62 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

INSTITUTE FOUNDATION DAY

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

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 135 alumni for their Academic Excellence, Professional Excellence, Entrepreneurship and Management Excellence, and activities pertaining to the Service of Humanity at large.

**Distinguished Services Award**

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**

The Young Alumnus Awards (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**

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 Award 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 to IIT alumni.
Distinguished Alumnus Award

Mr. Rakesh Bhargava
BT/CHE/1973

Ms. Vartika Shukla
BT/CHE/1988

Mr. Hemant Kumar Jalan
BT/CHE/1977

Shri Ashwini Kumar Vaishnav
MT/IME/1994

Mr. Mukesh Bansal
BT/CSE/1997

Mr. Saurabh Chandra
BT/EE/1976

Mr. Rahul Garg
BT/EE/2001

Dr. Rajesh Kumar Gupta
BT/EE/1984

Prof. Vijay Vittal
MT/EE/1979

Prof. Abhay Lalit Deshpande
MSC2/PHY/1987

Dr. Dev Joneja
BT/ME/1984
Distinguished Services Award

Mr Pradeep Bhargava
BT/ME/1989

Mr. Kushal Chand Sacheti
MT/CHE/1972

Young Alumnus Award

Dr. Prateek Jain
BT/CSE/2004

Mr. Varun Khaitan
BT/EE/2009

Satyendra K. Dubey Memorial Award

Mr. Karnal Singh
MT/CSE/1981
Mr. Rakesh Bhargava received his bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1973, and subsequently went on to earn an MBA degree from IIM Ahmedabad in 1975. He later completed courses in Financial Management and Advance Management at Institut Européen d'Administration des Affaires (INSEAD).

Mr. Bhargava is one of India’s senior most executives in pharmaceuticals, medical nutrition and medical devices domains, and has held top management positions in several companies in India and abroad. He is the former Chairman of Fresenius Kabi Oncology Ltd, an Indian subsidiary of Fresenius SE & Co KGaA, a US$ 42 billion German multinational healthcare group. Before assuming Chairman's position, he was the Executive Vice President, South East Asia of Fresenius Kabi Asia-Pacific, responsible for the company’s business in 15 Asian countries. He simultaneously held the position of Managing Director & CEO of Fresenius Kabi India Ltd, and was a board member of several Fresenius Kabi subsidiaries in South-East Asia. Prior to joining Fresenius, he was the Managing Director of Lupin Chemicals (Thailand) Ltd. located at Bangkok, and has also served as the Business Head of ICI Pharmaceutical in India.

Mr. Rakesh Bhargava has been a member of the Executive Committee of Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India, and Chairman of its Legal Committee. He was also a member of National Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Committee of Confederation of Indian Industries, and President of Pharmaceutical Form-Fill-Seal Association of India. He has contributed to many pharmaceutical policy reforms in India through his active role in these industry bodies.

Service to humanity is very close to Mr. Rakesh Bhargava’s heart. During 2005 to 2007 he personally supervised several mega tsunami rehabilitation projects of Rotary in Tamil nadu, Puducherry and Sri Lanka. He was adjudged Rotary’s President of the Year worldwide in 2013-14, and has been awarded The Rotary Foundation’s “Citation for Meritorious Service”. His contributions were internationally recognized when he was invited as a speaker at Rotary International's International Convention in 2018 held at Toronto. Currently, he is a member of the Rotary India’s National Working Group on CSR and National Advisory Committee on Disease Prevention & Treatment and Maternal & Child Health.

Mr. Rakesh Bhargava has also given back to the society by mentoring start-ups in the medical device field, including those which have been incubated at IIT Kanpur. He is fostering innovation and promoting “Make in India & “Atmanirbhar Bharat” themes in the medical devices sector.

Honouring his stellar contributions in the field of multinational corporate management, social responsibility & entrepreneurship, IIT Kanpur confers upon Mr. Rakesh Bhargava the Distinguished Alumnus Award of 2021.
Ms. Vartika Shukla received her bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1988. She is also certified with an Executive General Management Programme from IIM Lucknow. She currently serves as the Chairperson and Managing Director (Technical) and Director (Finance) of Engineers India Ltd. (EIL).

Ms. Shukla started her career as a management trainee in EIL's Process Division in the year 1988. She possesses more than 32 years of extensive technical and consulting experience across the hydrocarbon value chain and has led the company to the successful completion of many prestigious projects in Oil & Gas Refining, Petrochemical, Fertilizers sector both in India and overseas.

Ms. Shukla has been associated with the various functions of the organization during her vast career. As Director (Technical), she has steered the Process Design, Research & Development and the entire Engineering functions of the company which are critical for project implementation. She has also been very closely associated with developing in-house competencies and strategizing for new business opportunities both in the core hydrocarbon sector and in diversified areas of operations. She has been steering several new initiatives of the company in the area of BioFuels, Digitilization, Energy Efficiency, Make in India and StartUp India and was instrumental in forging several key Collaborative Partnerships for expansion of Technology Portfolio of EIL.

Ms. Shukla has made immense contribution to the development of National Policies, especially in the area of BioFuels and future road map for refining and petrochemical sector.

Ms. Shukla is an active member of various industry forums like FIPIC, CII, FICCI, and has served on the Editorial Board of FIPIC Journal as well. She has also authored a number of significant research papers in the areas of Refining, Petrochemicals Oil & Gas, offering strategies & technical solutions to the industry. She is also a recipient of various prestigious national and international awards, such as SCOPE Excellence Award, MoPNG Innovation Award. She was the first woman executive in Indian Oil & Gas industry to be bestowed with PETROFED Woman Executive Award.

Honouring her stellar contribution in the field of Chemical Engineering and Technology, IIT Kanpur confers upon Ms. Vartika Shukla the Distinguished Alumnus Award of 2021.
Mr. Hemant Jalan received his Bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1977. During his tenure at IITK, he was the General Secretary (Cultural) from 1976-77 and represented IITK in inter-collegiate debate competitions throughout his stay at the Institute.

After his graduation from the Institute, Mr. Hemant Jalan completed his Master’s degree in Chemical Engineering at Stanford University, and earned his MBA Degree from Chicago Booth (University of Chicago).

He returned to India in 1980, and was a Management Consultant with A F Ferguson & Co, Mumbai for two years before starting his entrepreneurial journey at Patna. After setting up and running some chemical companies at Patna for many years, he moved to corporate life, heading the Copper business of Vedanta Ltd at Tuticorin (TN) between 1996-99.

In 1999 he located to Pune, re-starting his entrepreneurial career. He founded Indigo Paints in year 2000, which has grown multi-fold over the years, culminating in a successful IPO of the company in early 2021. Indigo Paints Ltd. is today the fourth largest paint manufacturer in India, with an annual sales of over Rs1000 crores.

Honouring his stellar contributions in the field of entrepreneurship, IIT Kanpur confers upon Mr. Hemant Jalan the Distinguished Alumnus Award of 2021.
Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw received his master's degree in Industrial Management and Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1994. He currently serves as the Union Cabinet Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways, Government of India. He is also a Member of Indian Parliament, representing Odisha state in the Rajya Sabha since June 2019. He was appointed as member of Committee on Subordinate Legislation and Petitions and Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests.

After graduating from IIT Kanpur in 1994, Shri Vaishnaw joined the Indian Administrative Service in the Odisha Cadre, and worked extensively in different parts of Odisha including serving as the District Collector of Balasore and Cuttack districts. He worked in Odisha till 2003 when he was appointed as deputy secretary in the office of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. After his brief stint in the PMO where he contributed to creating the public-private-partnership framework in infrastructure projects, Vaishnav was appointed as Vajpayee ji's private secretary in 2004. In 2006, he became Deputy Chairman of Mormugao Port Trust, where he worked till 2008. In the same year, he left for the US to earn an MBA degree from Wharton Business School. On completing his MBA, Shri Vaishnaw Ji returned to India and joined GE transportation as Managing Director. He later joined Siemens as the Vice President - Locomotives & Head Urban Infrastructure Strategy. In 2012, he set up Three tee Auto Logistics Pvt. Lts. and Vee Gee Auto Components Pvt. Ltd., both automotive components manufacturing units in Gujarat.

Honoring his stellar contributions in the field of public services, IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw the Distinguished Alumnus Award of 2021.
Mr. Mukesh Bansal received his bachelor’s degree in Computer Science and Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1997. He currently serves as the CEO and Co-founder of CureFit and as President of Tata Digital.

Mr. Bansal started his career as a Business Analyst with Deloitte Consulting and later worked for many early stage companies in the Silicon Valley as an engineer and product manager across consumer internet and enterprise IT organizations. He is a first generation tech entrepreneur and has played a critical role in shaping digital commerce growth in India. First with e-commerce company, Myntra, then as head of eCommerce at Flipkart. Later he started his second venture in healthcare, Curefit. He has built two sector leading tech companies and brought new age product experience to Indian consumers.

Mr. Bansal is also an active investor in the tech startup ecosystem. He has several promising investments to his name like Groww that has democratized investments and has become a unicorn, and Skyroot that is building solid engine rockets to carry satellites to space. He has also authored a book by the name 'No Limits' where he succinctly describes ways to harness human potential - art and science of high performance. He has been listed in the Best 40 Under 40 Entrepreneurs by Fortune magazine.

Honoring his stellar contributions in the field of entrepreneurship, IIT Kanpur confers upon Mr. Mukesh Bansal the Distinguished Alumnus Award of 2021.
**Mr. Saurabh Chandra** received his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from IIT Kanpur, in 1976. Mr. Chandra joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1978 and was allotted the Uttar Pradesh cadre. He retired from the post of Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in 2015. Prior to that, he was Secretary in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

In a public service career spanning 37 years, Mr. Chandra has held several prestigious positions, both in the state of Uttar Pradesh and Government of India (GOI). The experience gained in policy formulation and implementation is demonstrated by a long record of successful outcomes in multiple areas and diverse sectors like oil and gas, industry, disinvestment, foreign direct investment, intellectual property, district administration and execution of big projects. Specifically during his tenure as Secretary in the Petroleum and Natural Gas, major sustainable reforms, having far reaching impact were introduced in the oil and oil and gas sector. Diesel deregulation is one example of a big reform led by him. PAHAL is another example. As the world’s largest direct benefit transfer scheme, PAHAL finds a place in the Guinness Book of World Records. During his stint as Secretary in DIPP, major reforms were initiated in the FDI policy and intellectual policy regime. Earlier, while working in the Department of Fertilisers, Government of India, he was associated with the setting up of the Oman India Fertiliser Project, one of the most successful overseas joint ventures of Indian enterprises.

Mr. Chandra currently serves as a Public Interest Director and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited and an Independent Director on the Boards of SBI Pension Funds Pvt. Ltd, Vacmet India Limited and JK Cements Limited. He is also a member of the Advisory Board of the School of Medical Research and Technology at IIT Kanpur.

Honoring his stellar contributions to public administration and formulation of public policy, IIT Kanpur confers upon Mr. Saurabh Chandra the Distinguished Alumnus Award of 2021.
Mr. Rahul Garg received his bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 2001. He currently serves as the Founder of Moglix, an Asia-based E-commerce company intensively inclined towards B2B procurement of industrial supplies, packing, contract management SaaS, supply chain financing, manufacturing as a service, distribution, and logistics for manufacturing across the spectrum.

After graduating from IIT Kanpur, Mr. Garg worked with Ittiam Systems in Bengaluru. He later spent 5 years at Google Asia launching the Advertising Exchange and driving sales strategy. He also served as the Chairman of the Marketing and AdTech community in IAB, Singapore. In 2010, he did his MBA in Marketing from India School of Business, Hyderabad and was awarded ISB Scholar of Excellence for number 1 rank in his batch. He founded Moglix in 2015 and it achieved unicorn status with a valuation of $1 Billion in 2021. His company was the first B2B commerce unicorn in the manufacturing space.

Mr. Garg has pioneered award-winning products and solutions in the manufacturing and infrastructure industry. Solutions and business verticals started by him have received 32 awards from industry bodies and experts for the innovative solution and impact it has been able to create for the manufacturing sector. The Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply, Entrepreneur India, Deloitte, Fortune, Business Today, and Business World have recognized his achievement in leadership.

Mr. Garg’s achievements as an entrepreneur are driven by his contributions as a technology expert and innovator. He has been a leading technical expert who has contributed to expanding the frontier of wireless technology, networking, and satellite technology. He has authored 9 technology papers in national and international conferences. He holds 16 US patents in the areas of wireless technology, digital networks, and analytics.

Mr. Garg has played a key role in shaping E-commerce and Manufacturing Policy to serve communities during the lockdown period, as a part of CII’s E-commerce and Smart Manufacturing Committees. He has continued with his social engagement and community-building efforts to protect livelihoods throughout the pandemic.

Honoring his stellar contributions to innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship, IIT Kanpur confers upon Mr. Rahul Garg the Distinguished Alumnus Award of 2021.
**Prof. Rajesh Kumar Gupta** received his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1984, and subsequently went on to pursue his master's degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the University of California, Berkeley in 1986, and doctorate in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University in 1994.

Prof. Gupta is currently a distinguished professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of California, San Diego. He serves as the founding director of the Halıcıoğlu Data Science Institute at UC San Diego. His research is in embedded and cyber-physical systems with a focus on sensor data organization and its use in optimization and analytics. He currently leads NSF project MetroInsight and a co-PI on DARPA/SRC Center on Computing on Network Infrastructure (CONIX) with the goal to build a new generation of distributed cyber-physical systems that use city-scale sensing data for improved services and autonomy. His contributions include SystemC modeling and SPARK parallelizing high-level synthesis, both of which have been incorporated into industrial practice. His publications and patents cover various aspects of embedded systems design, design automation, clock design, data-path synthesis, system-on-chip modeling and dynamic power management.

Prof. Gupta is a recipient of IEEE Computer Society W. Wallace McDowell Award, IEEE TCCPS Distinguished Leadership Award, the National Science Foundation CAREER Award, two Departmental Achievement Awards, and a Components Research Team Award at Intel. Prof. Gupta and his students have received a best demonstration paper award at ACM BuildSys’16, best paper award at IEEE/ACM DCOSS’08 and a best demonstration award at IEEE/ACM IPSN/SPOTS’05. He served as an advisor to Tallwood Venture Capital, RealIntent, Calypto and Packet Digital Corporation.

Prof. Gupta has also served as editor-in-chief of IEEE Design & Test of Computers, founding Editor-in-Chief of IEEE Embedded Systems Letters. He currently serves as Editor-in-chief of IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design of Integrated Circuits and Systems. He holds Qualcomm Endowed Chair in Embedded Microsystems at UC San Diego and INRIA International Chair at the French international research institute in Rennes, Bretagne Atlantique. He is a Fellow of The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the Association of the Computing Machinery (ACM) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Honoring his stellar contributions to the fields of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, IIT Kanpur confers upon Prof. Rajesh Kumar Gupta the Distinguished Alumnus Award of 2021.
Prof. Vijay Vittal received his master’s degree in Electrical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1997, and subsequently went on to earn his PhD in Electrical Engineering as well from Iowa State University in 1982. He currently serves as the Regents Professor at Arizona State University. He is also Ira A. Fulton Chair Professor and ASU Foundation Professor in Electric Power Systems at Arizona State University. Prior to ASU, Prof. Vittal was an Anson Marston Distinguished Professor at the Iowa State University, Electrical and Computer Engineering Department. In addition, he has also served as a Murray and Ruth Harpole Professor and director of the university’s Electric Power Research Center and site director of the National Science Foundation IUCRC Power System Engineering Research Center (PSERC). He has also served as the program director for power systems for the National Science Foundation Division of Electrical and Communication Systems in Washington, D.C., from 1993 to 1994. He was the Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE Transactions on Power Systems from 2005 to 2011. He served as the Director of PSERC from July 2005 – October 2020.

Prof. Vittal was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Engineering in 2004. In 2018, he received the IEEE Power and Energy Society Prabha S. Kundur Power System Dynamics and Control Award and the Utility Variable-Generation Integration Group Achievement Award. In 2013, he was awarded the IEEE Herman Halperin Transmission and Distribution Technical Field Award. He also received the IEEE Power and Energy Society (PES) Outstanding Power Engineering Educator Award in 2000. He was elected an IEEE Fellow in 1997 and also was awarded the U.S. National Science Foundation Presidential Young Investigator Award in 1985.

Honoring his stellar contributions to the world of academia in the field of Electrical Engineering, IIT Kanpur confers upon Prof. Vijay Vittal the Distinguished Alumnus Award of 2021.
Prof. Abhay Lalit Deshpande received his master's degree in Physics from IIT Kanpur in 1987, and subsequently went on to earn his doctorate in Experimental High Energy Physics from Yale University in 1995.

Prof. Deshpande currently is a professor of Physics at Stony Brook University (State University of NY) with a joint appointment with Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL). For his research, Prof. Deshpande is involved in experiments at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Colloder (RHIC) and the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (JLab). In the past, he has also performed experiments at CERN, Geneva, Switzerland and at DESY in Hamburg, Germany. He was one of the earliest promoters of the Electron Ion Collier. Since 2017, he has served as the Founding Director at Center for Frontiers in Nuclear Science, and Scientific Director for the Electron Ion Collider being built at Brookhaven National Laboratory. As Electron Ion Collider Director of Science, he helps develop and enhance the scientific scope of the US Electron Ion Collider. At Center for Frontiers in Nuclear Science, he leads the activities that promote the science and international collaborations for the EIC through collaborative research and mentoring exceptional postdoctoral fellows and graduate students. The Center runs an annual series of international workshops on the science of EIC, a robust postdoctoral fellowship program, a seminar series, a visitors program and an annual summer school associated with the science of EIC. His research interests are in the fields of particle and nuclear physics and in particular: Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD), precision Electro-Weak & Beyond the Standard Model Physics, and Science Communication and Innovation in Physics.

Prof. Deshpande is the recipient of many prestigious awards and honors, such as the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence Research & Innovation in 2018; RIKEN (Japan) President's Special Prize for the Study of Nucleon Spin in 2015; Fellow of the American Physical Society in 2014; National Academy of Science's Education Fellow in Life Sciences in 2013.

Honoring his stellar contributions to the fields of High Energy Particle and Nuclear Physics, IIT Kanpur confers upon Prof. Abhay Lalit Deshpande the Distinguished Alumnus Award of 2021.
Dr. Dev Joneja received his bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1984. He earned his doctorate in Operations Research from Cornell University. He currently serves as the Chief Risk Officer at Exodus Point Capital Management. He has previously served as the Global Head Risk and Analytics at Millennium Management LLC. Prior to joining the firm in 2009, Dr Joneja was at Lehman Brothers for 13 years, and served as the Head of European Fixed Income Research and as the Global Head of Lehman Indices and Point. He has also served on the faculty at the Graduate School of Business at Columbia University in New York.

Dr. Joneja is one of the top benefactors of IIT Kanpur over the years. He instituted the Pavitar Joneja Faculty Chair in honor of his Mother, and the Arjun Dev Joneja Faculty Chair in honor of his Father at the Department of Civil Engineering, and he has generously donated towards Class of 1984 Chair. Campus workers of IIT Kanpur and towards Online Education Campaign during the pandemic thereby benefiting IIT Kanpur students who come from economically weaker sections of the society.

Honoring his stellar contributions in the area of financial markets, IIT Kanpur confers upon Dr. Dev Joneja the Distinguished Alumnus Award of 2021.
Mr. Pradeep Bhargava received his bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1989, and subsequently went on to earn his Diploma in International Business from Symbiosis Institute of Business Management in 1994.

Mr. Bhargava currently serves as the CEO and Founder of GladMinds, an Aftermarket platform that assists brands to provide product support and the consumer to manage their assets. This platform supports around 15 million consumers. He started his career with L&T in Sales & Marketing. He later moved to Daimler as CIO at Pune and subsequently COO at Mercedes Benz R&D Center at Bengaluru.

Mr. Bhargava has been active in the affairs of the Alumni Association for the past eight years and has been instrumental in the planning and execution of many programs and activities that have led to the better engagement of the IIT Kanpur alumni. He has also led several initiatives to support entrepreneurship, industry connect and active promotion of IIT Kanpur across India and globally.

Honoring his stellar contribution in facilitating alumni connect and major fundraising efforts of the Institute, IIT Kanpur confers upon Mr. Pradeep Bhargava the Distinguished Services Award of 2021.
Mr. Kushal Sacheti received his master's degree in Chemical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1971. He currently serves as the Founder and CEO of Galaxy USA Incorporated., and Key Items, Incorporated, global business enterprises in the diamond and jewellery sector. He also serves as the Co-founder of Illuminate Health - a health-tech startup in the US, and NPBridge Solutions - a socio-tech startup in India. He has over 30 years of business and entrepreneurial experience. He has invested in and offered advisory services to nearly a dozen startups in the United States and India. He was a part of the funding of one of India’s earliest venture funds, Erasmic, which is now a part of Accel Partners.

Mr. Sacheti's initiatives include mentoring and advisory roles at several institutions, and arts and social welfare organizations in India, Nepal, and the United States. He is currently involved in various educational and technological initiatives at IIT Kanpur, IIT Gandhinagar, BITS Pilani, and other educational institutes. He is the Founder and Chairman of the Center for Curiosity, a non-profit organization that aims at triggering Curiosity. He is an advisor to Akshaya Patra Foundation, USA that provides midday meals to school children in India; a Co-founder of Unlimit Art; and a board member of Agewell Foundation in the United States. Over the years, he has provided educational and career mentorship to many students.

Honoring his stellar contribution in doing exemplary service by becoming the goodwill ambassador in supporting the Institute's efforts in various ways, IIT Kanpur confers upon Mr. Kushal Sacheti the Distinguished Services Award of 2021.
Dr. Prateek Jain received his bachelor's degree in Computer Science & Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 2004, and subsequently went on to earn his doctorate degree from the University of Texas in Computer Science & Engineering in 2009.

Dr. Jain currently serves as the Senior Research Staff at Google AI in Bengaluru, India. His research interests are in the fields of Machine Learning, Non-convex Optimization, and High-dimensional Statistics. He is also interested in applications of machine learning to privacy, computer vision, and natural language processing. His most well known works are in the area of Provable Non-convex Optimization and Efficient Machine Learning.

Dr. Jain has received multiple best paper awards at top machine learning and computer vision conferences including Best Paper Award by the IEEE Signal Processing Society, Student Paper Awards at the International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) in 2007, IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) in 2008, and the Best Paper Runner-Up Award at the SIAM International Conference on Data Mining (SDM) in 2008.

Honoring his stellar contributions to the field of Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence, IIT Kanpur confers upon Dr. Prateek Jain the Young Alumnus Award of 2021.
Mr. Varun Khaitan received his bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 2009. He currently serves as the Chief Operations Officer and Co-founder of Urban Company. He is responsible for business operations and partner success at the company co-founded by Mr. Khaitan. Urban Company is Asia’s largest at-home services marketplace with presence in India, the UAE, Australia, Singapore, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Using the Urban company app, consumers can avail many wellness, and home repairs and maintenance services.

At the helm of affairs, Mr. Khaitan has been instrumental in building Urban Company into a network of 40,000+ trained service professionals who have served over 5 million consumers across 35+ cities globally. He is closely involved in business development and partner success.

Prior to founding Urban Company, Mr. Khaitan was working at Qualcomm R&D at California and was a consultant with The Boston Consulting Group, where he advised Fortune 500 companies across geographies and industries. He has completed his BTech Engineering from IIT Kanpur.

Varun is the three-time recipient of the Fortune 40 Under 40 award (2021, 2019, and 2018). He was also awarded the Economic Times 40 Under 40 for the year 2019.

Honoring his stellar contributions to the field of entrepreneurship, IIT Kanpur confers upon Mr. Varun Khaitan the Young Alumnus Award of 2021.
Mr. Karnal Singh received his master’s degree in Computer Science from IIT Kanpur in 1981, and subsequently went on to pursue a degree in Law from V.M. Salgaocar College of Law in 2003, and an MBA from the University of Delhi in 2008. He graduated from Delhi College of Engineering in 1979. He later earned his diploma in Information Technology from the Asian School of Cyber Laws in 2002.

Mr. Singh, an IPS Officer of 1984 batch, retired as the Chief of Enforcement Directorate in 2018, after 34 years of distinguished public service. He led many successful investigations in counter-terrorism, anti-money laundering, and anti-corruption. He has been awarded the President Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 2008, and President Police Medal for Meritorious Service in 2002. He has penned a book titled ‘Batla House’: An Encounter that Shook the Nation.

Honoring his stellar contributions in doing exemplary service to the nation and his unbending integrity in upholding human values while serving as an IPS Officer, IIT Kanpur confers upon Mr. Karnal Singh the Satyendra K. Dubey Memorial Award of 2021.