

# TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING GRASSROOTS INDIA

Ravi Kuchimanchi

---

**Ravi Kuchimanchi** has been involved in efforts from the US and Indian cities to connect with grassroots movements and NGOs in villages of India that work towards **sustainable development** and **social justice**. He works on a range of issues including education, health, agriculture, alternate technology, environment and human rights. In his talk, he will give us a glimpse of how we all can be more aware and get more involved.

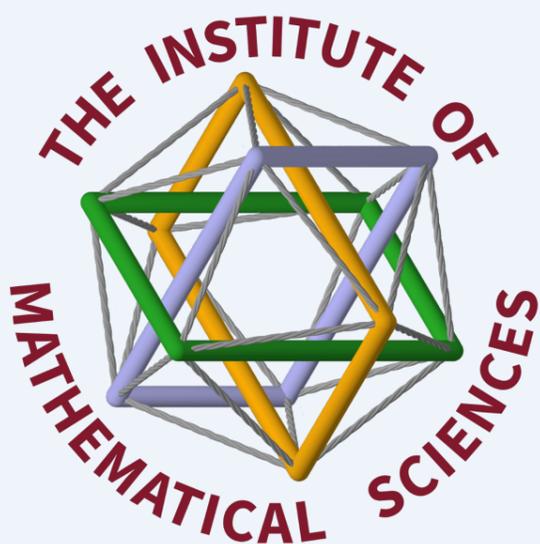


---

Ravi Kuchimanchi has a B.Tech in Civil Engineering from **IIT Bombay** and a PhD in Physics from **University of Maryland**. He has published several papers in international physics journals. His continuing interest and work in physics include the Strong CP Problem, hierarchy problem, leptonic CP violation and left-right symmetric theories. In addition to be a physicist, Ravi founded the **Association for India's Development (AID)** in 1991 with the vision "*problems are interconnected, so must be the solution*". AID has matured into a volunteer movement for sustainable, holistic development with 30 chapters all over the world.

Passionately interested in pursuing **appropriate technology to benefit the under-privileged**, Ravi with his colleagues developed a pedal power generator to light remote village schools where students take turns to pedal. Along with **AID** and **grassroots groups**, he has also led a movement to **electrify 12 hamlets** of the tribal village Bilgaon by tapping the energy of a waterfall. His story inspired the Bollywood film **Swades (2005)** that has become a symbol for Non-Resident Indians interested in India's development. Ravi received various awards and honors over the years, including **Andrei Sakharov Prize** from by the American Physical Society this year "*for his continued research in physics while simultaneously advocating for global policies that reflect science...*"

---



**17:00 – 18:00**

**Friday, 2nd March 2018**

Ramanujan Auditorium,  
Institute of Mathematical Sciences  
IV Cross Road, CIT Campus, Taramani,  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600113  
<http://www.imsc.res.in/>

---

For more details about IMSc outreach activities visit:

<http://www.imsc.res.in/outreach/>