

# Institute Lecture

## PAST SUCCESSES AND FUTURE CHALLENGES FOR IIT KANPUR



Prof. E. C. SUBBARAO  
Chief Consulting Advisor at TRDDC

Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015; 6.00 PM\*  
Venue: Outreach Auditorium

### Abstract of the talk:

IIT Kanpur has had a fabulous track record of unique curriculum, grade point system, new promotion system, interdisciplinary research at UG and PG levels, resulting in fifty batches of outstanding students, who made a name for themselves, their alma mater and India. What are the wake-up calls for the second half century? Greater coupling for the faculty and students with Indian industry to make India specific contributions to demonstrate 'leadership' and not just 'following' is one, thereby become a beacon for economic advance of India and other developing countries. Larger number of quality Ph.Ds are to be produced to meet the needs of teaching in enlarged number of teaching institutions and greater base of R&D institutions in the public and private sectors as well as MNCs. The teaching and research at the UG and PG levels should focus on exciting challenges in the Indian engineering and manufacturing industries, besides in IT. Quality publications, exploitable innovative patents and entrepreneurship should move to the centre stage. Aggressive recruitment of high caliber faculty, some of them as joint appointees with industry, should be coupled with induction of visiting faculty from abroad as well as industry and R&D institutions in India. Faculty promotions and recognitions should be based on transparent record of performance by international standards and should include quality of teaching, research and industrial interaction, the number of Ph.D's guided, publications, patents and awards by peer groups. These will enable IIT Kanpur to go higher on the strong shoulders of the first half century.

### About the Speaker:

Prof. E. C. Subbarao was born in Narsapur, Andhra Pradesh, in 1928. He was educated in a school located in a remote village without electricity. An excellent student, he went on to do his BSc Tech degree from Banaras Hindu University, a Master's degree from the University of Washington and a PhD from Pennsylvania State University. He worked as a research engineer in Westinghouse Research Laboratories, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from 1956 to 1963, establishing his research credentials.

When Prof. Subbarao decided to return to India for the second phase of his career, he joined the newly started Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, in 1963 in his first teaching position. He was a professor at IITK till 1981, He was the first department head of metallurgical engineering, the first dean of faculties, and established the Interdisciplinary Centre for Materials Science. A key player in the transformation of IIT Kanpur into a world-class institution, Prof. Subbarao contributed to the intellectual, administrative and international aspects of this process.

Prof. Subbarao's research and academic achievements in materials science, as embodied in his several books and papers in high-impact journals, are recognized by fellowships of the three academics of science and engineering in India. In recognition of his outstanding contributions, IIT Kanpur conferred its first Honorary Fellowship on Prof. Subbarao in 2006.

In 1981, Prof. Subbarao became the founder-director of Tata Research Development and Design Centre, Pune, a division of Tata Consultancy Services, set up to apply Science and Technology for the benefit of Indian industry and people. The 'Spirit of IITK' helped him in building this first institution of its kind. At present, he is the Chief Consulting Advisor at TRDDC.

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All interested are welcome to attend.

\*Tea at 5:45 PM

Prof. K. Muralidhar  
Dean of Research and Development