TIFR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

National Science Day Public Lecture

The top scientific breakthrough of 2016:
The detection of Gravitational Waves by LIGO

Prof. Bala Iyer, ICTS-TIFR

Bala Iyer, currently a Visiting Professor at ICTS-TIFR, Bengaluru, worked at the Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru during 1980-2014. Since 1990 he has worked on calculations of gravitational waves from binaries of neutron stars and black holes. He has been a Visiting Scientist in France, UK, Germany and the USA. He is a Fellow of American Physical Society and International Society on General Relativity and Gravitation.
He is the Chair of the IndIGO Consortium from its inception, Member of the Core team involved in the LIGO-India Proposal, and PI of IndIGO participation in the LIGO Scientific Collaboration (LSC). He is the Editor in Chief and Subject Editor on Gravitational Waves for the Online Journal `Living Reviews in General Relativity'. He actively participates in REAP (Research Education Advancement Program) at the Bengaluru planetarium for BSc students and public outreach activities on GW .

Image: caltech,edu

Predicted by Einstein a century ago, Gravitational Waves have eluded direct detection till recently. The first two detections of gravitational waves by Advanced LIGO in 2015 and the remarkable success in reconstructing the black hole binary source has been a long and fascinating journey pushing to limits both the experiment and the theory. The discovery is a sneak preview of what is possible in the coming decade with the new gravitational wave astronomy when LIGO-India joins the global gravitational wave detector network. This new window to the universe has implications for astrophysics, cosmology and fundamental physics. No wonder then that this figured as the top scientific breakthrough of 2016.

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Homi Bhabha Auditorium
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Lecture open to all
Non-TIFR members are requested to come with a valid photo ID

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