

Prof. Gautam R. Desiraju (born, Chennai, 1952; B.Sc., University of Bombay, 1972; Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1976) was in the University of Hyderabad between 1979 and 2009, when he moved to the Solid State and Structural Chemistry Unit, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, where he remains today. His 1989 book *Crystal Engineering* and 1995 review in *Angewandte Chemie* on supramolecular synthons redefined several aspects of the subject of crystal engineering, and in particular led to a greater in-depth study of weak hydrogen bonds. He has been on editorial and advisory boards of top journals like *IUCrJ*, *Acta Crystallographica*, *Angewandte Chemie*, *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, *Chemical Communications* and *Accounts of Chemical Research*.

He is one of the highest cited Indian scientists with 568 research papers, 61184 citations and an h-index of 100. He has won international awards such as the Alexander von Humboldt Forschungspreis and the TWAS award in Chemistry. He is a Past President of the International Union of Crystallography. He is a recipient of honorary doctorate degrees of the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba Argentina, Rayalaseema University, Kurnool and the Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi. He was awarded the Acharya P. C. Ray Medal of the University of Calcutta for Science and Technology and the ISA Medal of Science from the University of Bologna. Recently he has been conferred the van der Waals Prize of ICNI Strasbourg.

Administrative responsibilities that he has shouldered over the years have impelled him to write, comment on and speak about the running of science in India. Extending these ideas further and beyond science he has written a book *Bhārat: India 2.0* that has been released recently and which attempts to highlight these lacunae with reference to what he believes is the core issue in India, an unsuitable system of governance that does not optimally dovetail modernity and economic growth with our civilizational values, diversity and Dharma. This system of governance, laid out in the Constitution of India, is the subject of this book, specifically how it should be modified to suit the present times.

Desiraju strongly believes that in a rapidly changing India, which is transforming into Bhārat, scientists who are thought leaders should actively be a part of this new nation building.

