Information and Announcements

The Infosys Prize
(Instituted by The Infosys Science Foundation)

The Infosys Prize endeavors to elevate the prestige of scientific research in India and inspire young Indians to choose a vocation in scientific research. Despite a number of stellar achievements in recent times, research carried out in India in pure and applied sciences has not been given its due. The Prize seeks to remedy this by recognizing scientists, doctors, social scientists and other researchers who have made outstanding contributions to their area of research. This is a time of change for the scientific community in India. In its Eleventh Five Year Plan, the Government of India has increased spending on higher education. With a view to enrich this climate of optimism, Infosys has set up the Infosys Science Foundation, a not-for-profit trust, in February 2009.

The Infosys Prize is given annually to researchers and scientists across five categories: Engineering and Computer Science, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences and Social Sciences, each carrying a prize of rupees 50 lakh.

A jury comprising eminent leaders in each of these fields come together to evaluate the achievements of the nominees against the standards of international research, placing the winners on par with the finest researchers in the world.

We are delighted to give below the details of the Prizes that have been given during 2008–2011.

Mathematical Sciences

2008: Manindra Agrawal of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur was the first recipient of the Prize. He has made significant contributions to the theory of efficient reactions between computational problems, which are part of the program studying the well-known ‘P vs NP’ question in mathematics/computer science.

2009: Ashoke Sen of the Harish Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad, in recognition of his fundamental contributions to mathematical physics, in particular to string theory.

2010: Chandrashekhar Khare of the University of California at Los Angeles in recognition of his fundamental contributions to number theory, particularly his solution of the Serre conjecture.
2011: Kannan Soundararajan of Department of Mathematics, Stanford University for his ‘path-breaking work’ on number theory.

*Physical Sciences*

2009: Thanu Padmanabhan of the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune, in recognition of his contribution to a deeper understanding of Einstein’s theory of gravity in the context of thermodynamics and large scale structure in cosmology.

2010: Sandip Trivedi of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research for finding an ingenious way to solve two of the most outstanding puzzles of superstring theory simultaneously: What is the origin of dark energy of the Universe? Why is there no massless scalar particle?

2011: Sriram Ramaswamy of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore for his research on various aspects of the collective behaviour of living systems ranging from bacteria to schools of fish in the ocean.

*Life Sciences*

2009: K VijayRaghavan of the National Centre of Biological Sciences, Bangalore, in recognition of his many contributions as a developmental geneticist and neurobiologist.

2010: Chetan E. Chitnis of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), for his pioneering work in understanding the interactions of the malaria parasite and its host, leading to the development of a viable malaria vaccine.

2011: Imran Siddiqi of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad for his breakthrough contributions to the understanding of formation of clonal seeds in plants, which is likely to have applications in agriculture.

*Engineering and Computer Science*

2010: Ashutosh Sharma of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur for his fundamental contributions to mechanics, materials and manufacturing on small scales including self-organization and instabilities, nano-patternning and functional multiscale interfaces.

2011: Kalyanmoy Deb, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur for his work in the fields of evolutionary multi-objective optimization and genetic algorithms.