

T10 - 15/10/17

# City LIGO scientist named CIFAR scholar, to get \$100k

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** City-based researcher Parameswaran Ajith, who is part of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) project that has discovered four gravitational waves, has been named "2017 Azrieli Global Scholar" by the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research.

Ajith, who led a team that worked on theoretical modelling of gravitational waves that was key in LIGO detections, is the only Indian among the 15 exceptional early-career investigators to bag this prestigious two-year appointment, including \$1,00,000 in research support.

"The programme funds researchers within five years of their first academic appointment, helping them build research networks and develop leadership skills. Members of the programme's second cohort come from the US, Canada, India, Ghana and Italy," CIFAR said in a statement.

Their research interests

include solar cell technology, machine learning, black holes and identifying the biological imprint of stress across generations.

"I am privileged to be part of CIFAR's Gravity and Extreme Universe programme. The support will be valuable for the Astrophysical Relativity group at ICTS - both for research and to expand our societal outreach," Ajith said. He has been at the forefront of gravitational wave astronomy as a member of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration and he joined as a faculty at ICTS-TIFR, Bengaluru in 2013, where he continues research.

"One of our priorities is to nurture the careers of the next generation of researchers," CIFAR president and CEO Alan Bernstein said.

"The Azrieli Foundation is committed to increasing scientific knowledge, and we're honoured to be able to help advance the work of these brilliant young scholars," said Naomi Azrieli, chair and CEO of the foundation.