Sundararaman Ramanan was born in 1936 in Thiruvannamalai in the state of Tamil Nadu. He completed his undergraduate education at the Vivekananda College, Chennai, and received his B.A. (Honours) degree in Mathematics from the University of Madras. He then joined the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) at Mumbai in 1957. He obtained his Ph.D. degree from the University of Bombay in 1966, working under the supervision of M.S. Narasimhan. He was a professor in the School of Mathematics of TIFR till 2002. Since then, he has been a visiting professor at the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai and an adjunct professor at the Chennai Mathematical Institute.

A major part of Professor Ramanan's contributions lies in the field of vector bundles on curves. His work (a substantial part of which is in collaboration with M.S. Narasimhan) studying in depth the moduli spaces of vector bundles on curves, constructed earlier by C.S. Seshadri, is amongst the finest achievements in the development of this field. Among other things, this study gave an explicit determination of the moduli spaces in low genus as well as in the case of hyperelliptic curves, a method of identifying the local deformations of (good) moduli, in particular showing that the moduli space determines the curve, and a phenomenon of non-existence of Poincaré families for some of these moduli spaces. An interesting aspect of this study is the beautiful connection it gives with classical algebraic geometry and the use of what is called a 'Hecke correspondence', which has turned out to be important in many other contexts.

Professor Ramanan has also made important contributions in Differential Geometry and other areas of Algebraic Geometry like Geometric Invariant Theory, linear systems on abelian varieties, flag manifolds in positive characteristics, homogeneous vector bundles and Green's conjecture on syzygies of canonical curves. His joint work with M.S. Narasimhan on the existence of universal connections is an influential result and has been extensively used both by mathematicians and physicists.

He is a Fellow of the Indian Academy Sciences, the Indian National Science Academy and the National Academy of Sciences, India. He was awarded the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize in 1979 and the Third World Academy Award for Mathematics in 2001. He was the recipient of the Srinivasa Ramanujan medal of the Indian National Science Academy in 2008.

Professor Ramanan, undoubtedly one of the most influential mathematicians in the post-independence era in India, is a brilliant teacher and has inspired a generation of mathematicians working in this area. He has been closely associated with the Chennai Mathematical Institute, where he has been regularly teaching. The Chennai Mathematical Institute is indeed privileged to honour Professor Ramanan by conferring on him the degree of **Doctor of Sciences (Honoris Causa).**