.V. Ramakrishnan obtained his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1966 and joined Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur as a Faculty Member in the same year. In 1986 he moved to the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Subsequently in 2003, he joined Banaras Hindu University as DAE Homi Bhabha Chair Professor, where he is now an Emeritus Professor. At present, he is a DST Year of Science Professor. He continues to be formally associated with the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore as a Distinguished Associate.

Prof. Ramakrishnan is internationally known for his outstanding contributions in condensed matter physics. In his recent work, his major focus has been strongly correlated systems and high temperature superconductivity.

Prof. Ramakrishnan has been a recipient of the S.S. Bhatnagar Prize and the Trieste Science Prize. He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2001 for his contributions in Science and Engineering. He is a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore and has been its President from 2004 to 2006. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences (India), Allahabad, and has served as the Vice President of the Indian National Science Academy from 2001 to 2002. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society, London, the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) and a Foreign Associate, Academie des Sciences (Paris).

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**All interested are welcome to attend**

\*Tea at 5:45 PM

Prof. K. Muralidhar  
Dean of Research and Development