

ICTS Special Colloquium

Title : The Restless Universe (Zwicky Transient Facility)

Speaker : S. R. Kulkarni, California Institute of Technology, USA

Date : Tuesday, January 10, 2017

Time : 11:30 AM

Venue : Madhava Lecture Hall, ICTS Campus, Bangalore

Abstract : Cosmic explosions were first noted nearly two thousand years ago. However, secure recognition and study began only a hundred years ago. Astronomers have discussed a dozen classes of explosions which range from exotic endings and deaths of stars (supernovae). The Universe began only with hydrogen and helium. It is the supernovae which build up the periodic table! The Palomar Transient Factory (PTF), an innovative 2-telescope, and its successor, the Zwicky Transient Factory, is a high tech project with gigantic CCD cameras and sophisticated software system, and squarely aimed to chart the night sky and find "blips in the middle of the night". This project working with the Keck Observatory has already chalked up many novel findings and discoveries and is soon poised to become the stepping stone for the nation's future flagship project, the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope.