

IIT Bombay is organising an Institute Colloquium on Friday, February 11, 2011. The details are as follows:



Speaker :

Professor Gautam R. Desiraju
Solid State and Structural Chemistry Unit
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

Title : **Science and Engineering Education and Research in India**

Day & Date : Friday, February 11, 2011

Time : 5.15 p.m.

Venue : Main Auditorium, Victor Menezes Convention Centre

All are invited.

Abstract:

Scientific progress is the hallmark of any dynamic and progressive society. India made many moves to increase and improve S&T activity since our independence in 1947. However, the general feeling is that several aspects in our scientific development have been less than satisfactory. We could have done somewhat better, or we could have done things faster. India is in the throes of major economic and social change today. There is an urgency to initiate rapid change with regard to education and research activities in India. The S&T community of this country should ensure that we are the drivers of this change rather than merely observers who react to unexpected happenings. The purpose of the lecture is to survey the situation as the speaker sees it today and to suggest some ideas for further discussion and action. Among the points that the speaker would like to address are:

- 1) Quality and quantity
- 2) Leadership
- 3) Bureaucracy
- 4) The IIT System
- 5) New institutes and universities
- 6) India and China
- 7) The Indian mind set
- 8) Achieving leadership within Asia

About the Speaker:

Professor Gautam R. Desiraju is a structural chemist who works in the Solid State and Structural Chemistry Unit of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India. Prior to this, he had been in the University of Hyderabad for 30 years. He has played a major role in the development and growth of the subject of crystal engineering. He is noted for gaining acceptance for the theme of weak hydrogen bonding among chemists and crystallographers. His books on crystal engineering (Elsevier, 1989) and the weak hydrogen bond in structural chemistry and biology (OUP, 1999) are particularly well known. He is one of the most highly cited Indian scientists with more than 300 research papers, 14000 citations and an h-index of 51. He has won international awards such as the Alexander von Humboldt Forschungspreis and the TWAS award in Chemistry. He has guided the Ph. D work of more than 30 students. Additionally, he has edited three multi-author books in solid state and supramolecular chemistry. He is a consulting editor for *Accounts of Chemical Research*, a member of the International Editorial Advisory Board of *Angewandte Chemie*, a member of the Executive Committee of the International Union of Crystallography and the chair of the first Gordon Research Conference in Crystal Engineering, which will be held in 2010.