



## Making of a University Lecture Series

**Professor Sudhir K Jain**

Director, IIT Gandhinagar (on leave from IIT Kanpur)

5 PM, Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014,  
Venue: Outreach Auditorium

### Title

**Opportunities and Challenges of Building a World Class IIT from the Ground Up: The IIT Gandhinagar Story**

### Abstract

Started in 2008, IIT Gandhinagar provides a unique opportunity to build a centre of excellence in research, teaching, and community engagement. The institute has already graduated three batch of students who have done exceedingly well. One of the critical pillars of IITGN is its highly accomplished faculty that the Institute has very successfully recruited. IITGN's five-week immersion foundation program, which focuses on creativity, ethics, social engagement, physical fitness, leadership skills, seeks to tackle some of the central weaknesses of incoming students. To promote critical thinking and an appreciation of the interdisciplinary character of knowledge, undergraduates (and M Tech students) take almost 20% of the courses in the humanities and the social sciences. The Institute places great emphasis on globalization and diversity: nearly a third of IIT Gandhinagar's undergraduates receive study abroad experiences and almost 15 percent of its faculty every semester is visiting faculty, both from India and abroad. The Institute has eliminated departmental silos and developed distinctive centers and programs such as Archeological Sciences, Cognitive Sciences, Safety, and Society and Culture. A number of community outreach programmes at IITGN, including Nyasa for welfare of construction workers, have been well appreciated and recognized. The talk will highlight the innovations in curriculum and governance implemented at IITGN, and will also touch upon some of the challenges ahead.

### About the lecture series

Making of a University is a new lecture series at IIT Kanpur. In this lecture series, we will invite distinguished individuals who have helped create or improve educational institutions. Such a lecture and the interaction with the speaker could potentially generate many ideas on what we could do at IIT Kanpur to achieve greater heights.



### About the Speaker

Prof Sudhir K Jain received his Bachelor of Engineering from University of Roorkee in 1979, Master of Science from California Institute of Technology (Caltech), Pasadena, USA in 1980, and Doctor of Philosophy, also from Caltech, in 1983. Prof. Jain joined as a faculty in the department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur in 1984.

In June 2009, he took leave from IIT Kanpur in order to move over to IIT Gandhinagar as its Director.

While at IIT Kanpur, Prof. Jain taught and researched in earthquake/ structural engineering, mentored young researchers, trained a large number of professional engineers, and provided consulting for numerous major engineering projects. He set up the National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering ([www.nicee.org](http://www.nicee.org)) at IITK with a substantial endowment, and was National Coordinator (2003-2007) for National Programme on Earthquake Engineering Education ([www.nicee.org/npeee](http://www.nicee.org/npeee)) funded by MHRD.

Professor Jain has been Dean, Resource Planning and Generation (2005-2008); Head of Civil Engineering Department (2001-2003); Coordinator, CDTE/QIP/CEP (1997-2000); and Chairman, Student Placement Committee (1995-96) at IIT Kanpur. He is currently (2014-2018) President of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering. Professor Jain was elected a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering in 2003 and was conferred Life Membership by the New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineering (NZSEE) in 2013.

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