



SAMPARK

TIFR Alumni Association Newsletter – Year 2022

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It is indeed a matter of great pleasure and satisfaction to bring this edition of the Annual Newsletter of the TIFR Alumni Association to you.

Staying true to the cause, we aim to be the connecting glue among the Alumni, keeping the community together and enabling different ways of nourishing upcoming researchers in the TIFR ecosystem. In this issue, you will find a summary of the activities carried out by the TIFR Alumni Association (TIFRAA) during the period January – December 2022. Three important highlights that I would like to bring to your attention are the election to the new Executive Committee of the Association, an exhibition titled “Sculpting Science: An Experiment in Art” by Sukant Saran, and the 2 day-event, Landmarks@75 which commemorated major achievements of TIFR ever since its inception in 1945.

I hope you find this issue of interest to you.

We not only look forward to your comments and suggestions but would also appreciate help in carving the path ahead, keeping up with newer ways of consuming and disseminating information in a way that enriches each of us.

Lastly, I would like to thank the members of the Alumni Association, including the Executive Committee members whose unfailing support has made this possible.

A special thanks to all those who worked tirelessly in organizing the events described in this issue.



Subhojit Sen
Editor, TIFRAA Newsletter
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The members very active involvement in the TIFR Alumni Association activities, despite the many other demands on their time, is very heartening to see. The recently very well-organized *Landmarks@TIFR* event was an excellent occasion for me to get better informed about earlier programs at TIFR, as well as to get a feeling for the evolution of the Institute from its very early days. I deeply appreciate the effort put in by all those who worked to make the program a success. Those who were here in person also had a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, particularly over dinner on the west lawns. The TAA newsletter is an important means by which members can stay in touch with each other, as well as with TIFR. I appreciate all the effort that has gone into compiling the newsletter. I look forward to these periodic updates on the activities of the association, as well as to vigorous interactions with the alumni.



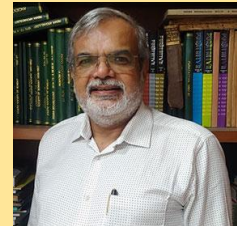
Jayaram Chengalur, Director, TIFR,
and Patron, TIFRAA

I took over as the President of the TIFR Alumni Association at the meeting of the Annual General Body Meeting held on 28th April, 2022. I am thankful to all those who have reposed their trust in me and handed over this onerous responsibility, and I hope to live up to their expectations. The members of the previous committee has been very helpful to me and whatever we have achieved would not have been possible without their unstinted support.

In this issue, you will get a glimpse of all the activities that we carried out in the last year.

After the success of the event, Landmarks@75, I am now confident that we will be able to organize more events to highlight TIFR, and also increase the profile of the Institute.

A special thanks to all those who put in sincere efforts to organise all the planned events of TIFRAA, especially Landmarks@75.



Mayank Vahia
President, TIFRAA
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Public lectures are an important way to share knowledge and ideas with the public. They can help to educate people about important topics, spark new conversations, and inspire people to learn more. It can also be a great way to connect with experts in your field and learn from their experience. With these objectives in mind, TIFRAA has been organizing Public Lectures since January 2002.

Three of our planned lectures are:

- National Science Day Lecture
- JRD Tata Memorial Lecture
- Aveek Guha Memorial Lecture



National Science Day Lecture: February 28, 2022

Prof. Mrigankar Sur, Cambridge University, spoke on “Brain Circuits and computations underlying cognition: how the brain gives rise to the mind”. The talk was held online on February 28, 2022, at 6.30 p.m.

The talk can be seen online [here](#)



Aveek Guha Memorial Lecture: 21 March 2022

Dr. Mithu Alur, Founder Chairperson, ADAPT ((Able Disabled All People Together), spoke on “Establishing Equal Opportunities, Social Justice, and Human Rights in India and the Asia Pacific”

The video of the talk can be seen [here](#)



JRD Tata Memorial Lecture: 29 July 2022

R. Gopalkrishnan, a senior industrialist and Director of several companies, delivered the JRD Tata Memorial Lecture on 29th July 2022. He spoke on “Lessons on shaping long-lasting institutions.

The video of the talk can be seen [here](#)

**Jack Keil Wolf best student paper award at
ISIT 2022 conference**

Ms. Sneha Sangwan, STCS

**2022 CHEMRAWN-VII Prize by "The International
Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)"**

Prof. Vivek Polshettiwar, DCS

**Bernice Grafstein Award for Outstanding
Accomplishments in Mentoring**

Prof. Shubha Tole, DBS

Infosys Prize 2022

Prof. Vidita Vaidya, DBS

Infosys Prize 2022

**Prof. Nissim Kanekar,
NCRA-TIFR, Pune**

Heartiest congratulations!

Mr. Sukant Saran is employed as a Scientific Officer in TIFR. Apart from his professional duties, he is also keenly interested in arts, including painting and sculpting.

An exhibition of the sculptures by Sukant Saran, titled *“Sculpting Science: An Experiment in Art”*, was held in the Homi Bhabha Auditorium from June 1 to 14, 2022. Supported by TIFR and the TIFR Alumni Association, it drew audience from several interested persons, including the media.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Mr. Adi Jehangir, Chairman, Jehangir Art Gallery. It received a positive response and the confluence of art and science was recognized and appreciated by the viewers. The exhibition also got positive coverage in the media.

The 2-week exhibition was supported by TIFR and the TIFR Alumni Association.

A few pictures of the event can be seen below:



**Inauguration by Mr. Adi H. Jehangir,
Chairman, Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai**



The exhibits in the Auditorium

See more pictures [here](#)

The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) was founded on June 1, 1945, by Dr. Homi Bhabha. The institute was established with the goal of promoting scientific excellence in India and retaining the best minds in the country. TIFR was initially located on the campus of the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru, but it moved to Mumbai in 1949. In 1954, the foundation stone for TIFR's current campus was laid in Navy Nagar, Mumbai. The buildings were formally inaugurated on 15th January 1962 by the then Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

Dr. Bhabha was a visionary leader who played a key role in the development of TIFR. He was instrumental in attracting top scientists from around the world to the institute. He also ensured that TIFR had the resources it needed to conduct cutting-edge research. Under Dr. Bhabha's leadership, TIFR quickly became one of the leading research institutes in the world. Today, TIFR is a world-renowned center for scientific research. The institute has made significant contributions in a wide range of fields, including physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, and astronomy. TIFR is also home to some of the most talented scientists in India. These scientists are working on cutting-edge research that is helping to advance our understanding of the universe.

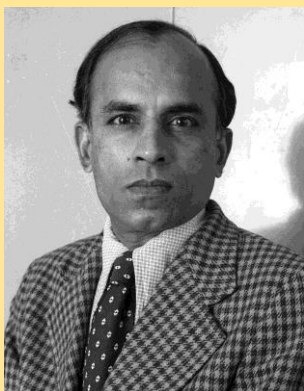
Over the years, TIFR has grown in size and stature and has several National Centres across India: Centre for Applicable Mathematics, Bengaluru, Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Mumbai, International Centre for Theoretical Sciences, Bengaluru, National Centre for Radio Astrophysics, Pune, National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, and TIFR Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences, Hyderabad

It also has Field Stations across India.

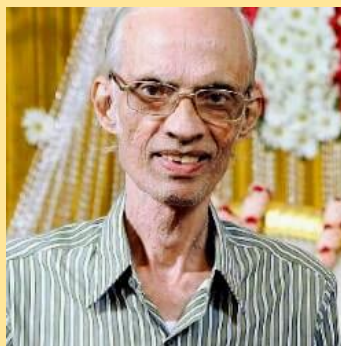
In December 2022, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research Alumni Association organized a two-day event to commemorate TIFR's 75th anniversary, *Landmarks@75*. The event was held in the Homi Bhabha Auditorium in Mumbai, and featured talks by leading scientists from TIFR and other institutions. A cultural event, *Shrinkala* – a Kathak Dance Recital - by the renowned dancer, Ms. Pooja Pant, was also organized. The event was a great success and it was a fitting tribute to TIFR's 75 years of excellence in scientific research.

TIFR is a national treasure and it is an important part of India's future

Pictures of the event can be seen [here](#)



Prof. K. S. Krishnaswamy. Obituary notice [here](#)



Prof. S. Mohan Bharti. Obituary notice [here](#)



Prof. K.V.R. Chary. Obituary notice [here](#)



Prof. Gautam Mukhopadhyay. Obituary notice [here](#)

One of our main objectives is to support a network of TIFR staff – both current and past – who will, in turn, help to advance the aims and objectives of the Institute, and raise its profile, both nationally and internationally.

We hope to maintain a sustained, lifelong relationship with our alumni through opportunities by informing, engaging, and inspiring alumni to stay connected to their alma mater, and support the vision of the Institute and contribute towards its success.

This can be achieved only with your co-operation.

Your enthusiastic participation in the activities of TIFRAA will help us to achieve our objectives.

An appeal:

We do not have the updated email IDs of some of our members; emails sent to them bounce. It is an earnest appeal to all to update their email IDs. You can do so by sending a mail to alumni@tifr.res.in.

If an existing member knows about a former staff of TIFR who is not yet a member of the Alumni Association, please encourage them to enroll as a member. The membership form is available online [here](#).

Next event

Prof. Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, will deliver the JRD Tata Memorial Lecture on Monday, July 31, 2023. Details will be sent soon.

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