Indian Institute of Technology Indore
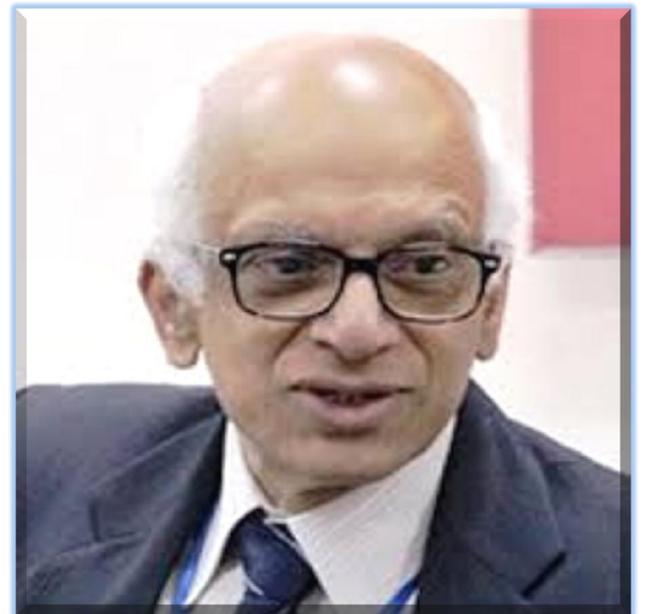
Organizes

A Public Lecture

By

Professor Madabusi S. Raghunathan, FRS

Mathematics: Art that would rather be Science

Abstract:

Mathematics is considered a science, yet it stands a little apart from other sciences as the full title of Newton's Principia indicates. It is mathematical interventions that confers the label "science" on any body of knowledge. However mathematics has many of the characteristics of art. Unlike other sciences, mathematics is largely driven by aesthetics. Mathematics is used in diverse disciplines, but that use is by no means the original reason for the discovery of that piece of mathematics. The mathematician is not as concerned with the external world as the physicist, chemist or the biologist is. He or she studies mathematical structures and conjures up new constructs from old. The inspiration comes from within and that is a characteristic of art. To the mathematician these mathematical structures are beautiful and so his quest is the search for the beautiful; and art, every one would agree is a quest for the beautiful, a second almost defining characteristic mathematics shares with art. So there is a strong case for mathematics to be regarded as art. Yet the mathematician is more comfortable in the company of the scientists: unlike the artist who finds mathematics a cold unfeeling pursuit, the scientist has a much better idea appreciation mathematics is all about.

About the Speaker:

Professor Madabusi S. Raghunathan, b. 1941, Ph.D. (Bombay), FNA, FNASc, FTWAS, FRS, Honorary Fellow of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, and Fellow of the American Mathematical Society. He received many prestigious awards such as the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, Padma Shri, and Padma Bhushan. He was awarded the Srinivasa Ramanujan Medal of the Indian National Science Academy. His research specialisation includes Lie Groups and Algebraic Groups.

Schedule & Venue

10:00 AM, November 19, 2018

SB 309, Helium Building

IIT Indore, Simrol, Khandwa Road, Indore