

Institute Lecture



Prof. Eluvathingal D. Jemmis

Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

Importance of Early Questions



@ 6.15 pm | Friday, March 06, 2020
Venue: L16, LHC

About the talk

In the beginning of civilization pursuit of knowledge was not compartmentalized; inquisitive minds followed whatever that arose curiosity. The same individuals asked original questions involving humanities and social sciences, mathematics and natural sciences, even before such classifications existed. As knowledge enterprise grew, different disciplines evolved; hierarchies and subdivisions followed. In many ways a young mind is at the stage of a civilizational beginning and must be able to ask original and general questions.

Educational system at the School and at the beginning stages of the university must encourage students to ask questions. These may be trivial or profound, but the habit must begin early. The questions for which immediate answers are not available propel the mind, push the frontiers further. One of the early examples of asking questions in chemistry led to the periodicity of elements and the periodic table, even before electrons, protons and the structure of atom were known. The table of elements is the beginning point for a multitude of continuing questions. An example from his own work will be presented to exemplify these ideas.

About the speaker

Eluvathingal D. Jemmis studied chemistry at IIT Kanpur (MSc), Princeton University (PhD), and Cornell University (PDF), before joining the then newly established University of Hyderabad in 1980. After 25 years Jemmis accepted an invitation from the IISc Bangalore and joined the Inorganic and Physical Chemistry Dept. In June 2008, he went on a five-year deputation to start IISER Thiruvananthapuram. Back in IISc in 2013, he continues teaching and research in structure, bonding and reactivity of molecules, clusters and solids (<http://ipc.iisc.ac.in/edj.php>) and currently holds the Year of Science Chair of SERB. His research work on boron, relating polyhedral boranes to beta-rhombohedral boron (à la benzene to graphite) has become part of chemistry textbooks and is being taught in inorganic and materials chemistry courses around the world. Jemmis has received many awards and honors, including, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize of CSIR (1994), the civilian award Padma Shri (2014), and Fukui Medal (2016). Prof. Jemmis served his alma mater IIT Kanpur in many ways including as a member of its Board of Governors.

All are invited to attend

Dean of Research and Development