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Thursday , December 29, 2005

[Page One](#) | [Talk](#) | [All Headlines](#)

**NEWS**

**73-yr-old TIFR mathematician wins international award**

*Mudumbai Narasimhan shares King Faisal International Award with UK's Simon Donaldson for path-breaking research in Mathematics*

**Pallavi Singh**

**Mumbai, December 28:** FOR 73-year-old Professor Mudumbai Seshachalu Narasimhan, Monday was just another day.

Till he got the call from the King Faisal Foundation in Dubai. "It's great news. I'm overwhelmed," he said from Bangalore, on winning the King

Faisal International Prize for 2006 for Science. Advertisement

Narasimhan has been awarded for seminal contributions to mathematics, particularly in differential and algebraic geometry, which has gone on to provide a foundation for physical theories.

He shares the prize with UK's Simon Kirwan Donaldson, president of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Professor of Mathematics at Imperial College, London.

The news has brought cheer to the Mathematics department at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai. Professor R

Parimala remarked: "Narasimhan shares the prize with Prof Donaldson, who's a Fields medalist in Mathematics. It's a great honour for the country."

Professor of Mathematics at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Italy, and Narasimhan's student Prof T R Ramadas said: "His work in algebraic and differential geometry was done in the 1960s and 1970s. It's a very important work in maths and later on, emerged to have connections with theoretical physics."

For more than two decades, between mid-1960s and early 1990s, Prof Narasimhan served as professor of Mathematics at TIFR, Mumbai, before moving on to ICTP, Italy, where he served as director of Mathematics for seven years.

Originally from Tamil Nadu, Prof Narasimhan was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1990 for his contribution to the field of Mathematics. He was also elected Fellow of the prestigious Royal Society of London in the mid-1990s.

The King Faisal awards, constituted in 1999, and to be presented in five categories—Science, Medicine, Arabic Language and Literature, Service to Islam and Islamic Studies—will be presented to winners in Riyadh on February 18 next year.

Each of the five prize categories consists of a certificate, a gold medal and a cash award of \$200,000. The foundation, in a statement, said the winners' work has helped establish strong ties between Physics and Mathematics.

**Contributions**

- \* Pioneered path-breaking research in 'Vector Bundles' on the theory of moduli with Prof C S Sheshadri, director, Chennai Mathematical Institute
- \* Evolved the concept of 'Universal Connection', jointly with Prof S Ramanan, TIFR
- \* Developed the Representation Theory of lie groups
- \* One of the people primarily responsible for building the school of Mathematics at TIFR

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