

## Commemorations on 106th Birthday of Mr. J.R.D. Tata Thursday, July 29, 2010

### 10th TAA-JRD Tata Public Lecture by Prof. M.S. Narasimhan, FRS and Golden Jubilee of School of Mathematics of TIFR

TIFR Alumni Association (TAA) had come into being a decade ago, and from the year 2002, the TAA adopted to commemorate Mr. J.R.D. Tata's birthday (July 29) on behalf of the institute by initiating a JRD Tata Public Lecture Series. The first TAA-JRD Tata Public Lecture was delivered by Prof. Yash Pal. Two years ago, the scope of commemorations on July 29 was enlarged by commencing hosting a Mini-Seminar centered around the pioneering contributions made by TAA member(s) to promote a given activity. In the years 2008 and 2009, TAA felicitated distinguished physicists Prof. M.G.K. Menon, FRS and Prof. Govind Swarup, FRS during the proceedings of Mini-Seminars on 'Cosmic Rays and High Energy Physics' and 'Radio Astronomy', respectively.

In the current year, TAA has planned to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the formal constitution of School of Mathematics. Dr. Homi Bhabha had assumed Directorship of TIFR on June 1, 1945 when he was still at the Physics Department of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. The first academic appointment of TIFR in Mumbai happened on June 15, 1945, when Dr. D.D. Kosambi was inducted as Professor of Mathematics, while he continued to teach at Royal Institute of Science. Dr. Bhabha moved from Bangalore to Mumbai in October, 1945 and the TIFR was formally inaugurated on December 19, 1945 at Kenilworth Bungalow. In February, 1948, Prof. F.W. Levi moved from University of Calcutta to join TIFR as Professor of Mathematics. In the same year, Dr. Bhabha invited Dr. K. Chandrasekharan (KC) from Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton to join TIFR as a Reader in Mathematics. KC arrived on July 1, 1949 and commenced acceleration of the nurturing of the Mathematics activity of TIFR. The formal constitution of School of Mathematics, distinct from the TIFR's activities in Experimental and Theoretical Physics and Electronics and Computer Science happened in 1960.

Prof. M.S. Narasimhan, FRS, Professor of Eminence (Retd.) and Honorary Fellow, TIFR, as well as Honorary Professor, I.I.Sc. (since 2008), has kindly accepted TAA's invitation to deliver 10th TAA-JRD Tata Public Lecture on Thursday, July 29, 2010 in the Homi Bhabha Auditorium at 5.00 p.m. His lecture is titled '**What do Mathematicians do and how?**' *Prior to his lecture in the same afternoon, it is planned to host a Mini-Seminar in the TIFR Lecture Theatre commemorating the Golden Jubilee of School of Mathematics.* TAA has specially invited Prof. C.S. Seshadri, FRS and Prof. M.S. Raghunathan, FRS to speak on this occasion. Coincidentally, Prof. Raghunathan also completes 50 years of his continuous association with TIFR this year.

Both the above events are open to all, and they also form a part of Homi Bhabha Birth Centenary Commemorations. The detailed programme of the Mini-Seminar and the abstract of the Public Lecture are being separately notified.

Prof. A.K. Grover  
Convener, HBBCCC and  
secretary, TAA

Mr. Kishore Menon  
Member, HBBCCC and  
PRO, TIFR

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**Event - I****(1415 - 1630 hrs.)**TAA Commemoration Seminar on ***“Fifty Years of School of Mathematics”***

Venue &amp; Date TIFR Lecture Theatre , Thursday, July 29, 2010

**Programme:**

- 1415 Welcome (Secretary, TAA & President, TAA)
- 1420 Brief addresses (Director, TIFR & Prof. M.S. Narasimhan, FRS, Honorary Fellow, TIFR)
- 1430 Invited presentations on School of Mathematics  
(25 minutes each)  
Prof. N.M Singhi (Executive Member, TAA)  
Prof. C.S. Seshadri, FRS  
Prof. M.S. Raghunathan, FRS
- 1545 Prof. S.G. Dani (Chairman, NBHM): Contributions of Prof. M.S. Raghunathan
- 1605 Remarks by Prof. J. Sengupta (Dean, MF) and Prof. K. Srikanth (Centre Director, CAM, Bangalore)
- 1615 Free slot for participation from audience

***Vote of Thanks*****Tea Break: 1630 - 1700 hrs.****Event - II****(1700 hrs. onwards)****10th TAA-JRD Tata Public Lecture, Homi Bhabha Auditorium: 1700 hrs. onwards**

Speaker: Prof. M.S. Narasimhan, FRS  
Honorary Fellow, TIFR and Honorary Professor, IISc., Bangalore

Title : **What do Mathematicians do and how?**

**Abstract:**

This lecture is intended for a general audience. The speaker shall attempt to give an idea of what motivates a mathematician, the objects studied in mathematics, methodology of study, the role of abstraction in mathematics and how such an abstract activity turns out to be of practical relevance.

**About the Speaker:**

Prof. M.S. Narasimhan (b.1932), FRS and Honorary Fellow, TIFR, is one of the most eminent mathematicians in India since independence. He was honoured with Padma Bhushan and King Faisal International Prize in Science in 1990; prior to it, he had also received Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize (1975) and Third World Academy of Science Prize for Mathematics (1987). He had joined TIFR for research in 1953 after undergraduate studies at Loyola College in Chennai, and superannuated in 1993 as Professor of Eminence. In 1992, he had moved to The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics as Director, Mathematics to initiate nurturing of its distinct Mathematics Group. He returned to India in 2000, and is currently associated at Bangalore with Centre for Applied Mathematics, TIFR and Department of Mathematics, IISc.

Tea/Coffee will be served after the Public Lecture.

***All are Welcome; No pre-registration required.***