

Chapter 1

About Rajaji

Rajaji was born on 21 February 1936 at Kamudi in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu. He had his early education in Kamudi and then in Madurai and went on to study in Madras Christian College from where he obtained B.Sc.(Honours) with top honours.

He later joined the Training School of Atomic Energy Establishment in 1957. After spending three years at the training school and TIFR, he went on to do his Ph.D at the University of Chicago under the supervision of Professor Richard Dalitz.

On his return to India Rajaji spent many years at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Bombay before moving to Madras where he is currently based. In Madras Rajaji was first associated with the University of Madras and later with the Institute of Mathematical Sciences where is presently a distinguished Professor. During his long and eventful career he has held many distinguished visiting positions at various Institutions both in India and abroad. Rajaji is a fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore and fellow of the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi. He is also a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad.

Rajaji's research interests cover a broad spectrum of theoretical Physics—in particular, quantum field theory and high energy Physics. Highlights of his research are included along with his list of publications at the end of the Proceedings.

In addition, Rajaji is a recipient of many awards and honours for his contribution to research, including

- Meghnad Saha Award for research in Theoretical Sciences (1987).
- Federation of Indian Council for Commerce and Industries Award for Physical Sciences including Mathematics (1990).
- SN Bose Medal of the INSA (1998).

Rajaji has served and continues to serve on the apex bodies of many institutions. He has also served on the Editorial boards of some research Journals. His latest passion is his work towards setting up an underground laboratory for neutrino physics—the India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO). He is a passionate advocate of the ethical uses of science and technology. As a member of the group Indian Scientists Against Nuclear Weapons (ISANW), he has strongly and openly voiced his concerns about the misuse of Science for military adventurism.