



Department of Chemical Engineering
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
Fifth Petro Tel distinguished lecture in Chemical Engineering

Speaker: **Prof. M. S. Ananth (Director, Indian Institute of Technology Madras)**
Topic: **The Changing Environment of Higher Education and Some India-Centric Concerns**
Date: **16 February 2010**
Venue : **Outreach Auditorium**
Time: **11:30 to 12:30 (High Tea at 11:00 AM)**

Abstract

This talk identifies major changes in the university's environment in the last decade. The changed environment calls for greater flexibility and responsiveness in the university's operations in its march towards functional and financial autonomy. Coping with these changes, while preserving its core values, poses a variety of challenges. It is argued that while a Strategic Management Plan that articulates institutional responses brings about some semblance of integration in our thinking, it leaves us with a feeling of being outsiders in a Plan of our own articulation because of what may be described as India-centric concerns. The talk will then take the reader through a brief tour of issues that appear to be important in addressing these concerns: the history of education in India, ideas about teaching and learning, education in values and the need for national pride. There are no simple answers but our scientific community is urged to give some thought to these matters that are of concern to all of us.

About the distinguished speaker:

Prof. M. S. Ananth has a Ph. D degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Florida, USA (1972). He has been on the faculty of IIT Madras since 1972, and has been consistently rated as an excellent teacher. His research interests are in Molecular Thermodynamics and Mathematical Modeling. He is a Fellow of the IChE and the INAE. His honors include the Herdillia prize for excellence in basic research and the R.W. Fahien Alumni Award for 2003 by the University of Florida. He has been a Visiting Professor at Princeton University (1982-83), the University of Colorado (1990-91), NIST, Aspen Tech, and RWTH, Aachen, Germany. He has been Director, IIT Madras since 2001. He is one of the architects of 'The Strategic Plan of IITM' and the Principal Coordinator of the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL).

About the Donor

The Petro Tel Distinguished Lecture series in Chemical Engineering at IIT Kanpur, has been endowed by a generous grant from Dr. Anil K. Chopra (B. Tech./ChE/IITK/1976; Ph. D., University of Houston, USA, 1982), President, CEO and Chairman of Petro Tel Inc., 5240 Tennyson Parkway, Suite 207, Plano, TX, USA.

Previous Petro Tel lectures

- 2004 – **Professor M. M. Sharma** (UDCT, Mumbai)
- 2005 – **Professor K. S. Gandhi** (IISc, Bangalore)
- 2006 -- **Professor J. B. Joshi** (Director, UICT, Mumbai)
- 2007 -- **Dr. S. Sivaram** (Director, NCL, Pune)

