



## TechniGraphics Lecture Series

IIT Bombay and TechniGraphicS Foundation invite you to the TechniGraphicS Lecture on Tuesday, December 7, 2010.

The details of the lecture are as follows:



Topic : **From Ape to Angel: A Neurological Perspective on Human Nature**

Speaker : **Dr. V. S. Ramachandran**  
Distinguished professor and director  
Center for brain and cognition  
University of California San Diego and Salk Institute

Date : Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Time & Venue : 5.10 pm, P. C. Saxena Auditorium, IIT Bombay

### Abstract :

The human brain - 3 pound mass of jelly - can contemplate the vastness of interstellar space , the meaning of infinity and zero , and on its own self. How did these astonishing capacities emerge in the human brain and what -if anything - makes our brains fundamentally different from our ape-like cousins?

The lecture, excerpted from our forthcoming book "The tell-tale brain " will discuss issues ranging from how the " self" constructs body image and how neurological disorders can give us valuable insights into such enigmas as creativity , empathy and the nature of the self.

### About the Speaker:

Dr. V.S. Ramachandran is Director of the Center for Brain and Cognition and Professor with the Psychology Department and Neurosciences Program at the University of California, San Diego, and Adjunct Professor of Biology at the Salk Institute. Ramachandran initially trained as a doctor and subsequently obtained a Ph.D. from Trinity College at the University of Cambridge. He has been called "The Marco Polo of neuroscience" by Richard Dawkins and "The modern Paul Broca" by Eric Kandel.

In 2005 he was awarded the Henry Dale Medal and elected to an honorary life fellowship by the Royal Institution of Great Britain. His other honours and awards include fellowships from All Souls College, Oxford, and from Stanford University; the Presidential Lecture Award from the American Academy of Neurology, two honorary doctorates, the annual Ramon Y Cajal award from the International Neuropsychiatry Society, and the Ariens-Kappers medal from the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences. In 2003 he gave the annual BBC Reith lectures and was the first physician/psychologist to give the lectures since they were begun by Bertrand Russel in 1949. In 1995 he gave the Decade of the Brain lecture at the 25<sup>th</sup> annual (Silver Jubilee) meeting of the Society for Neuroscience. Most recently the President of India conferred on him the second highest civilian award and honorific title in India, the Padma Bhushan.

Ramachandran has published over 180 papers in scientific journals (including five invited review articles in the Scientific American). He is author of the acclaimed book "Phantoms in the Brain" that has been translated into nine languages and formed the basis for a two part series on Channel Four TV (UK) and a 1 hour PBS special in USA. NEWSWEEK magazine has named him a member of "The Century Club" – one of the "hundred most prominent people to watch in the next century."

### About Technographics Lecture Series

The Technographics Lecture Series is made possible by a generous donation from the TechniGraphicS Foundation. Deepak Vaidya (IITB Alumnus of 1970, Chemical Engineering) is one of the trustees of the foundation and also the founder and chairman of TechniGraphicS.

### Past Technographics Lectures:

**A case study of Basic Research and Core Technology** -- Prof. Robert Gallager, MIT, USA on September 29, 2008.

**Remembering Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha** – Prof. Devendra Lal, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, San Diego, USA on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009.

**Scaling Limits of Large Systems** -- Prof. S.R.S. Varadhan, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York, USA. on 11th February 2009.

**Leonhard Euler -- his life, personality, discoveries and their impact today** -- Prof. Dr. Rolf Jeltsch, ETH, Zurich, Switzerland on November 23, 2009.

**Modular Biocatalysis** – Prof. Chaitan Khosla, Departments of Chemical Engineering, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Stanford University, USA on September 9, 2010

