Ramaiyengar Sridharan was born in 1935 at Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu. He completed his undergraduate education at the Vivekananda College, Chennai, obtaining the B.A. (Honours) degree and then the M.Sc. degree in Mathematics from the University of Madras. He joined the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in 1955 where he remained till his retirement in the year 2000. He obtained his Ph.D. degree from the University of Columbia in New York in 1960, under the supervision of Samuel Eilenberg.

Professor Sridharan has made fundamental contributions to several areas of Algebra, all the while retaining an abiding interest in algebraic number theory. The class of filtered algebras that he classified in his doctoral dissertation have resurfaced in quantum physics and are called Sridharan algebras.

He had a long and fruitful collaboration with Ojanguren of ETH, Zurich. They proved striking results in the Galois theory of purely inseperable extensions of exponent 1 and also proved the beautiful Fundamental Theorem of Projective Geometry over commutative rings. They discovered a phenomenon of non-cancellation occuring in the study of Azumaya algebras over arbitrary base rings, a result in sharp contrast to the commutative case, in view of a theorem of Seshadri. This work initiated the study of the remarkable phenomenon that the analogue of Serre's conjecture on the triviality of principal bundles on affine spaces with semi-simple structure groups, different from the linear case, could have a negative answer.

His other important collaborators include Knus, Parimala and Suresh, with whom he has established important results in the study of low rank quadratic spaces over affine schemes and on the discriminant of involutions on central simple algebras.

In recent years, his eternally inquiring mind has turned to the history of mathematics, with special emphasis on ancient and medieval India, leading to a study of combinatorics and enumeration problems of ancient India related to Sanskrit prosody and music.

He was awarded the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar prize in 1980. He is a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, the Indian National Science Academy and the National Academy of Sciences, India.

Professor Sridharan has been primarily responsible for the development of a modern school of Algebra in India. He is a superb teacher with an unparalleled capacity to inspire students with his lectures. As an outstanding expositor, his writings on various subjects have enthralled mathematicians of all persuasions.

He has been firm in his commitment to teaching and guiding students at CMI for nearly a decade. The Chennai Mathematical Institute is indeed privileged to honour Professor Sridharan by conferring on him the degree of **Doctor of Sciences (Honoris Causa).**