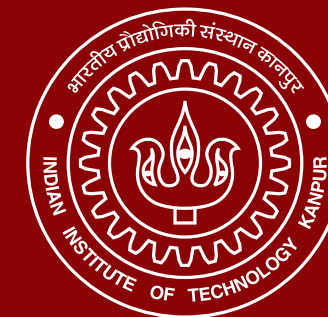


# भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान कानपुर Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur



## संस्थान स्थापना दिवस THE INSTITUTE FOUNDATION DAY

बृहस्पतिवार, 2 नवंबर 2023  
THURSDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 2023

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Institute Fellow Recognition

Distinguished Alumnus Award | Distinguished Services Award  
Young Alumnus Award | Satyendra K. Dubey Memorial Award

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## Director's Message

Warm Foundation Day Greetings to everyone!

This year marks the 64th anniversary of the establishment of this glorious Institute. I would like to take this opportunity to remember and honour all of the visionary leaders who established the IIT Kanpur ethos and shaped the Institute into what it is today.

Academics at IIT Kanpur has always been driven by intellectual curiosity and a desire to learn. Last year, the institute has launched two new MTech programmes: one in Cognitive Systems and one in Unmanned Aerial Systems. Under the e-Masters initiative, several new online post-graduate level programmes in contemporary topics for working professionals were launched; these include (i) Construction Engineering, (ii) Sustainable Construction Practises and Project Management, (iii) Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, (iv) Business Leadership in the Digital Age, (v) Financial Technology & Management, Climate Finance and Sustainability, (vi) Renewable Energy, and (vii) e-Mobility among others. Furthermore, IIT Kanpur, in collaboration with IIT Madras, is advising Sindhu Central University in Ladakh on programmes such as MTech in Energy Technology & Policy, Atmospheric & Climate Sciences, and MA in Public Policy. A few years back, the institute has established the Mehta Family Centre for Engineering in Medicine, primarily to promote research in engineering solutions for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. I would like to thank the Bhupat & Jyoti Mehta Family Foundation on behalf of the Institute for their generous support in establishing this centre. I am happy to share the good news that a dedicated building to house the centre is now complete and will be inaugurated on November 6th, and I cordially invite you to attend the event. It is my pleasure to inform you that, recently an initiative for establishment of 'School of Sustainability' on campus has been approved by Board of Governors, IIT Kanpur.

As a testament to the Institute's sprawling research and development (R&D) ecosystem propelling cutting-edge exploration and nurturing a fertile ground for entrepreneurial endeavors, IIT Kanpur has been ranked number one by the National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) for the year 2023 under the Innovation Category. The Institute built the online platform for the central government, called the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), for citizens to lodge their grievances 24x7, and this AI-based platform won the National Award for e-Governance by the Government of India. The Institute has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Laurus Labs, an international pharmaceutical and biotechnology business based in India, marking a significant historical milestone. Laurus Labs has made a substantial financial commitment to build a cutting-edge facility for creating vehicles for gene therapy applications in TechnoPark of IIT Kanpur. This partnership represents a paradigm change for bioengineering innovation and advancement in India. Similarly, a tripartite MoU has also been signed between IIT Kanpur, Kalyan Singh Super Speciality Cancer Institute, Lucknow, and the Karkinos Healthcare Private Limited to establish the Center for Advanced

Molecular Diagnostics and Research for Cancer, leveraging the expertise of the Institute in biosciences and big data analytics. These programmes are launched as part of the R&D initiatives of the Gangwal School of Medical Sciences and Technology. Additionally, the Institute's Startup Innovation & Incubation Centre (SIIC) keeps up its great work, currently housing an impressive 156 incubated companies in its portfolio.

IIT Kanpur is internationally renowned for its education and research, and international collaborations have grown by leaps and bounds in recent years. Recent major initiatives include an MoU with the State University of New York at Buffalo, USA, to establish the IITK-UB Joint Centre of Excellence in Biomedicine and Bioengineering at IIT Kanpur, an MoU with the University of Alberta, Canada to collaborate on a Joint Degree Programme (JDP) and research, and an MoU with New York University Tandon School of Engineering to establish the NYU Tandon IIT Kanpur Advanced Research Centre.

IIT Kanpur has received significant support from alumni. The enormous contribution and deep involvement of our alumni has greatly shaped the Institute's growth, for which we are truly grateful. After a gap of two years due to the pandemic, on-campus reunions took place. I am delighted to report that it was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervour, with our beloved alumni reconnecting and reminiscing about their time on campus. We hosted over 750 alumni and their spouses (a total of 1200+) on campus over 14 reunions. It is my pleasure to inform you that IIT Kanpur's distinguished delegation, 'IIT Karvaan,' visited Australia and the United States with the primary goal of continuing dialogue with the vast alumni based in these countries, as well as reviewing and enriching international collaborations with our partner universities, namely La Trobe University, University of Melbourne, Curtin University, Australian National University, and University of New South Wales. Our alumni enthusiastically participated in alumni networking events held in various locations across both countries. Our alumni continue to receive national and international recognition for their outstanding achievements, bringing great pride to their alma mater.

Finally, and most importantly, I would like to congratulate all the esteemed recipients of the Institute Fellow recognition, Distinguished Alumnus Award, Distinguished Services Award, Young Alumnus Award, and Satyendra K. Dubey Memorial Award.

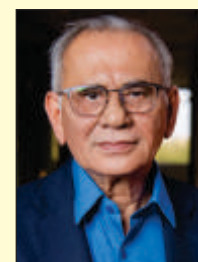
Happy Foundation Day, once again!

Jai Hind!

S Ganesh

## INSTITUTE FELLOW RECOGNITION

The Institute Fellow award instituted by IIT Kanpur in 2005 is to recognize and honour the contributions of those individuals who have eminently contributed to the overall growth of the Institute, which in turn, has caused impacts on Indian society not only in the fields of education, academics, industrial development, etc. but also on the overall wellbeing of society, and has fetched for the nation, laurels and glories from within the country as well as abroad.



**Prof. Deepak Kunzru**  
BT/CHE/1968  
Dean, Graduate School & Research  
Distinguished Professor  
Ahmedabad University  
Former Professor  
Dept. of Chemical Engineering, IIT Kanpur



**Prof. Achla Misri Raina**  
PhD/HSS/1992  
Former Professor  
Dept. of Humanities & Social Sciences  
IIT Kanpur



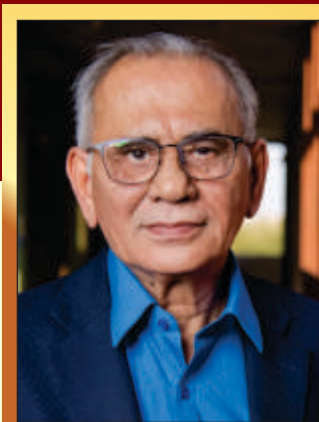
**Shri Rakesh Gangwal**  
BT/ME/1975  
Co-Founder, Indigo Airlines



**Shri Muktesh Pant**  
BT/CHE/1976  
Independent Director of the board  
at Beyond Meat



## Institute Fellow Recognition



### **Prof. Deepak Kunzru (BT/CHE/1968)**

Dean, Graduate School & Research, Distinguished Professor, Ahmedabad University Former Professor- Dept. of Chemical Engineering, IIT Kanpur

Prof. Deepak Kunzru is currently the Dean, Graduate School & Research and Distinguished Professor at Ahmedabad University. He received his B.Tech. from IIT Kanpur in 1968 and Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1972. He joined IITK as a faculty in 1974 and superannuated in June 2013. He was re-employed as Emeritus Professor till June 2016. During September – December 2009, he was a Visiting Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, U.S.A. He held the Chevron Chair Professorship at IITK from 2007–2010 and again from 2011 to 2012.

Prof. Kunzru has contributed significantly in the areas of chemical reactor modeling, catalyst development and modeling of petroleum refinery processes. His work on hydrocarbon pyrolysis has contributed significantly to the understanding of these complex reactions. His recent research focuses on the use of microstructured reactors for process intensification. He has published more than 110 papers in reputed journals and has edited one book. He has been the Professor-in-Charge for several projects at IITK. In addition to his research, he is also regarded as an excellent teacher.

He also held several administrative posts at IIT Kanpur. He served as Vice-Chairman: JEE, Head, Dept. of Chemical Engineering; Dean Resource Planning and Generation, and Dean R&D. He has served as an expert in several national committees. He was a member of the Programme Advisory Committee of DST/SERB from 2001–2015 and Chairman of this committee from 2015–2018; Independent Director of Green Gas Ltd (2015–2018) and Member, Board of Governors, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology (2007–16). He has been elected as Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering (2002) and the National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad (2009), and has been a recipient of the Herdillia Award, Kuloor Memorial Award, IChE (1999, 2015), G.M. Abhyankar Memorial Distinguished Fellowship for 2010–2011, and Chemcon Distinguished Award Lecture, 2018.

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In recognition of his stellar contributions to this Institute as a researcher, teacher, and an academic-administrator, and to society at large, IIT Kanpur takes great pride in honouring Prof. Deepak Kunzru as an Institute Fellow 2022.

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## Institute Fellow Recognition



### **Prof. Achla Misri Raina (PhD/HSS/1992)**

Former Professor – Dept. of Humanities & Social Sciences, IIT Kanpur

Prof. Achla Misri Raina joined the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) in 1994 and superannuated in 2023. During nearly three decades at the Institute, Prof. Raina made significant contributions as a linguist, language educator and beyond.

Prof. Raina's research contributions in Generative Linguistics, Cognitive Linguistics, Computational Linguistics and allied fields have earned her recognition among her peers at the national and global levels. Her recent research has focussed primarily on languages of the Indic stock, leveraging insights from cognitive approaches to language study. She has mentored several doctoral, postgraduate and undergraduate students in these areas.

Prof. Raina's pedagogical practice rested on the premise that HSS offer an alternate mode of cognition crucial for a holistic science and science-based engineering education. Her language education campaign, built around the concept of multilingual classroom engagement as a resource, has enabled generations of students to integrate seamlessly into the academic life of IIT Kanpur. Prof. Raina gave direction to the Interdisciplinary Programme (IDP) in Cognitive Science as its founding Head and was one of the driving forces behind its transition into an independent department at IIT Kanpur.

Prof. Raina took great interest in governance issues, contributing to the Institute in several administrative capacities. She served as Chairperson, SPGC, Coordinator of the Senate and was later elected as the Senate nominee on the Board of Governors of IIT Kanpur. As Dean, Academic Affairs, she was the first woman Dean of IIT Kanpur. It was under her inspirational leadership that the Institute adopted the remote teaching-learning paradigm for successive semesters of the COVID-19 hiatus over the in-house platform, HelloIITK. Her guiding philosophy was to try and bridge the digital divide and reach out to each and every student.

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In recognition of her stellar contributions to this Institute as a researcher, teacher, and an academic-administrator, IIT Kanpur takes great pride in honouring Prof. Achla Misri Raina as an Institute Fellow 2022.

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Institute Fellow Recognition



**Shri Rakesh Gangwal**  
**(BT/ME/1975)**  
Co- Founder, Indigo Airlines

Shri Rakesh Gangwal is a prominent figure in the aviation industry and is the Co-founder of IndiGo Airlines. He is widely regarded as an innovator and thought leader and is globally respected for his deep fundamental knowledge of the airline industry. Currently, along with his daughter, Ms. Parul Gangwal, he has founded Wheelhouse Capital which is a venture capital and private equity firm.

He obtained his BTech degree in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1975. After completing his undergraduate studies, at the age of 23, he went on to pursue an MBA in Finance from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1979. He co-founded IndiGo Airlines in 2006. Under his leadership, IndiGo went on to become India's largest and most successful airlines. He has also served on the boards of US Airways, Worldspan Technologies, CarMax, PetSmart and OfficeMax. He also joined United Airlines as Manager- Strategic Planning, where he held a series of positions. He also served as the Executive Vice President for Air France and the President and CEO of US Airways Group.

In 2020, he was ranked No. 359 in the Forbes 400 list of the richest people in America, he was also recognized by the BusinessWeek magazine as '25 Top Global Executives' in 1999 and as the first Indian-born CEO to head a Fortune 50 company in the United States. He was bestowed with the Distinguished Alumnus Award by IIT Kanpur in 2000. Shri Rakesh Gangwal has been one of the greatest benefactors of IIT Kanpur. He has contributed to several academic and R & D initiatives like Champa Devi gangwal Chair and partnership with Airbus. In April 2022, he contributed generously to set up the Gangwal School of Medical Sciences and Technology at IIT Kanpur, which will house a super specialty hospital and several R & D centres of excellence. With his vast expertise and knowledge he is also contributing as a member of the advisory board for the medical school.



IIT Kanpur takes great pride in conferring upon Shri Rakesh Gangwal the Award of Institute Fellow 2022 in recognition of his stellar contributions to the Institute and society at large.



Institute Fellow Recognition



**Shri Muktesh Pant**  
**BT/CHE/1976**  
Independent Director of the board at Beyond Meat

Shri Muktesh Pant currently serves as a Senior Advisor at Beyond Meat. He is also the former CEO of Yum! Restaurants in China. Besides his analytical incisiveness, Shri Pant's success in managing companies is known to be steeped in his social awareness, human understanding, and human relationships. His commitment to integrity and honesty is of utmost order and his unique style of functioning has been described in today's business world as hands-on without interfering.

He obtained his BTech in Chemical Engineering in 1976 from IIT Kanpur. From 1976 to 1992, he worked in various executive capacities at Unilever in India and the United Kingdom and built a strong foundation in marketing and international business. From 1992 to 1994, he worked at PepsiCo in PepsiCo's India startup. In 1995, he joined Reebok and helped Reebok to set up its operations in India for the first time. Shri Pant became the CEO of Yum! Restaurants China on 18 August 2015. He is a long-time Yum! Veteran. He brought his vast knowledge, best practices from around the globe and strategic, brand building expertise to Yum Restaurants China. Yum! is the leading retail developer in China with more than 7,100 restaurants in over 1,100 cities. During Shri Pant's tenure, Yum! Targeted non-US markets heavily in response to the increased consumer spending on food in the developing world. Shri Pant, with his vast knowledge of best practices from around the globe and strategic, brand-building expertise, is a renowned global corporate leader. He was conferred with the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2010 by IIT Kanpur.

He generously contributed for the establishment of 'Shivani Centre for the Nurture and Re-Integration of Hindi & Other Indian Languages (OILs)' at IIT Kanpur in 2021, to pay homage to his mother Shivani, an acclaimed Hindi writer. The center provides a soft landing to students from Hindi and other vernacular backgrounds and helping them to integrate seamlessly into the institute's socio-academic atmosphere. He has also generously contributed to establish Gangwal School of Medical Sciences and Technology at IIT Kanpur. With his vast expertise and knowledge he is also contributing as a member of the advisory board for the medical school. He has been one of our greatest ambassadors taking the message of the Institute's progress to the IITK alumni community and beyond.



IIT Kanpur takes great pride in conferring upon Shri Muktesh Pant the Award of Institute Fellow 2022 in recognition of his stellar contributions to the institute and the society at large.





### **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD**

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The Distinguished Alumnus Award (DAA) is the highest award given by IIT Kanpur to its alumni in recognition of their outstanding achievements. Every year, the institute works with its alumni to identify and honour individuals who have made stellar contributions in their respective fields of expertise and left a global imprint. Since 1989, this honour has been bestowed upon a total of 159 alumni for their Academic Excellence, Professional Excellence, Entrepreneurship and Management Excellence, and activities pertaining to the service to humanity.

### **DISTINGUISHED SERVICES AWARD**

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The Distinguished Services Award (DSA) is to recognize the efforts of alumni doing exemplary service to further the Institute's stature and standing. These individuals act as an army of invisible goodwill ambassadors in various fields, to augment and support institute's efforts in various ways like facilitating project collaborations, academic collaborations, industry collaborations, alumni interaction, student workshops, student mentoring, summer projects, fundraising, placements, etc.

### **YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD**

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The Young Alumnus Award (YAA) is to recognize those alumni who are less than 40 years of age, and have contributed significantly to achieve exemplary recognition and distinguish themselves during the early stages of their career in their chosen domain bringing glory to their alma mater.

### **SATYENDRA K. DUBEY MEMORIAL AWARD**

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Satyendra K. Dubey Memorial Award (SKDA) has been instituted by IIT Kanpur in the memory of its alumnus, Late Mr. Satyendra K. Dubey (BT/CE/1994) who sacrificed his life while upholding the integrity and dignity of his profession. Every year, the SKDA is conferred to an alumnus of any IIT who has distinguished himself by displaying the highest professional integrity in upholding human values. Since 2005, this honour has been bestowed upon IIT alumni.



**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD**



**Shri Anup Bagchi**  
BT/CHE/1990



**Prof. Ashish Goel**  
BT/CSE/1994



**Dr. Charu Chandra Aggarwal**  
BT/CSE/1993



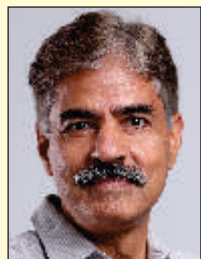
**Shri Rajnish Kumar**  
BT/CSE/2001



**Dr. Venkat Krishnamurthy**  
BT/CSE/1992



**Shri Durga Shanker Mishra**  
BT/EE/1983



**Prof. Pankaj Jalote**  
BT/EE/1980



**Dr. Renu Mehra**  
BT/EE/1991



**Prof. Yashwant Gupta**  
BT/EE/1985



**Shri Prashant Kumar Jain**  
BT/ME/1989



**Shri Anil Bansal**  
BT/MME/1977



**Prof. Atish Dabholkar**  
MSc5/PHY/1985

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICES AWARD**



**Shri Gautam Khanna**  
BT/ME/1988



**Shri Jai Shankar Sharma**  
BT/MME/1977

**YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD**



**Dr. Mohit Bansal**  
BT/CSE/2008



**Dr. Pravesh K Kothari**  
BT/EE/2010

**SATYENDRA K. DUBEY MEMORIAL AWARD**



**Shri Ashok Kamath**  
MSc/MTH/1981 IIT Bombay



**Shri Somay Vinayak Munde, IPS**  
BT/Dual/CHE/2013 IIT Bombay



Distinguished Alumnus Award



**Shri Anup Bagchi**  
**(BT/CHE/1990)**  
Managing Director & CEO  
ICICI Prudential Life Insurance

Shri Anup Bagchi is currently the MD and CEO of ICICI Prudential Life. He joined the ICICI Group in 1992 where he has amassed a wealth of experience across various sectors, including retail banking, corporate banking, and treasury. During his tenure as the Managing Director & CEO of ICICI Securities from 2011 to 2016, the organization achieved an impressive feat by winning the prestigious Outlook Money Award for India’s Best E-Brokerage House for seven consecutive years. He held office as an Executive Director and Chief Effective in 2017 and headed the Wholesale Banking, Transaction Banking, Markets Group and Proprietary Trading Group. He is also on the Board of ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company and served as the MD and CEO of ICICI Securities prior to this. He was responsible for the development and growth of the retail broking, retail financial product distribution and wealth management businesses.

He is an engineer turned banker who has represented his organization in numerous regulatory committees of important organizations including the RBI and SEBI. He served on both the Committee on Financial and Regulatory Technologies (CFRT) of SEBI and the Expert Committee on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) of the RBI. He served as co-chair of the FICCI's Capital Markets Committee, a member of the Executive Committee of National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL), and the Advisory Committee of BSE Ltd. In addition, he served on the SEBI's Risk Management Review Committee, Committee on Financial and Regulatory Technologies, and Committee on Fair Market Conduct. He has been honored with 'The Asian Banker Retail Finance Person of the Year Award in Asia Pacific' at the Asian Banker Excellence in Retail Financial Services Awards 2021 for helping grow the Bank’s retail business through digital transformation.

He received his bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1990 and subsequently went on to earn management degree from IIM Bangalore. He has worked extensively in the areas of retail banking, treasury, investment banking, small scale industry, payment & settlement systems.



Honouring his stellar contribution in the field of Financial services and Industry, IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Anup Bagchi the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2023.



Distinguished Alumnus Award



**Prof. Ashish Goel**  
**(BT/CSE/1994)**  
Professor at Stanford University

Prof. Ashish Goel currently serves as a professor at Stanford University. His research interests lie in the design, analysis, and applications of algorithms, with a focus on social networks, social choice, and market design. Additionally, he is a member of Stanford's Institute of Computational and Mathematical Engineering and a faculty affiliate at the Institute for Human-centred Artificial Intelligence.

The research group he leads has developed two widely deployed decision making platforms: the Stanford Participatory Budgeting Platform and the Stanford Online Deliberation Platform. He served as technical advisor and research fellow at Twitter from 2010 to 2014 where he designed and prototyped their early personalization and monetization algorithms. He is the recipient of many prestigious awards and honors, such as the Alfred P. Sloan Faculty Fellowship, a Terman Faculty Fellowship from Stanford, and an NSF Career Award. He was also the recipient of the inaugural Rajeev Motwani Mentorship Award, a Test of Time Award from ACM SIGecom, and was a finalist for the Franz Edelman Award.

Prof. Ashish Goel received his bachelor’s degree in Computer Science & Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1994. He subsequently went on to earn his doctorate also in Computer Science from Stanford in 1999.



Honouring his stellar contribution in the field of applied algorithms, IIT Kanpur confers upon Prof. Ashish Goel the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2023.



Distinguished Alumnus Award



**Dr. Charu Chandra Aggarwal**  
**BT/CSE/1993**  
Distinguished Research Staff (DRSM)  
IBM T. J. Watson Research Center

Dr. Charu Chandra Aggarwal is a Distinguished Research Staff Member (DRSM) at the IBM T. J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, New York. Dr. Aggarwal has published extensively in data mining, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. He has authored nine books, including graduate textbooks in the areas of machine learning, linear algebra, probability/statistics, and artificial intelligence. Due to the commercial value of his patents, he has thrice been designated a Master Inventor at IBM. He is a recipient of the IBM Outstanding Innovation Award for his scientific contributions to privacy technology and a recipient of two IBM Outstanding Technical Achievement Awards for his research on data streams and high-dimensional data.

Dr. Aggarwal is a distinguished figure in the field of machine learning and data mining, and is renowned for his pioneering contributions to high-dimensional data analysis, outlier ensembles, and data stream research. His groundbreaking work laid the foundation for new research areas within these domains, making him a trailblazer in the field long before the era of big data became widespread. His accolades include the prestigious EDBT 2014 Test-of-Time Award, which recognized his outstanding work on condensation-based privacy-preserving data mining. This work was praised as a prime example of how a simple idea can lead to a profound and sustained impact on original research. Dr. Aggarwal's impact extends beyond research recognition. He has chaired numerous top-tier conferences and served as the editor-in-chief of prominent journals and magazines, including ACM SIGKDD Explorations and the ACM Transactions on Knowledge Discovery from Data. His editorial leadership has been instrumental in shaping the direction of the field.

He is a highly esteemed fellow of professional organizations like SIAM, ACM, and IEEE, in recognition of his significant contributions to data mining and artificial intelligence. Additionally, Dr. Aggarwal has received an array of prestigious awards, including the IEEE W. Wallace McDowell Award, ACM SIGKDD Innovation Award, and IEEE ICDM Research Contributions Award, among others. He received his undergraduate degree in computer science from the IIT Kanpur in 1993 and his PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1996.

“Honouring his stellar contributions in the field of data mining and artificial intelligence, IIT Kanpur confers upon Dr. Charu Chandra Aggarwal the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2023.”

Distinguished Alumnus Award



**Shri Rajnish Kumar**  
**(BT/CSE/2001)**  
Co-Founder & Group CPTO,  
ixigo (Le Travenues Technology Ltd)

Shri Rajnish Kumar is a visionary Co-founder and multifaceted leader at ixigo (Le Travenues Technology Limited), where he holds the title of Group Chief Product and Technology Officer (CPTO). Armed with a Bachelor of Technology degree in Computer Science and Engineering from the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Shri Rajnish's journey in the travel industry has been nothing short of remarkable. Before embarking on his ixigo adventure in 2007, Shri Rajnish Kumar honed his skills at Amadeus in France, where he contributed significantly in various software engineering capacities. His expertise in technology, coupled with a deep-rooted passion for the travel sector, laid the foundation for ixigo's meteoric rise.

Under Shri Kumar's astute guidance, the ixigo Group has evolved into a trailblazing Online Travel Agency (OTA) catering not only to existing users but also to the Next Billion Users. Shri Rajnish's prowess in strategic leadership has propelled ixigo to secure a commanding 50% market share in the railway OTA sector, a remarkable feat in India's travel landscape. With an unwavering commitment to harnessing the power of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data science, Mr. Kumar has overseen the development of groundbreaking innovations that benefit over 66 million monthly active users in India. These users rely on ixigo to seamlessly plan, book, and manage their journeys across trains, flights, buses, and hotels.

In recognition of ixigo's impact and innovation, it has consistently ranked among the Top 10 downloaded travel apps globally. In 2022, it further solidified its position as the 8th fastest-growing OTA app, according to data.ai, a testament to Mr. Kumar's leadership acumen. His skill set extends beyond technology; he is a master at harmonizing technology with business goals. His role as a co-founder in the company encompasses a broad spectrum, including new product development, technological advancements, product & growth marketing, research & AI initiatives, and the recruitment of top global talent. In doing so, Shri Kumar continues to shape the future of travel, leaving an indelible mark on the industry.

“Honouring his stellar contributions in the fields of AI based applications, data science-led innovations and Entrepreneurship, IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Rajnish Kumar the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2023.”



Distinguished Alumnus Award



**Dr. Venkat Krishnamurthy**  
**(BT/CSE/1992)**  
President and Co-founder of Alignable, Inc.

Dr. Venkat Krishnamurthy is currently the President and Co-founder of Alignable, where his visionary leadership has been instrumental in creating the largest network of business owners in North America.

Dr. Krishnamurthy's remarkable career spans several influential roles. While still at Stanford, he co-founded invisAlign (an orthodontic company now publicly listed on the NYSE.) He then distinguished himself as the visionary Founder and CTO of Paraform Inc. from 1998 to 2002, followed by a pivotal tenure as VP of Engineering at Metris NV from 2002 to 2004 that led to their acquisition by Nikon. Subsequently, he assumed the role of CTO at OAT Systems Inc. from 2004 to 2008, and following their acquisition by Checkpoint Systems was CTO for Checkpoint from 2008 to 2011. From September 2011 to January 2014, Dr. Venkat was an instructor and research affiliate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with a focus on driving Radical Innovation within larger enterprises. His philanthropic spirit took shape in January 2003 when he established GK Trust with his father and sister, and subsequently GK Vidyalyaya in Tirunelveli (Sankarnagar), TN, a school for underprivileged children, demonstrating his commitment to providing quality education to underserved communities.

Dr. Krishnamurthy is currently a board member of Grand Circle Corporation since January 2012. His advisory role has been instrumental in guiding the company's transformation into a digital marketing powerhouse. Since July 2020, he is a board member at Cementos Pacasmayo where he advises the company on their digital innovation strategy.

He was the Presidential Gold Medalist for the class of 1992 at IIT Kanpur, completing a B.Tech in Computer Science. He then pursued a PhD in Computer Science at Stanford University from 1992 to 1997. His innovative research in 3D graphics earned him an Academy Award in 2001 for Technical Achievement from the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences. His career has been characterised by his serial entrepreneurship, inventive prowess, and hands-on leadership. Beyond academia, Dr. Venkat is a fervent advocate for equitable access to quality education for disadvantaged children, a passion that has fueled his philanthropic endeavours.

“ Honouing his stellar contribution in the field of digital marketing and entrepreneurship, IIT Kanpur confers upon Dr. Venkat Krishnamurthy the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2023. ”

Distinguished Alumnus Award



**Shri Durga Shanker Mishra**  
**(BT/EE/1983)**  
Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh  
Govt. of Uttar Pradesh

Shri Durga Shanker Mishra is a 1984 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre. He is currently Chief Secretary to the Government of Uttar Pradesh since 30th December, 2021. He was Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary and Chairman of the Delhi and all other Metro Rail Corporations in the country from 21st June 2017 to 29th December 2021.

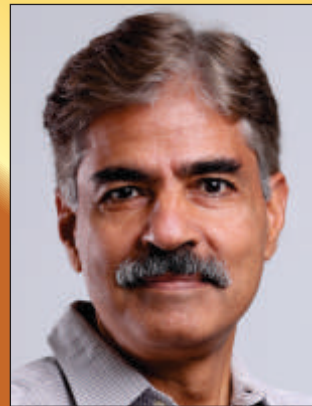
He has held various pivotal roles in both the Government of India and the Government of Uttar Pradesh. These roles include serving as Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, Principal Secretary, Urban Development, Tax & Registration, Agriculture and Civil Aviation; Secretary, Health & Family Welfare and Food & Drug Administration; Project Director, UP Health Systems Development Project (UPHSDP), Managing Director, Uttar Pradesh Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation (SCFDC), District Magistrate and Collector for Agra and Sonbhadra districts, Vice Chairman of the Kanpur Development Authority, and Municipal Commissioner of Kanpur in Govt. of Uttar Pradesh. At the national level, he has served as the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Urban Development, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Mines, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, and Chief Vigilance Officer of the Airports Authority of India in the Central Government.

He received his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from IIT Kanpur and subsequently went on to earn MBA degree in International Business from the University of Western Sydney. He holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Public Policy from International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague and a Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management from All India Management Association (AIMA).

“ Honouing his stellar contribution in the field of Public Services, IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Durga Shanker Mishra the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2023. ”



Distinguished Alumnus Award



**Prof. Pankaj Jalote**  
**(BT/EE/1980)**  
Distinguished Professor Indraprastha Institute  
of Information Technology (IIIT) Delhi

Prof. Pankaj Jalote is the founding Director (from 2008 to 2018) of IIIT-Delhi, where he is currently a Distinguished Professor. Earlier he has been an Assistant Professor at University of Maryland College Park, Chair Professor at IIT Delhi, and Head of Computer Science Department at IIT Kanpur. He has also been Vice President at Infosys for 2 years and Visiting Researcher at Microsoft in Redmond for 1 year.

He has served on the editorial boards of IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering, IEEE Tran on Service Computing, International Journal of Empirical Software Engineering, and Software Process and Experience. He was the General Chair of ICSE2014 and RE07 conferences, and program chair for APSEC2006, ISEC2008, ISEC2009, CSEET2009, ISSRE2009. He has given over 20 Keynotes/plenary talks in national and international conferences (e.g. ER2022, ACM Compute 2018, SRDS2010, ASEET2009, COMPSAC2008, APSEC2002). His current technical research interests are in Software Engineering, AI for Software Engineering, and Higher Education.

Prof. Jalote has been honoured with the Elected Fellow, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers for contributions to software process improvement, fault tolerant computing, and software engineering education in 2003, Elected Fellow of Indian National Academy of Engineering, in 2010, Silver Jubilee Award for Best Selling Author by Narosa for An Integrated Approach to Software Engineering, in 2002 for an Integrated Approach to Software Engineering, Infosys Managerial Award, 1997-98 for spearheading the quality efforts.

Prof. Pankaj Jalote earned his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering at IIT Kanpur in 1980. He subsequently went on to earn his master and doctorate degrees in Computer Science from Pennsylvania State University in 1981 and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 1985 respectively.

“Honouring his stellar contribution to higher education and institution building in India, Software Engineering education, research and industry practice, IIT Kanpur confers upon Prof. Pankaj Jalote the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2023.”

Distinguished Alumnus Award



**Dr. Renu Mehra**  
**(BT/EE/1991)**  
Vice President Engineering  
Synopsys, Inc.

Dr. Renu Mehra is the Vice-President of Engineering, Synopsys Inc. She heads Design Compiler and RTL Architect product lines covering synthesis and early exploration for chip design. Design Compiler has been the leading synthesis tool for the semiconductor industry for the last few decades. Earlier she has also worked at Clearwater Networks on network processor design. During her time at Synopsys, she has led teams that have delivered several advanced technologies, including RTL synthesis, power optimization and management, design planning, and language abstraction; and had led cross product initiatives. She is a pioneer in automation for power management and provided one of the early visions for an automated solution for this area. She was a founding member of the IEEE 1801 working group that created the Unified Power Format, now the dominant power intent specification for the semiconductor chips.

Dr. Mehra is active in the academic and research communities for electronic design automation, contributing to International Conferences in technical and leadership roles. She serves on the Executive Committee for the Design Automation Conference, the premier conference in design automation, in various capacities including engineering track chair, technical program committee chair among others. She has been Program and General Chair for the International Symposium for Low Power Electronics and Design, and is currently on the Executive Committee. She holds several U.S. patents and has published her work in international conferences and journals. Her areas of interests include algorithms for EDA including AI and ML approaches, focused on synthesis, power management, design space exploration, and high-level abstractions for chip design.

Dr. Mehra received the Marie Pistilli Women in Electronic Design Award in 2021 for her contributions to electronic design automation and power management and the YWCA Tribute to Women Award in 2020. She has been a champion for women in engineering and science and has given talks on this topic for girls and women at different age groups including high school students, university students, and the engineering community within Synopsys. She received her bachelor's in Electrical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1991 and subsequently went on to complete her MS and PhD in Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Renu Mehra is a versatile global technical leader with experience in the cutting edge semiconductor and design automation technology.

“Honouring her stellar contribution to electronic design and power management, IIT Kanpur confers upon Dr. Renu Mehra the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2023.”

## Distinguished Alumnus Award



**Prof. Yashwant Gupta**  
**BT/EE/1985**

Centre Director National Centre for Radio  
Astrophysics Tata Institute of Fundamental Research

Prof. Yashwant Gupta is currently a Distinguished Professor at the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. Prof. Yashwant Gupta is an eminent astrophysicist and has made several important contributions over the years in the field of Radio Astronomy. During 1996 to 2002, Prof. Gupta made significant contributions to the construction and commissioning of the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) near Pune. During 2013 to 2019, he led the work for a major upgrade of the GMRT, solidifying GMRT's status as a leading low-frequency radio observatory worldwide. Since 2012, he also leads India's participation in the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Observatory, an internal project shaping the next-generation global radio astronomy facility. During 2014 to 2019, he led an international consortium that designed the Telescope Manager system for the SKA – the brain and nervous system of the entire Observatory.

Prof. Gupta's own research is primarily centered around two key areas. Firstly, he specialises in the exploration of different facets of pulsars, which are rapidly rotating compact neutron stars emitting intense beams of radio emission. Secondly, he is deeply involved in the advancement of novel instrumentation and signal processing methods specifically tailored for radio astronomy. He has over 160 publications in international journals and proceedings. He is a member of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), life member of the Astronomical Society of India (ASI), member of the International Union for Radio Science (URSI), as well as a Senior Member of the IEEE.

Prof. Yashwant Gupta received several important recognitions and prestigious awards, including the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize in 2007 from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Zubin Kumbhavi Award (on behalf of Team GMRT) in 2019 from the Astronomical Society of India, the Murli M. Chugani Memorial Award of the Indian Physics Association in 2022, and the URSI Young Scientist Award in 1996. He has been elected as Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences India (NASI), Fellow of the Indian Academy of Science (IASc), Fellow of Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE). He received his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1985. He completed his PhD in Applied Physics from the University of California San Diego in 1990.



Honouring his stellar contributions, both as a researcher and a technologist, in the field of radio astronomy, IIT Kanpur confers upon Prof. Yashwant Gupta the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2023.



## Distinguished Alumnus Award



**Shri Prashant Kumar Jain**  
**(BT/ME/1989)**

Chief Investment Officer  
3P Investment Managers Pvt. Ltd.

Shri Prashant Kumar Jain was Chief Investment Officer at HDFC Mutual Fund, a leading mutual fund in India, from 2004 to 2022. During this tenure, HDFC Mutual Fund's assets grew from approximately Rs. 3000 crores to approximately Rs. 4,40,000 crores. Of this, approximately Rs. 2,35,000 crore was in equity-oriented funds. He has 31 years of investment management experience.

He holds the distinction of being the only fund manager in India and one of the few globally to have continuously managed a scheme for over 28 years. This fund, namely the HDFC Balanced Advantage Fund (earlier known as the HDFC Prudence Fund), a hybrid equity debt fund, delivered a CAGR of ~17.9% between January 1994 and July 2022 vs. the Sensex CAGR of ~9.6% in this period. Apart from being the most awarded fund manager in India, he also has the distinction of being the only fund manager in India to have managed 1 lakh crores of equity funds. Some refer to him as a contrarian investor, some as a value investor, but he considers himself to be a rational investor. He has probably called every cycle or excess right in his three-decade career—often early but eventually right. His key winning themes over this period were technology in the 90's, the old economy from early 2000 to pre-Lehman, consumers from pre-Lehman to mid-2010's, and corporate banks, energy, defence, utilities, etc. in the last phase. On the other hand, he also successfully called the tech bubble and avoided the excesses of pre-Lehman in infrastructure, power, etc.

He called it a day at HDFC when the investment performance was very strong and ensured a seamless transition. He has worked with SBI Mutual Fund (1991–1993) as well as Zurich India Mutual Fund (1993–2003) in different capacities. He moved to HDFC Mutual Fund, subsequent to the takeover of Zurich India Mutual Fund by HDFC in 2003. He has recently set up 3P Investment Managers, a firm focused on long-term investing. The 3Ps stand for prudence, patience, and performance. 3P recently had a successful launch of their first open-end AIF, targeted at the HNI segment. This fund currently manages close to 6000 crores for nearly 300 families.

He obtained a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1989 and completed his PGDM from IIM Bangalore in 1991. He is India's best-known and most successful fund manager.



Honouring his stellar contribution in the field of investment management, IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Prashant Kumar Jain the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2023.





Distinguished Alumnus Award



**Shri Anil Bansal**  
**(BT/MME/1977)**  
President  
First National Realty Management, Inc.

Shri Anil Bansal holds the position of President at First National Realty Management, a company that owns and manages commercial properties across the United States of America. Additionally, he serves as the Chairman of vSplash and Buzzboard and has a successful track record as a corporate executive who has transitioned into a serial entrepreneur. His expertise spans various facets of business, including marketing, sales, and financial management. Furthermore, he assumes the role of CEO at First National Corporation, a prominent real estate investment and management firm. Beyond his professional endeavours, Shri Bansal is actively engaged in his New Jersey community. He sits on the boards of several corporations and charitable organizations and is a dedicated member of the Rotary. Shri Bansal is also the driving force behind the 'Anil & Kumud Bansal Foundation', which extends financial support to numerous non-profit organizations in the United States.

Notably, he founded and chaired Indus American Bank from June 2005 to January 2016. He later served as the President of FIA-NYNJTC from January 2020 to February 2022. FIA, a prominent non-profit grassroots umbrella organization representing diverse Indian Associations, plays a pivotal role in advocating for the Indian diaspora and promoting its cultural heritage. He led the Federation of Indian Associations to ship medical and life-saving cargo worth \$55 Million to India to help fight the pandemic. For his exemplary service, he was bestowed the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award 2021 by Government of India. He is a senior director of the Indo American Arts Council in NYC since 2018. Shri Bansal's involvement extends to science and technology, social services, education, and environmental causes, and he has been actively involved in Rotary since June 2003 to the present day.

He completed his bachelor's Degree in Metallurgical Engineering at IIT Kanpur in 1977, followed by an MS in Material Sciences from the University of Notre Dame and an MBA from Syracuse University.



Honouring his stellar contribution in the field of entrepreneurship and for his service to humanity at large, IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Anil Bansal the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2023.



Distinguished Alumnus Award



**Prof. Atish Dabholkar**  
**(MSc5/Phy/1985)**  
Director, Assistant Director General  
International Centre for Theoretical Physics, UNESCO

Prof. Atish Dabholkar is an Indian theoretical physicist, currently serving as the Director of the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) with the rank of Assistant Director-General, UNESCO since 2019. Prof. Dabholkar is renowned in the fields of string theory, black holes and quantum theory including investigations that build on ICTP founder Abdus Salam's Nobel-winning work on electroweak unification. He has also served as head of the ICTP's High Energy, Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics section International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and a Directeur de Recherche of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) at Sorbonne University in the "Laboratoire de Physique Théorique et Hautes Energies" (LPTHE). Prof. Dabholkar was a visiting professor at Stanford University during 2003-04 and at CERN during 2012.

In his work in collaboration with Jeffrey A. Harvey, Prof. Dabholkar identified a spectrum of supersymmetric states (now known as "Dabholkar-Harvey states") and initiated the study of supersymmetric solitons in string theory which played an important role in the discovery of duality symmetries in string theory and later in the study of quantum entropy of black holes. Prof. Dabholkar collaborated with Sameer Murthy and Don Zagier to discover a connection between the quantum entropy of black holes and the mathematics of mock modular forms by Ramanujan centuries ago. Prof. Dabholkar was the co-organizer of the Strings 2001 Conference held at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Mumbai, India.

Prof. Dabholkar has received many honors, including the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize in 2006 for his "outstanding contributions for establishing how quantum theory modifies the entropy of black holes and his pioneering studies of supersymmetric solitons in string theory". He is an elected member of the Indian Academy of Sciences, and in 2007 received the Chair of Excellence Award from the National Research Agency (ANR) in France. He received ANR Chaire d'excellence 2007 and National Leadership Award 2008. He is an elected fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences. In 2021, he was elected as a Fellow of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) for the advancement of science in developing countries.

Prof. Dabholkar earned his master's degree in Physics from IIT Kanpur in 1985 and he subsequently went on to earn his doctorate in theoretical physics from Princeton University in 1990 under the guidance of Jeffrey A. Harvey. After working as a postdoctoral associate at Rutgers University and Harvard University, he spent two years at the California Institute of Technology as a senior research fellow before returning to India to join as a professor at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research till 2010.



Honouring his stellar contribution in the field of string theory and quantum black holes, IIT Kanpur confers upon Prof. Atish Dabholkar the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2023.





Distinguished Services Award



**Shri Gautam Khanna**  
**BT/ME/1988**  
CEO  
P D Hinduja Hospital & MRC

Shri Gautam Khanna is known for his significant contributions to the Indian healthcare sector & currently serves as the CEO of PD Hinduja Hospital & Medical Research Centre and Head of Hinduja College of Nursing, Mumbai. As the CEO, he endeavours to achieve Hinduja’s dream of quality healthcare for all by impactful innovation & creating synergies with leading international institutes. Prior to assuming his role as the CEO of PD Hinduja Hospital, he relentlessly served at 3M Health Care businesses nationally & internationally for over 22 years. He held multiple leadership positions including Executive Director & Country Business Leader, in both Sri Lanka & India. He is an Inspirational Business Leader with a rich experience of 33 years of successfully managing diverse businesses and creating Sustainable Shareholder Value in challenging environments at Hinduja Hospital & 3M, leading culturally disparate teams across APAC, Latin America based out of USA and in India. Apart from his executive roles, he is actively involved in numerous industry associations, holding prominent leadership positions. Currently he is amongst the coveted members of the QCI (Quality Council of India) APEX Steering Committee for Grading (Accreditation++) of the NABH Accredited Healthcare Organisation. He is also the President of AOH (Association of Hospitals) Mumbai. He is amongst the founding members of Nathhealth & is Leader of Western Region for Nathealth, India. He is also a member of the Board of Studies for Health Care Management Program at Goa Institute of Management. He has held Apex position in FICCI as the Chairman - FICCI Health Services Committee (2022-23) & also chair of FICCI Medical Device Forum. He has also played pivotal roles in other prestigious forums like AMCHAM Medical Device Committee, & Advamed.

His exceptional leadership and contributions to the healthcare industry have been recognized through various prestigious awards and accolades, including the Iconic Business Leader 2023 by Marksmen Daily, Healthcare Leadership Award at the World Health & Wellness Award 2023, Business Leader of the Year Award 2023 (Hospitals & Medical Care) by ET, and "India’s Best Leaders in Times of Crisis 2021 - Large Employers" by GPTW (Great Place to Work). He also received the Healthcare Leadership Award from ET Now and World Health & Wellness Congress in 2020 and the Asia Brand Leadership Award from CMO Asia in 2009. Beyond his professional achievements, his expertise and leadership have been acknowledged in the literary world as well. He was selected amongst the top business icons in the country to feature in Economic times India Leadership council book – “The leadership Code”. He has also featured as a leader in various books like “The Art of Management”, book by Shiv Shivakumar in 2022, in the book "Executive Presence - The Poise Formula for Leadership" by Shital Kakkar Mehra in 2020, "Uncornered - Learnings from the Corner Office" by Luis Moniz in 2016. He received his bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1988 & MBA from IIM Calcutta in 1990.

“Honouring his stellar contribution in recognition of his support towards the Institute’s efforts in innovation and incubation, and for in true essence, acting as a goodwill ambassador for the institute and helping raise the Institute’s stature, IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Gautam Khanna the Distinguished Services Award 2023.”

Distinguished Services Award



**Shri Jai Shankar Sharma**  
**(BT/MME/1977)**  
Mentor, Bangalore Chapter  
IIT Kanpur Alumni Association

Shri Jai Shankar Sharma currently serves as a Mentor, Bangalore Chapter, IIT Kanpur Alumni Association. He worked as a Mentor in IIT Kanpur, Bangalore Chapter, Alumni Association, IIT, Kanpur since January 2008. He successfully initiated the idea and organized START-UP MASTER CLASS in Bangalore, IITK, IITP, ISB Hyderabad, Mumbai and several other places in India. Many Venture Capital Funds and associated organizations participated in such events. He enjoys extensive quality Network in India, US, Europe and is closely associated with Start-ups, engaging in current & emerging Start-up opportunities.

He has been volunteering for Swacch Bharat Abhiyan since January 2015. He is skilled in business development, management consulting, business strategy, team-management, start-ups, program management, outsourcing, start-ups, training, vendor management, consulting, CRM, product management, business analysis, project planning, pre-sales, cloud computing, team building, new business development, organisational development, business planning, business intelligence, strategic partnerships, IT Strategies, telecommunications and business process improvement. He is involved in many causes such as Economic Empowerment, Education, Health, Science and Technology and Social Services.

Shri Jai Shankar Sharma was appointed as a Plant Manager at Fouress Engg from 1988- 1991 where he converted losses into profits. He was a consultant at eSpark Private Limited from 2003-2004 for his contribution in visibility in the IT Sector. He became an advisor at Vmoksha Technologies for his contribution in Vendor Development support and remained at this position from 2002-2005. Shri Sharma was the Director, Development at Arasor Communications Pvt. Ltd. based in Bangalore from 2006-2009. Here, he was responsible for enhancing business avenues. He was the Director, Business Development at Calsoft Labs (India) Private Ltd, an Alten Group company from Oct 2013 - Mar 2015 for Doing Business Development for the Company.

He received his bachelor’s degree in Metallurgical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1977. Subsequently, he went on to serve as a Development Manager at Bundy Tubing Of India Ltd, Baroda from 1984-1988.

“Honouring him for his stellar contributions in facilitating alumni connections and his tireless services to his alma mater IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Jai Shankar Sharma the Distinguished Services Award 2023.”

Young Alumnus Award



**Dr. Mohit Bansal**  
**(BT/CSE/2008)**  
John R. & Louise S. Parker Professor and the Director of the MURGe-Lab  
Department of Computer Science, University of North Carolina

Dr. Mohit Bansal is John R. & Louise S. Parker Distinguished Professor and the Director of the MURGe-Lab in the Computer Science department at University of North Carolina (UNC) Chapel Hill. He has made pioneering contributions in multimodal machine learning and natural language processing, with a particular focus on unifying vision+language generative LLMs, grounded and embodied semantics, human-like faithful language generation and Q&A/dialogue, and interpretable and generalizable deep learning.

He is a recipient of the DARPA Director’s Fellowship, NSF Career Award, Google Focused Research Award, Microsoft Investigator Fellowship, ARO Young Investigator Award (YIP), DARPA Young Faculty Award (YFA), IJCAI Early CAREER Spotlight, and several outstanding paper awards at ACL, CVPR, EACL, COLING, and CoNLL. He has been a keynote speaker for the AACL 2023 and INLG 2022 conferences. His service includes ACL Executive Committee, ACM Doctoral Dissertation Award Committee, Program Co-Chair for CoNLL 2019, Senior Area Chair for several conferences, ACL Americas Sponsorship Co-Chair, and Associate/Action Editor for TACL, Computational Linguistics (CL), IEEE/ACM TASLP, and CSL journals.

Dr. Bansal received his bachelor’s degree in Computer Science & Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 2008 and subsequently went on to earn his PhD degree in Computer Science from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2013. He has also spent time at TTI-Chicago, Cornell, Google, Microsoft, and Amazon.

“Honouring his stellar contribution in the field of machine learning and Artificial Intelligence, IIT Kanpur confers upon Dr. Mohit Bansal the Young Alumnus Award 2023.”

Young Alumnus Award



**Dr. Pravesh K Kothari**  
**(BT/EE/2010)**  
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Computer Science  
Carnegie Mellon University

Dr. Pravesh K. Kothari currently serves as an Assistant Professor in the Computer Science Department at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, and will join the Department of Computer Science at Princeton University in January 2024. He is well known for his work on a new, principled method for designing fast algorithms for computational problems with statistically generated inputs. This "proofs to algorithms" paradigm is also the subject of his 2019 monograph. The ensuing theory has led to new fast algorithms with an impact on modern algorithmic statistics in addition to surprising connections and progress in random matrix theory and extremal combinatorics.

Dr. Kothari’s contributions to theoretical computer science and allied areas have been recognized with a fellowship from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the NSF CAREER Award, a Google Research Scholar Award, and earlier, a Simons Award for Graduate Students in Theoretical Computer Science.

Dr. Kothari graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 2010. After a brief stint at Microsoft Research Bangalore, he joined the University of Texas at Austin in 2011 and obtained his PhD in Theoretical Computer Science in 2016. From 2016-19, Dr. Kothari was a postdoctoral Research Instructor jointly hosted by the School of Mathematics at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and the Department of Computer Science at Princeton University, Since 2019.

“Honouring his stellar contribution in the field of theoretical computer science IIT Kanpur confers upon Dr. Pravesh K. Kothari the Young Alumnus Award 2023.”



## Satyendra K. Dubey Memorial Award



**Shri Ashok Kamath**  
**(MSC/MATH/1981 IIT Bombay)**  
Chairman  
Akshara Foundation

Shri Ashok Kamath currently serves as the Chairman of the Akshara Foundation, which is a public-private partnership that strives to make Education Systems Work for Every Child. In the past five years alone, Akshara's work has impacted over 7 million children at both the pre-school and primary school levels in Karnataka, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. Akshara's footprint in 2023 extended to over 95,000 government primary schools in urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Akshara's Ganitha Kalika Andolana (GKA) – a math curriculum – is now used in all government schools in Karnataka and Odisha. With a strong belief in the Creative Commons, all of Akshara's content is published in open source and made available globally, as a public good. Its digital property, the Android-based Building Blocks was among the top three products in Ed Tech for the Numeracy and STEM category adjudged by the International mEducation Alliance.

He is also a Co-founder and Trustee of Pratham Books which is a public charitable trust that believes in 'A Book in Every Child's Hand' and publishes high-quality books for children in multiple Indian languages. For the past few years, Pratham Books has also gone 'digital', and its content is now available online, at no cost, in over 200 languages. Pratham Books today ships over 3 million books to schools and libraries and children annually, and its digital platform has a readership of about 50 million.

In 2019, He received the 'Namma Bengalurean of the Year' Award from the Namma Bengaluru Foundation which "is an effort to recognize, honour and celebrate such outstanding individuals and their contribution towards making our city a better place to live in" He has also served on the Board of Governors of the Bangalore International Centre and is currently a Trustee at Shreyas Foundation in Ahmedabad. He has also been a member of the XPRIZE Connect Advisory Board. As an advisory board member, he is contributing to the XPRIZE CONNECT mission to cultivate a new wave of innovators by leveraging the power of technology and XPRIZE global youth competitions.

He is also a recipient of Distinguished Service Award in 2011 and Distinguished Alumnus Award of IIT Bombay in 2013 for his various initiatives and contributions to the field of child education. He is also currently the Secretary of the IIT Alumni Centre, Bengaluru, a unique entity that seeks to bring the IITs and Industry closer together for the benefit of our industry and country at large.

He completed his master's in Mathematics from IIT Bombay in 1981 and then worked in the semiconductor industry till he "retired" in March 2004 as the Managing Director of Analog Devices India and has since focused full time on social initiatives on a pro bono basis.

“Honouring his stellar contributions in doing exemplary service in the realm of social initiatives and his dedication to advancing education for children IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Ashok Kamath the Satyendra K. Dubey Memorial Award 2023.”

## Satyendra K. Dubey Memorial Award



**Shri Somay Vinayak Munde, IPS**  
**(BT/Dual/CHE/2013 IIT Bombay)**  
Superintendent of Police, Latur District,  
Government of India

Shri Somay Vinayak Munde is an Indian Police service officer of 2016 batch of Maharashtra cadre. He is currently posted as Superintendent of Police in Latur district in Maharashtra. Previously he has held charge in communally sensitive Amravati district, where he ensured incidence-free bandobast during 2019 Lok Sabha and Vidhansabha elections. He received numerous appreciations for his work in communally sensitive areas. His exceptional bravery against Naxals in Gadchiroli makes us very proud. He became the assistant superintendent of police in Vajrapur area and remained at this position from May 2016- September 2018 and later at Anjangaon, Amravati from September 2018- October 2020. In October 2020, Shri Somay served as an additional superintendent of Police, Anti-Naxal Ops from October 2020- October 2022. At present, he is superintendent of Police in Latur district in Maharashtra since October 2022.

He was instrumental in running intelligence-collection deep cover operations. He pioneered use of technology in intelligence collection and pivoted the focus from HUMINT based operations to TECHINT operations. He created a robust team of intelligence officers who developed a wide intel network. He pioneered major tactical manoeuvres that ensured great improvement in strike ratio during operations. During his tenure, he was instrumental in elimination of 49 naxal cadres, 76 arrests and 71 surrenders. He personally led numerous operations on ground. Notably, on 13/11/2021, he led an operation in Mardintola Jungle area on Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh border in which he and his team exchanged fire with major naxal formations for more than 24 hours. During this operation, he and his team eliminated 27 naxals including a top ranking naxal leader responsible for naxal movement in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

He was instrumental in the elimination of a Central Committee member of a banned CPI(Maoist) party, a feat not achieved since last 12 years. For showing conspicuous gallantry during this operation, he was awarded India's third highest peacetime gallantry award, Shaurya Chakra, by the President of India. He is only second IPS officer in the history to receive Shaurya Chakra, an award normally given for successful military operations. For his contribution to fight against Left wing extremism, he was also awarded the Internal Security medal, Special Duty medal and Director General's insignia.

He did his schooling from the prestigious Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun. He graduated from IIT Bombay in 2013 in Chemical Engineering with a dual degree.

“Honoring his stellar contributions in doing exemplary service to the nation and by displaying the highest professional integrity for upholding human values while serving as an IPS Officer IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Somay Vinayak Munde the Satyendra K. Dubey Memorial Award 2023.”