



Mudumbai Seshachalu Narasimhan, born in 1932, hails from the village of Tandarai, in the North Arcot district of Tamil Nadu. He completed his undergraduate education at the Loyola College, Chennai, and received his B.Sc. Honours degree in Mathematics in 1953. He then joined the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) at Mumbai. He obtained his Ph.D. degree from the University of Bombay in 1960. He was a professor in the School of Mathematics of TIFR till 1992. Thereafter, he was head of the mathematics group at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste, Italy, till 1999. He is an Honorary Fellow of TIFR and is now located at its Bangalore Centre.

While the bulk of his scientific contributions lies in the field of moduli of vector bundles, Professor Narasimhan has made important excursions into other fields such as partial differential equations, mathematical physics and representation theory.

His characterization of real analytic functions via Cauchy type inequalities, obtained in collaboration with Kotake, has been generalized in several directions by other eminent mathematicians. His joint work with S. Ramanan, on the proof of the existence of universal connections, generalizes well known results on the existence of universal bundles in topology. His pioneering work, done jointly with C. S. Seshadri, on unitary and stable bundles, has had important applications in Gauge Theory and Conformal Field Theory in Mathematical Physics. He has obtained several important and beautiful results in the field of moduli of vector bundles, some of which were obtained jointly with S. Ramanan, Harder and others. His work on Representation Theory, done jointly with K. Okamoto, is considered to be the first major breakthrough in the realization of a conjecture of Langlands.

Professor Narasimhan is a fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, the Indian National Science Academy and the National Academy of Sciences, India. He was elected Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences in 1988 and of the Royal Society, London, in 1996.

Amongst the awards he has won are included the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize (1975), the Third World Academy Award for Mathematics (1987) and the King Faisal International Prize for Science (2006). The Government of India awarded him the *Padma Bhushan* (1990) and the French Government made him *Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite*.

Besides his direct research output, Professor Narasimhan has inspired and influenced several mathematicians. His contributions by way of organization of research, particularly in the Third World, are of utmost importance. Professor Narasimhan was one of those responsible for the development of the School of Mathematics at the TIFR, Mumbai. He was also the first chairman of the National Board for Higher Mathematics.

Professor Narasimhan is thus not only a mathematician of great stature but also one who has played a key role in the development of mathematics in post-independent India. The Chennai Mathematical Institute is indeed privileged to honour Professor M. S. Narasimhan by conferring on him the degree of **Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa)**.

