

TIFR Alumni Association

Newsletter 2023



Meta

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<https://www.tifralumni.org>



alumni@tifr.res.in



I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. It is my pleasure to bring you the latest edition of our TIFR Alumni Association Newsletter, and I hope you find it interesting

In this issue, we delve into the various activities of TIFRAA, and some news about the parent Institute.

Please go through the newsletter and let us have your comments. Suggestions for improvements are most welcome. We will strive to incorporate your suggestions in our future issues.

We are on social media - Meta, Twitter, and Instagram. We also have our own dedicated YouTube channel where we upload events arranged by the Association.

We also extend an invitation for alumni to share their updates, whether personal or professional, for future newsletters. Your achievements inspire and motivate our community, and we want to celebrate your successes.

Thank you for being an integral part of the TIFR Alumni Association. Together, we continue to build a strong and connected network that fosters collaboration, mentorship, and lifelong friendships.

Wishing you continued success and looking forward to your active participation in our alumni community.

Warm regards,

Subhojit Sen

subhojit.sen@[cbs].[ac].[in]



The engagement and enthusiasm demonstrated of the TIFR Alumni Association is a major pillar of support for the entire TIFR community. The programs organized by the TAA, such as last years Landmarks@TIFR, commemorating significant milestones in TIFR's history, offer us not just the opportunity to reconnect with the past, but also to re-dedicate ourselves to the future. We had some great talks during the meeting, and for those of you who missed it, you still have the opportunity catch up on them on the TFR YouTube channel.

More recently, the TAA invited Mr. A.S. Kiran Kumar, former Chairman ISRO to delivered the Aveek Guha Memorial Lecture. As you would be knowing, TIFR has played a significant role in the Indian space programme, and Mr. Kiran Kumar's talk as well as other events at TIFR have sparked off meaningful discussions on possible major future space based science projects from TIFR. Later this month, the TAA has also organized a talk by Shri K.N.Vyas, former Secretary DAE, on one of the major challenges humans face today, viz. managing our energy requirements in a sustainable way. I am very grateful to the TAA members for all of their enthusiastic efforts in these, and other programmes of the association.

The TAA newsletter remains a crucial link for fostering connections among our alumni and with TIFR. It is a significant effort to compiling the newsletter, and I extend my grateful thanks to everyone involved. These periodic updates provide a glimpse into the many activities of the association, which keeps the connection between us all alive.

I look forward to continuing robust interactions with our alumni community. Your diverse experiences and accomplishments continue to inspire the entire TIFR family along the path of excellence.

Jayaram Chengalur
director[at]tifr[dot]res[dot]in



Dear Friends and alumni of TIFR

It is a pleasure for me to get in touch with you once again through this newsletter.

TIFR Alumni Association is dedicated to improving communication and collaboration between those who help make TIFR the brand name that it is, and those who will carry this legacy forward.

A continuing dialogue between the two will enhance understanding between the past and the future. Without these vital connections, a lot of energy gets wasted in repeating the same mistakes.

There are many ways in which TIFRAA tries to maintain this connection. One, of course, is a periodic meeting of TIFR members, past and present to come together and introspect about TIFR. *GS@50* and *Landmarks@TIFR* are two examples that explored the dynamics of TIFR in a manner that only TIFR members can do. I am happy to say that all the talks are now available on the TIFR YouTube channel at tinyurl.com/TAA-TIFR. We are now thinking of having one more meeting that will try and put together the future trends in TIFR's march to the future.

The world of research is changing dramatically. The arrival of autonomous instruments, artificial intelligence, and studies of increasingly complex phenomena where several aspects work together means that the old deductive method of science is beginning to reach its limit. The coming age of science is an age of complexity, an age where quantum mechanics will move from curiosity to complex technology, where computing power will no longer be measured by the processor's capabilities but by the ability to distribute computational problems across various specialised devices and more. It is coming to a stage where there is a possibility of artificially enhancing brain power, of replicating information from the brain to an extent that the early research in Neural Networks almost looks simplistic.

The coming age is also the one where knowledge is being accumulated at such a rate that keeping track of information itself requires frenzied activity and new research is increasingly more difficult in terms of search for ideas and resources.

TIFR needs to meet these challenges head-on if it is to remain relevant in the coming decades. It has the intellectual depth and resources, what it needs is vision and generalists who can see patterns that people inside cannot.

That makes the role of the alumni more interesting. With the leisure of being out of the competitive environment, TIFRAA members can have a better perspective and the Institute could make use of it as it wishes.

At another, happy note, I am happy to say that after the break of some 3 years, we have found a way to recognise the outstanding work of TIFR members and the awards for which we have received an endowment will now be given to the deserving members.

Last but not the least, there is a desire from TIFRAA members to have meetings that are

meant to bring old friends together without an academic component to it. Just old friends, remembering old days. We are trying to organise such a meeting and we hope to get back to you soon on this.

TIFRAA can carry out its activities thanks to the dynamic feedback and encouragement we receive from its members and the support we receive from TIFR. I, therefore, want to take this opportunity to thank Prof. Jayaram Chengalur and other members of TIFR who have been so supportive of the activities of TIFR. I also want to acknowledge the commitment of the Executive Committee members and other TIFR members who have kept us active. We are now in the process of inducting members from each of its centres to improve this link of communication.

I also want to record my special appreciation for Mr. Kishore Menon and Ms. Snehal Manjrekar. Kishore's contribution to the activities of TIFRAA and his ever-willing support to various activities of TIFR and members of TIFR has been exemplary and I want to express my gratitude to him. I also want to thank Ms Snehal Manjrekar for keeping the office of TIFRAA going against all odds.

My message to our members is: LET US KEEP TALKING FOR ONLY GOOD CAN COME FROM THE DIALOGUE OF GOOD PEOPLE.

Mayank Vahia
President, TIFRAA
mnvahia[at]gmail[dot][com]

National Science Day Lecture by Prof. Paritosh Pandya, Adjunct Professor, IIT Bombay, and Former Dean, STCS, TIFR
February 28 2023 at 11 a.m.



Computer Science and its Logical Foundations

[YouTube link to the lecture here](#)

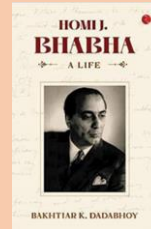
JRD Tata Memorial Lecture by Prof. Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India.
July 31, 2023



A Personal Scientific Journey Covering Best of Both Worlds: From Vigyan to Vigyan Bhawan

[YouTube link to the lecture here](#)

On the occasion of the JRD Tata Memorial Lecture, a book titled "Homi Bhabha: A Life" written by Bakhtiar K. Dadabhoy was also released.



Aveek Guha Memorial Lecture
Prof. Sudhir Jain, Vice Chancellor, BHU
February 7 2023 at 5 p.m.



Academic Excellence:
The role of alumni and external engagement

[YouTube link to the lecture here](#)

BEST THESIS COMMENDATION IN PHYSICS 2022

"BEST THESIS COMMENDATION IN PHYSICS 2022
(HONOURABLE MENTION)"

BEST THESIS COMMENDATION IN BIOLOGY 2022

THE BEST THESIS COMMENDATION IN CHEMISTRY 2022

BEST THESIS COMMENDATION IN MATHEMATICS 2022

"BEST THESIS COMMENDATION IN MATHEMATICS 2022
(HONOURABLE MENTION)"

BEST THESIS COMMENDATION IN SCIENCE EDUCATION 2022

BEST THESIS COMMENDATION IN COMPUTER &
SYSTEM SCIENCES 2022

BEST THESIS COMMENDATION IN PHYSICS 2023

BEST THESIS COMMENDATION IN PHYSICS 2023

"BEST THESIS COMMENDATION IN PHYSICS 2023
(HONOURABLE MENTION)"

BEST THESIS COMMENDATION IN BIOLOGY 2023

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"BEST THESIS COMMENDATION IN BIOLOGY 2023
(HONOURABLE MENTION)"

"BEST THESIS COMMENDATION IN CHEMISTRY 2023"

"BEST THESIS COMMENDATION IN CHEMISTRY 2023
(HONOURABLE MENTION)"

"BEST THESIS COMMENDATION IN CHEMISTRY 2023
(HONOURABLE MENTION)"

BEST THESIS COMMENDATION IN MATHEMATICS 2023

"BEST THESIS COMMENDATION IN MATHEMATICS 2023
(HONOURABLE MENTION)"

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING COMMENDATION IN PHYSICS 2022

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING COMMENDATION IN BIOLOGY 2022

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING COMMENDATION IN
MATHEMATICS 2022

"EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING COMMENDATION IN
PHYSICS 2023"

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING COMMENDATION IN
COMPUTER & SYSTEM SCIENCES 2023

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING COMMENDATION IN
SCIENCE EDUCATION 2023

Dr. Barnali Das

Dr. Surajit Dutta

Dr. Anamika Sharma

Dr. Tathagata Nandi

Dr. Mainak Ghosh

Dr. Mahbub Alam

Dr. Shirish Pathare

Dr. Siddharth Bhandari

Dr. Aditya Chowdhury

Dr. Anupam Ray

Dr. Pratap Chandra Adak

Dr. Chaitra Prabhakara

Dr. Phani Shilpa Pothapragada

Dr. Namrata Shukla

Dr. Arup Kundu

Dr. Mohd Taher

Dr. Sabyasachi Chakraborty

Dr. Prahlad Kumar Sharma

Dr. Animesh Jana

Prof. Abhishek Dhar

Prof. Aprotim Mazumder

Prof. Venkateswaran Krishnan

Prof. Rajdeep Sensarma

Prof. Piyush Srivastava

Prof. K. Subramaniam

Heartiest congratulations to the awardees!



<p>Dr. Sawani Datta, Visiting Fellow, DCMP&MS Description: Dr. Sawani Datta, Visiting Fellow, DCMP&MS :- Awarded the Indian Physics Association Anil K and Bharati Bhatnagar Award for best thesis at the DAE SSPS-2023 conference</p>
<p>Prof. Abhishek Dhar, ICTS, Bengaluru Description: Awarded the "J.C. Bose Fellowship" by the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Department of Science and Technology (DST), New Delhi</p>
<p>Prof. Ullas S. Kolthur, DBS / TIFR-Hyd. Description: Awarded the "J.C. Bose Fellowship" by the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Department of Science and Technology (DST), New Delhi</p>
<p>Prof. Mandar M. Deshmukh, DCMP&MS Description: Awarded the "J.C. Bose Fellowship" by the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Department of Science and Technology (DST), New Delhi</p>
<p>Dr. Arjun Srivathsa, NCBS, Bangalore Description: Elected as "Associate Fellow" of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi, from 1st January, 2024</p>
<p>Prof. P.V. Shivaprasad, NCBS, Bangalore Description: Elected as a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi, from 1st January, 2024</p>
<p>Prof. Sandeep Krishna, NCBS, Bangalore Description: Elected as a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi, from 1st January, 2024</p>
<p>Prof. Mandar Deshmukh, DCMP & MS Description: Elected as a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi, from 1st January, 2024</p>
<p>Prof. Pratap Raychaudhuri, DCMP & MS Description: Elected as a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi, from 1st January, 2024</p>
<p>Prof. Basudeb Dasgupta, DTP Description: Awarded the "Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prize" for the year 2022 in Physical Sciences, by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi</p>
<p>Mr. Dibya Sankar Das, Student, DCMP&MS Description: Awarded the 2nd prize at the Young Physicists Colloquium 2023 organized by the Indian Physical Society, at the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata</p>
<p>Prof. S.K. Gupta, Former Faculty Member, DHEP Description: Awarded the "O'Ceallaigh Medal" at the 38th International Cosmic Ray Conference (ICRC2023) for "his leadership of the GRAPES-3 experiment at the Cosmic Ray Laboratory (CRL), Ooty, which has made notable contributions to Solar-Terrestrial physics, and for his diligent services to the cosmic ray community both in India and world-wide"</p>
<p>Prof. K.K. Mishra, HBCSE Description: Inclusion of a book titled "Jal - Jeevan ka Aadhar" authored by Prof. K.K. Mishra, HBCSE, for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan program for school education in the state, by the Bihar Education Project Council (BEPC), Government of Bihar</p>



Dr. K.V. Srinivasan, LTF

Description: Won the Best Paper Award at the 28th National Symposium on "Cryogenics & Superconductivity" (NSCS - 28) organized by IIT, Kharagpur

Prof. Krishna Kumar Mishra, HBCSE

Description: Awarded the "HOMI JEHANGIR BHABHA GOLD PRIZE" for the year 2020-21 under Scientific and Technical Category, by the Maharashtra Rajya Hindi Sahitya Academy, Government of Maharashtra, for his book titled "DAINIK JEEVAN MEIN VIGYAN KI BHUMIKA"

Dr. Siddharth S. Bhandari, Former student of STCS

Description: Awarded the ACM India Doctoral Dissertation Award, for the year 2022

Mr. Chirag Chawla, Research Scholar, DAA

Description: Awarded the "Young Astronomer Award" for the Best Publication, by the Astronomical Society of India, for the year 2022

Prof. R. Sujatha, Former Faculty Member, School of Mathematics

Description: Awarded the "Padma Shri" for the year 2023 by the Government of India

Prof. Deepak Dhar, Former Faculty Member of DTP

Description: Awarded the "Padma Bhushan" for the year 2023 by the Government of India

Prof. B.M. Arora, Former Faculty Member of DCMP&MS

Description: Lifetime contributions to semiconductor physics, at International Workshop on Physics of Semiconductor Devices, 2023 at IIT Madras .

The TIFR Gardens boasts a diverse array of flora, including decorative species and those with medicinal properties. From vibrant flowering plants to towering trees, the garden offers a picturesque landscape. Quite a few of the plants cultivated here have medicinal properties, contributing to both the beauty of the surroundings and the well-being of those who frequent the garden. Whether one seeks solace in nature or wishes to learn more about botanical remedies, the TIFR Garden provides a tranquil sanctuary for all to enjoy.



Adansonia digitata native to Madagascar, also called Gorakh Chinch, this tree is transplanted in the presence of Shri.. J.J. Bhabha in early 60. Could be the first transplantation in India



Ficus benghalensis, also known as the Banyan tree. Recently awarded as Most Beautiful Tree by Friends of the Trees



Melaleuca leucadendra, also called the Cajuput tree. North Australian tree with a creamy white spongy trunk, 60 ft tall,



Tabebuia Rosea, also called as Basant Rani, is One of the tallest trees in Mumbai



The Cactus

Dr. Homi Bhabha's visit to Mexico in December 1947, for a UNESCO conference, led to significant interactions and exchanges. Accompanied by Mrinalini Sarabhai, they attended events where her Bharatanatyam performance was featured. Emilio Portes Gil, former President of Mexico, gifted Dr. Bhabha a cactus plant symbolizing Mexico, which was later planted at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR). This gift initiated a cultural exchange as years later, when Portes Gil became the Mexican Ambassador to India, he requested a scion of the cactus to plant at the embassy in New Delhi.

Bhabha's exposure to Mexico's muralist movement during his visit influenced his vision for TIFR. Initially aiming to commission Pablo Picasso for murals, he later engaged 12 Indian artists to create murals representing Indian art. This effort, supported by Jawaharlal Nehru, led to an annual budget allocation of 1% for art procurement at TIFR, building an exceptional collection of modern Indian art.

Despite Nehru's attempt to replicate this initiative nationally, bureaucratic obstacles prevented its implementation. Bhabha's autonomy in establishing TIFR facilitated its success, showcasing his foresight in integrating art and science.

**Guruswamy Rajasekaran (1936-2023)**

Professor Guruswamy Rajasekaran, affectionately known as Rajaji to his colleagues and admirers, was a renowned theoretical physicist and emeritus professor at the Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc) in Chennai. He passed away on May 29, 2023.

Read more [here](#)

Subrata Tripathi

Dr. Subrata Tripathi had joined the Molecular Biology group in the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai as a Reader back in 1986. Dr. Tripathi (hereafter, Subrata) at 34 was already an internationally renowned scientist, and that is reflected by the fact that before him in the history of TIFR, only a handful of appointments were made at that level. Read more. He passed away on 31 January 2023

Read more [here](#)

V. R. Marathe

V. R. Marathe joined TIFR at the age of 19 years as a laboratory assistant in the NEM group under Prof. S. S. Dharmatti on 1st October 1955. He had an illustrious career at TIFR starting as a Laboratory Assistant to retire as an Associate Professor. A transition from a technical/non-academic position to the faculty cadre at TIFR is not common and was permitted only in the most exceptional case of Prof Marathe achieved. He passed away on 25 October 2023.

Read more [here](#)

Sugata Sanyal

Prof. Sugata Sanyal joined TIFR on 10 September 1973 and retired from services of TIFR on 31 July 2012. He passed away on 9 September 2023.

Read more [here](#)



Dear Colleagues,

We have diligently worked to update the email addresses of all members. Despite our best efforts, we've discovered that some email addresses are outdated, resulting in returned emails. It is crucial for us to have accurate email addresses to effectively communicate information about our various activities to all members. If you are aware of a colleague who is a member but is not receiving our newsletters, kindly ask them to reach out to alumni@tifr.res.in with their updated email address.

Former TIFR staff who are not yet members may be encouraged to sign up and become members. The membership form is available online for easy access. For further information, please visit our website tifralumni.org.



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