



These lectures have a lot of text and ideas. I was fond of physics and was studying physics books. But at some point I had to make a decision. I first decided on physics and then changed my mind to choose mathematics, and I am quite happy with my decision.

*What is your approach in doing mathematics; do you pick a problem and say I will work on this or you get interested in understanding something, leading to a problem and perhaps its solution?*

I like to work on well-defined problems and some interesting conjectures which I have been drawn to. I like to have a fairly complete problem in mind when I work but for this fairly concrete work, I get the framework of the general conjecture like Margulis and other researchers

did. When I look at the problem I have something to say about it and think that this is a problem that might be of interest to me and keep it at the back of my mind, and from time to time attend to it.

*How do you think we can carry the spirit of mathematics to the public and make it more visible?*

That's a good question. To some extent the medal has a nice side-effect of making people more aware of mathematics. There has been a fantastic mathematical community for over a long time. When people come to know about Fields medallists, to some extent they learn about the mathematical community. The important audience is young kids, who are in the elementary school or beginning of high school, and we can somehow try to convince them that this is something fun

and they must try to look at some popular mathematics books, solve a few mathematics quizzes, try to participate in mathematics olympiads and somehow get more interested, and may be take a course in an open university.

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## Smile with Science

By - Sumanta Baruah

