



Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad

Special Colloquium 18-09

- Speaker :** Prof. Raghavendra Gadagkar
DST Year of Science Chair Professor, Centre for Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- Title :** “How and Why I do my Research: Some Reflections on the Pursuit and Evaluation of Science”
- Time :** Thursday, 23 August 2018, 16.00 hrs.
- Venue :** K.R. Ramanathan Auditorium, PRL

Abstract

“In this talk I will venture to offer some reflections on the pursuit and evaluation of science. I have gathered these reflections by interrogating myself about how and why I do my science, and by comparing the answers so obtained with what is common knowledge about these matters. My main take-home message is that we should all interrogate ourselves far more often than we usually do. It is the interrogation (the journey) that is far more important than the answers we obtain (the destination)”.

The Speaker

Prof. Raghavendra Gadagkar obtained his B.Sc (Hons) and M.Sc. in Zoology from Bangalore University and Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India. During the past 35 years he has established an active school of research in the area of Animal Behaviour, Ecology and Evolution. The origin and evolution of cooperation in animals, especially in social insects, such as ants, bees and wasps, is a major goal of his research. By identifying and utilizing crucial elements in India’s biodiversity, he has added a special Indian flavour to his research.

Prof. Gadagkar was the President of the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, and is now DST-Year of Science Chair Professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Chairman, Centre for Contemporary Studies, IISc, Honorary Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali and Non-Resident Permanent Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg (Institute for Advanced Study) in Berlin. He has published over 250 research papers and articles and two books. His research work has been recognized by a number of awards including the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, B.M.Birla Science Prize, Homi Bhabha Fellowship, B.P. Pal National Environment Fellowship on Biodiversity, the Third World Academy of Sciences award in Biology and H.K.Firodia award, DSc (hc) of the University of Burdwan, West Bengal and Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. He is an elected fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences (Secretary, 1995-2000), the Indian National Science Academy (President, 2014-2016), the National Academy of Sciences, India, the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS), Foreign Associate of the National Academy of Sciences, USA and, the German National Science Academy Leopoldina.

He is on the editorial boards of several national and international scientific journals, including the board of reviewing editors of Science and the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet, Government of India.

ALL ARE WELCOME

(Due to ongoing civil work in the foyer of K R Ramanathan Auditorium, the entry will be from gate near the RAMAN LIDAR facility)

