

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान कानपुर
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

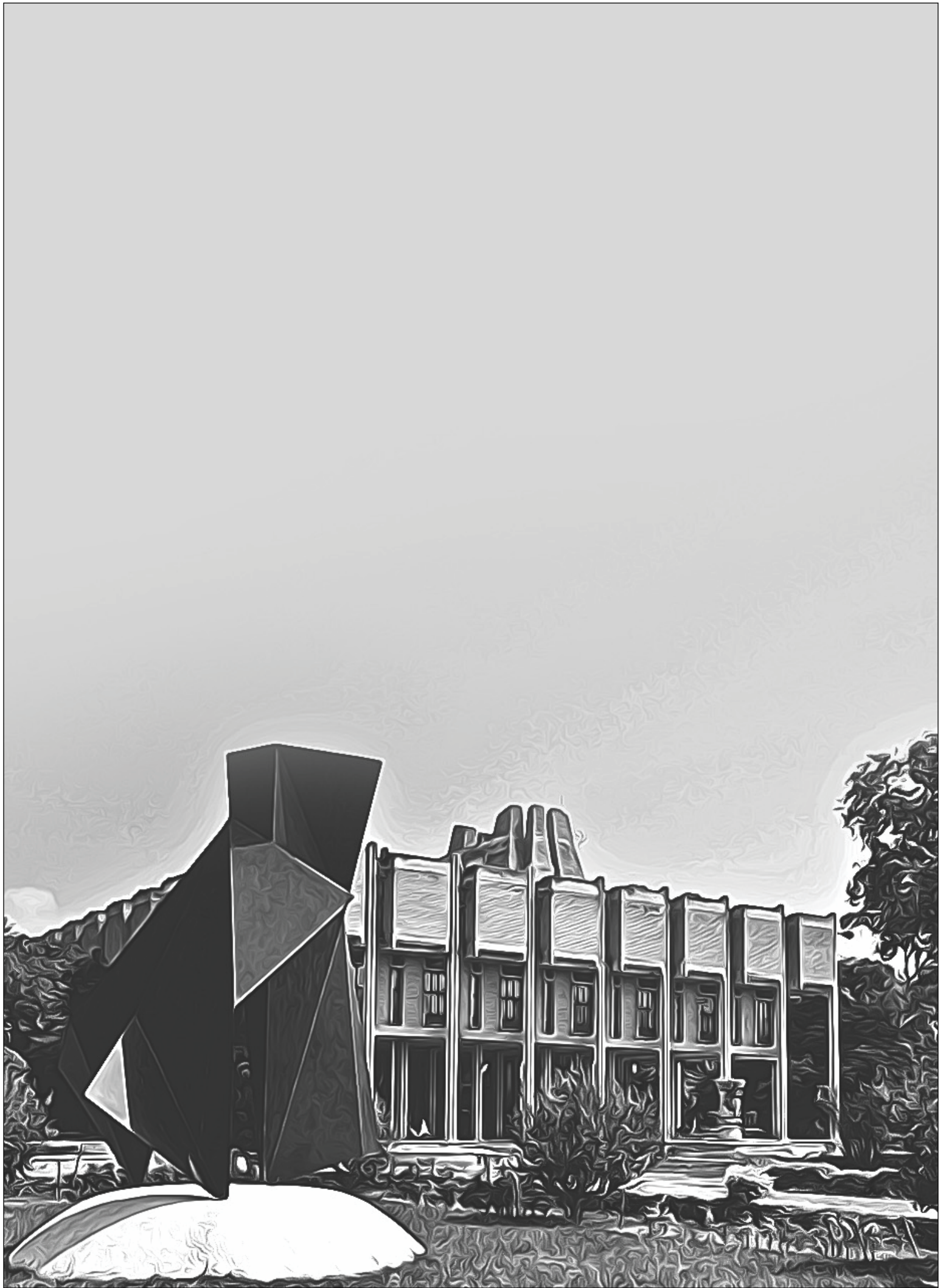
65
YEARS
OF EXCELLENCE

संस्थान स्थापना दिवस
तथा
संस्थान अध्येता एवं पूर्व छात्र पुरस्कार समारोह

THE INSTITUTE FOUNDATION DAY
AND
THE INSTITUTE FELLOW & ALUMNI AWARD CEREMONY

SATURDAY, 2nd NOVEMBER 2024

Institute Fellow | Distinguished Alumnus Award
Distinguished Services Award | Young Alumnus Award





Director's Message

Warm Foundation Day Greetings to everyone!

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the establishment of our Institute.

I am deeply honored to assume the leadership of this extraordinary institution, which I have been fortunate enough to call my alma mater and my HOME!


This day is an occasion to pay tribute to the visionary leaders who set the foundation for the core values of IITK in pursuit of excellence! The objectives that still resonate within us.

As we reminisce the old and golden days of IIT Kanpur with a sense of belongingness and camaraderie, I would like to recall significant happenings of the past year. In a major step, the Institute has established Kotak School of Sustainability on campus with generous support from Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. The construction activities of the Gangwal School of Medical Sciences and Technology and Yadupati Singhanian Super Speciality Hospital are in progress and expected to be completed by the end of 2025. IIT Kanpur signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) Kanpur, in which IIT Kanpur will mentor IIS Kanpur to Establish State-of-the-art Laboratories and cutting-edge Curriculum. The partnership aims to build capacities and meet the aspirations of India's youth by upskilling our country's workforce and youth. IIT Kanpur is engaged in some of the pioneering research work in the defense sector. In collaboration with the DRDO, we have established a DRDO-Industry-Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA CoE) on its campus for interdisciplinary research in next-generation defense technologies.

The need of the hour is to set future plans for the Institute, building further on the trajectory. We need to push harder towards excellence while sustaining the very best of what we do in the areas of research, innovation, and teaching.

While we continue to thrive in research and innovation, there is a substantial need to accelerate the process of translating innovative technologies into viable commercial products. To facilitate this, we are instituting the Office of Translational Research in the Directorate, which would significantly accelerate the process of translational research at the Institute.

Further, I am delighted to mention that we hosted over 700 alumni on campus during last year's reunion sessions and we enthusiastically look forward to this year's reunion sessions, which is about to commence from mid November. In an effort to enhance the engagement with our distinguished alumni and seek their insights to chart the next steps in IIT Kanpur's journey toward global excellence, we have initiated Distinguished Alumni meetings. First-ever Distinguished Alumni Meeting in India was held in Goa and In the United States in New York. The discussions with our Distinguished Alumni serve as a roadmap to achieving our collective vision. Besides, IIT Karvaan visited Singapore and the United States this year.



The networking events witnessed over 500 alumni. It was a heartwarming and inspiring experience to meet and discuss the vision for the Institute with all my fellow alumni.

Alumni Support and Contributions have played a vital role in the growth and development of the Institute. Over the years, alumni have been contributing towards one-of-a-kind new initiatives and infrastructure development, establishing several faculty chairs, student scholarships, and research awards, as well as mentoring our faculty and students. I take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude for all the support.

Last but not least, I would like to congratulate all the esteemed recipients of the Institute Fellow recognition, Distinguished Alumnus Award, Distinguished Services Award, and Young Alumnus Award.

Happy Foundation Day, once again!

Jai Hind!

- Manindra Agrawal



The Institute Fellow Award, instituted by IIT Kanpur in 2005, recognizes and honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the Institute's growth. These contributions have impacted not only the fields of education, academics, and industrial development but also the broader well-being of society, bringing laurels and recognition to the nation both domestically and internationally.



Prof. Pradip Sinha

Emeritus Fellow,
Biological Sciences and Bioengineering
IIT Kanpur



Prof. Rajat Moona

Professor (HAG)
Department of Computer
Science and Engineering
IIT Kanpur
and
Director, IIT Gandhinagar



Prof. Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi

Professor (HAG)
Department of Electrical Engineering
IIT Kanpur & Former Director, IIT Roorkee

Institute Fellow



Prof. Pradip Sinha

Emeritus Fellow,
Biological Sciences and Bioengineering
IIT Kanpur

Prof. Pradip Sinha was invited to join IIT Kanpur as visiting faculty in the Department of Chemistry in June 2001 to help spearhead a new Biology (BIO) initiative, supported by a Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) grant pledged by Shri Arun Shourie, then an MP. Collaborating closely with the advisory body for the BIO initiative, Prof. Sinha developed both the short- and long-term objectives for a future academic department in the broad field of biology. As a visiting faculty member, Prof. Sinha outlined the educational vision, research infrastructure, and recruitment strategies that led to the formation of the Department of Biological Sciences and Bioengineering (BSBE) in September 2001, where he became its founding Head and served in that position until 2010. Under his leadership, BSBE gained national prominence as a center of excellence for research and education in biology and bioengineering.

Prof. Sinha has been a pathbreaker in cancer research, using *Drosophila* as a model organism to uncover fundamental cancer mechanisms that are challenging to study in humans. His research has revealed insights into cancer resistance—an innate mechanism of elimination of cancer cells—termed cell competition. He also pioneered identifying elusive nuclear targets of human oncogenes in *Drosophila*, thereby raising the prospect of cancer drug discovery *in vivo* in a model organism. More recent breakthroughs from his laboratory include discovering an essential squamous cell cancer mechanism. These findings hold both biomedical potential and therapeutic promise.

Prof. Sinha has been previously a fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, and a Satish Chandra Agarwal Chair Professor at IIT Kanpur.

In recognition of his enduring contributions to institution-building and his pivotal discoveries in cancer mechanisms, IIT Kanpur is proud to recognize Prof. Pradip Sinha as an Institute Fellow.

Institute Fellow



Prof. Rajat Moona

Professor (HAG)

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

IIT Kanpur and Director, IIT Gandhinagar

Prof. Rajat Moona joined the faculty of Computer Science and Engineering at IIT Kanpur in 1991, from where he obtained his B.Tech degree in 1985. Prof. Rajat Moona was Director General of CDAC from 2011-2017 and founding director of IIT Bhilai from 2017-22.

Prof. Rajat Moona has contributed enormously towards education, automation and computing in the institute as well as in the country. He has supervised more than 80 postgraduate theses, several PhD scholars and taught several courses at the PG and UG levels. His contributions also include computerization of the JEE processes, JEE Examination and GATE examination. As founding director of IIT Bhilai, Prof. Moona was instrumental in bringing up IIT Bhilai in record time, and the institute could move to its permanent campus.

At IIT Kanpur, he was instrumental in developing several e-governance applications such as smart card-based driving licenses/ vehicle registration system / institute ID cards. He also provided consultation in the national health card, national ID card, Public Distribution System card and other initiatives. He was inducted in the technical advisory committee of EVMs in 2009, resulting in the design of the M3EVMs, VVPATs and Secure Manufacturing processes for EVMs. He was also instrumental in defining several IT solutions for the Election Commission of India. Nationally, he has been a contributor to many projects including Electronic Toll Collection, UIDAI, Electronic Passport, etc. At C-DAC, he played a key role in the National Supercomputing Mission, National Microprocessor Initiative and Aadhaar based eSign mechanisms.

Prof. Rajat Moona is a recipient of several awards, including the Poonam and Prabhu Goal Chair Professorship, Indo-US Science and Technology Fellowship (1994), VASVIK award (2010), IESA Techno-Visionary Award (2014), Fellowship of Maharashtra Academy of Sciences, National Award of Election Commission of India (2016 and 2021).

In recognition of his stellar contributions to this institute and to the country as a teacher, researcher, technology provider, and administrator, IIT Kanpur takes immense pride in honoring Prof. Rajat Moona as an Institute Fellow.

Institute Fellow



Prof. Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi

Professor (HAG)

Department of Electrical Engineering
IIT Kanpur & Former Director, IIT Roorkee

Prof. Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi earned the B.Tech., M.Tech., and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from IIT Kanpur. Prof. Chaturvedi has the distinction of serving as the Director of three premier national institutions: IIT Roorkee, IIT Mandi and IAS Shimla. He has also been the Chairman, Board of Governors of UP Textile Technology Institute, Kanpur.

As a faculty member, he has served IIT Kanpur for more than twenty-five years, where he has also held the Sanjay and Rachna Pradhan Chair Professorship. A passionate teacher, he was conferred the Distinguished Teacher Award of IIT Kanpur and also the INSA Teachers' award. UG and PG students of the EE department have long admired his teaching of several fundamental courses in the area of Communications and inspired by his teaching, a large number of students have chosen the field of Communications for their professional career. It is a matter of great pride for the institute that several of them are now globally recognised, eminent researchers. Further, some of his students are distinguished or young alumnus awardees of IIT Kanpur.

Prof. Chaturvedi has served IIT Kanpur in several important leadership roles, such as the Head of the Electrical Engineering Department, Dean of Research & Development and Deputy Director. Several initiatives taken by him have helped in shaping the charter of these offices. A large number of new building projects initiated by him have been completed recently.

Perhaps the most important legacy of Prof. Chaturvedi at IIT Kanpur is his research in the area of communication systems. His fundamental research in this area has brought significant visibility to IIT Kanpur. His contributions to waveform shaping and sequence design are pioneering and continue to attract the attention and citations of the global research community. As a result, IIT Kanpur today boasts of one of the strongest groups in communication among all the IITs.

In recognition of his stellar contributions to this Institute as a researcher,
a teacher, and an academic-administrator,
IIT Kanpur takes great pride in honoring Prof. Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi as an Institute Fellow.



The Distinguished Alumnus Award (DAA) is the highest honor given by IIT Kanpur to its alumni, recognizing individuals who have made outstanding contributions in their fields of expertise and left a global impact. Since 1989, this honor has been awarded to 159 alumni for their Academic Excellence, Professional Excellence, Entrepreneurship and Management Excellence, and Service to Humanity.



Shri Harsh Kumar
(BT/ME/1973)
President & Co-Founder
Niswarth



Shri Shashidhar Sinha
(BT/CE/1979)
CEO
India IPG Mediabrands



Dr. Ajay Bhushan Pandey
(BT/EE/1983)
Chairperson
National Financial Reporting
Authority



Shri Ranjan Chopra
(BT/EE/1983)
Chairman & Managing Director
Team Computers



Prof. Sunil Agrawal
(BT/ME/1984)
Professor
Columbia University



Shri K. Krithivasan
(MT/IME/1988)
CEO & Managing Director
Tata Consultancy Services



Prof. Mahan Mj
(MSc5/MTH/1992)
Professor
Department of Mathematics
at TIFR &
Monk of the Ramakrishna
Math and Mission



Prof. Senthil Todadri
(MSc5/PHY/1992)
Professor
Massachusetts Institute of Technology



Shri Rajat Dhawan
(BT/CHE/1994)
India Chair & Senior Partner
McKinsey & Company Inc.



Dr. Sumit Gulwani
(BT/CSE/2000)
Distinguished Scientist & Vice President
Microsoft



Shri Amit Kumar
(BT/CE/2000)
Co-Founder & CEO
NoBroker



Dr. Saurabh Kumar Tiwary
(BT/EE/2001)
Vice President & General Manager
Cloud AI Google



Shri Soham Mazumdar
(BT/CSE/2002)
Co-Founder & CEO
WisdomAI

Distinguished Alumnus Award



Shri Harsh Kumar

(BT/ME/1973)

President & Co-Founder

Niswarth

Shri Harsh Kumar is a distinguished leader with over 51 years of professional experience in the North Bengal tea industry, his expertise has been instrumental in managing and advising on tea gardens and factories, addressing complex engineering challenges, and solving labor-related issues. He has held key roles, including Executive Director of Teesta River Beverages, CEO of Hind Tea Company and currently Visiting Agent of Contemporary Brokers (Tea) where he managed significant operations, including the turnaround of multiple tea estates and leading extensive plantation projects.

He has successfully blended professional responsibilities with a deep commitment to social work, especially among the underprivileged and tribal populations in tea gardens/Villages of North Bengal, Assam and remote villages in Sikkim. In 2006, he co-founded the NGO 'NISWARTH' with his wife, focusing on providing critical services, including healthcare, disability certification, free distribution of aids and appliances, and community development through vocational training centers in North Bengal and Assam. Their efforts have impacted over 273 tea gardens and benefited nearly 1.57 million people.

He graduated in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in the year 1973. His leadership extended beyond his professional work as he served in various roles, including Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Indian Tea Association (Dooars) and advisor to numerous tea factories and academies. A passionate advocate for community welfare, he has led numerous initiatives, from improving water supplies and conducting cultural programs to educating the local population against harmful practices.

Honoring his stellar contribution in the field of Industry Management and Social Welfare,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Harsh Kumar the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2024.

Distinguished Alumnus Award



Shri Shashidhar Sinha

(BT/CE/1979)

CEO

India IPG Mediabrands

Shri Shashidhar Sinha, has over 38 years of experience in the advertising industry in India and is currently the CEO of IPG Mediabrands India, the second-largest advertising and media buying group in the country. Under his leadership, IPG Mediabrands climbed from outside the top five to the second position, achieving a remarkable revenue growth CAGR of over 19% in the last decade. The group serves more than 150 clients, including Amazon, Samsung, Amul, Tata Motors, and ITC.

Beyond his role at IPG, Shri Shashidhar has made significant contributions to the advertising and media industry. He is the Chairman of the Board of the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC), which runs the world's largest TV audience measurement panel. Shri Shashidhar was also the Chairman of the Media Research Users Council (MRUC), overseeing the Indian Readership Survey, the world's largest readership survey. He is uniquely positioned as the only individual to head both TV and print audience measurement bodies in India.

A civil engineering graduate from the year 1979, Shri Shashidhar influence extends to numerous boards, including Dainik Jagran, IIM Amritsar, and advisory roles at IIM Bangalore. He also dedicates time to social causes, supporting organizations like Akhand Jyoti Hospital, which works on eradicating blindness in Bihar, and TRRAIN, which aids in training and employing people with disabilities in the retail sector.

Honoring his stellar contribution in transforming the advertising
and media measurement landscape,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Shashidhar Sinha the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2024.

Distinguished Alumnus Award



Dr. Ajay Bhushan Pandey

(BT/EE/1983)

Chairperson

National Financial Reporting Authority

Dr. Ajay Bhushan Pandey is a visionary leader driving India's digital transformation with profound expertise in finance, technology, and infrastructure. His distinguished career has seen him in pivotal roles where he has significantly influenced government policies, digital identity, and tax reforms. Known for his deep understanding of the intersection between technology and governance, Dr. Pandey's leadership has been instrumental in reshaping India's digital landscape and financial systems.

Dr. Pandey is currently serving as the Chairperson of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), where he plays a crucial role in ensuring the integrity of financial reporting and governance across India. His oversight continues to strengthen regulatory frameworks and uphold transparency in the financial ecosystem, contributing to India's evolving financial infrastructure.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Pandey has earned recognition for his transformative contributions to India's digital and financial sectors. As the CEO of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), he led the development and implementation of Aadhaar, providing over 1.2 billion Indians with a secure biometric digital identity, which became the foundation of India's Digital Identity revolution. Additionally, his leadership as Chairman of the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) modernized the tax system, promoting efficiency and transparency for millions of businesses across the country. His work as Finance Secretary further reinforced his influence in shaping India's economic policies during key transformative periods.

Dr. Pandey holds a PhD in Computer Science, adding to his robust academic foundation that complements his practical expertise. His extensive background in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) has equipped him with decades of experience in the integration of technology, policy, law, and governance, enabling him to lead some of India's most critical initiatives.

Honoring his stellar contributions in the field of Digital Transformation and Public Policy, IIT Kanpur confers upon Dr. Ajay Bhushan Pandey the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2024.

Distinguished Alumnus Award



Shri Ranjan Chopra

(BT/EE/1983)

Chairman & Managing Director
Team Computers

Shri Ranjan Chopra is a Chairman & Managing Director, Team Computers, he is a visionary first-generation entrepreneur who has seamlessly transformed his personal passions into thriving business ventures. As an IIT Kanpur alumnus, his fascination with technology and innovation led him to establish Team Computers in 1988 with a modest start of ₹54,000. Today, Team Computers has grown into a powerhouse in the tech industry, employing over 5,000 individuals and achieving a turnover of more than ₹3,500 crore.

Shri Ranjan's love for music and culinary arts further inspired his entry into the hospitality industry, where he has created some of the most celebrated establishments. His ventures include O'la, a highly-rated restaurant in Delhi with a presence in Goa, and Avataara, a resort that has quickly gained popularity in Goa. Zorba, a stunning banquet venue in Delhi, also stands as a testament to his commitment to delivering exceptional experiences.

Shri Ranjan's core belief in 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family) drives his extensive range of social initiatives. His philanthropic efforts include digital literacy and skills development for over 2,000 prisoners in Uttarakhand, advocacy for justice that led to the release of more than 90 undertrial prisoners, and the education of over 4,500 school children in digital literacy and cyber safety. His environmental contributions are equally remarkable, involving the planting of over 50,000 native trees, water conservation efforts harvesting 40 lakh liters annually, and measures to prevent forest fires. Shri Ranjan also plays a significant role in animal welfare, revitalizing a veterinary hospital that treats over 5,000 animals and birds each year.

Shri Ranjan completed his engineering in 1983. Throughout his journey, he has been a thought leader in the tech industry, frequently sought after as a speaker and advocate for empowering work cultures. His leadership extends to his social endeavors, where his impact has been felt across communities and environments alike.

Honoring his stellar contribution in the field of Entrepreneurship,
Community Service, and Environmental Conservation, IIT Kanpur confers
upon Shri Ranjan Chopra the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2024.

Distinguished Alumnus Award



Prof. Sunil Agrawal

(BT/ME/1984)

Professor

Columbia University

Prof. Sunil K. Agrawal is a world-renowned roboticist and a pioneer in the field of rehabilitation robotics. He has established an influential interdisciplinary program at Columbia University that bridges research between the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Prof. Agrawal has trained over 40 PhD students, authored more than 500 papers and 4 books, and holds 20 U.S. patents. His work has earned him numerous prestigious accolades, including the ASME Machine Design Award (2016), the ASME Robotics and Mechanisms Award (2016), and the NSF Presidential Faculty Fellow Award from The White House (1994). He has been recognized internationally, receiving the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation U.S. Senior Scientist Award and the Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award from Germany. He is a fellow of both the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE).

A beloved scholar and mentor, Prof. Sunil Agrawal graduated in the year 1984 from IITKanpur. Prof. Agrawal continues to lead transformative research in rehabilitation robotics, showing its potential to improve functions in individuals with neurological injury, such as with stroke, spinal cord injury, cerebral palsy, Parkinson's disease, ALS, and others.

Honoring his stellar contribution in the field of Rehabilitation Robotics to improve daily functions in people with neurological injuries, IIT Kanpur confers upon Prof. Sunil Agrawal the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2024.

Distinguished Alumnus Award



Shri K. Krithivasan
(MT/IME/1988)
CEO & Managing Director
Tata Consultancy Services

Shri K. Krithivasan, also known as Krithi, became the CEO and MD of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on June 1, 2023. With over three decades of experience in the technology industry, Shri Krithi has positioned TCS as a leader in the rapidly evolving tech landscape. Under his leadership, TCS gained \$2 billion in brand value in 2024, making it the second most valuable IT services brand globally. Shri Krithi emphasizes customer centricity and employee empathy, and his efforts have been pivotal in TCS being recognized as a Global Top Employer 2024 by the Top Employers Institute.

Before his current role, Shri Krithi was the Global Head of the Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI) Business Group, where he excelled in growth strategy, financial performance, and customer relationships. He joined TCS in 1989 and has held various leadership roles, including e-business delivery, where he established best practices for large programs. Shri Krithi also serves on the boards of TCS Iberoamerica, TCS Ireland, TCS Latin America, and the supervisory board of TCS Technology Solutions AG. As part of India's largest multinational business group, TCS employs over 603,305 consultants across 55 countries.

Born in Trichy, Tamil Nadu, Shri Krithi holds a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Madras and a master's degree in Industrial and Management Engineering from IIT Kanpur.

Honoring his stellar contribution in the field of Technology Leadership, and Emerging Business, IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri K. Krithivasan the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2024.

Distinguished Alumnus Award



Prof. Mahan Mj

(MSc5/MTH/1992)

Professor, Department of Mathematics at TIFR &
Monk of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission

Prof. Mahan Mj, also known as Swami Vidyanathananda, is a distinguished Indian Mathematician and a revered spiritual monk of the Ramakrishna order. His unique journey bridges the realms of science and spirituality, seamlessly combining an austere lifestyle with an unrelenting quest for mathematical discovery. Prof. Mahan has made significant contributions to hyperbolic geometry, low-dimensional topology, geometric group theory, and complex geometry. His groundbreaking work has been recognized as a major achievement in advancing Thurston's program, which began nearly four decades ago.

His scholarly impact includes the authorship of several papers on Cannon-Thurston maps. In recognition of his pioneering contributions to the field of Mathematical Sciences, he was awarded the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award in 2011 and the Infosys Prize in 2015. He was an invited speaker at the International Congress of Mathematicians 2018. Currently, he serves as a Professor of Mathematics at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in Mumbai.

Prof. Mahan's academic journey began when he enrolled at IIT Kanpur in 1987, initially pursuing BT in Electrical Engineering. However, he shifted his focus to his true passion—Mathematics. He graduated in 1992 with an Integrated MSc degree. He then pursued his PhD at UC Berkeley, completing it in 1997 with a thesis titled Maps on Boundaries of Hyperbolic Metric Spaces. Following his academic endeavors, he joined the Ramakrishna Mission in 1998, embracing a monastic life that culminated in his ordination as a monk in 2008.

IIT Kanpur takes great pride in conferring upon Prof. Mahan Mj the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2024 in recognition of his exemplary contribution in the field of Mathematical Sciences.

Distinguished Alumnus Award



Prof. Senthil Todadri

(MSC5/PHY/1992)

Professor

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Prof. Senthil Todadri is a Professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a distinguished physicist known for his groundbreaking work in condensed matter theory. His pioneering contributions include the theory of deconfined quantum criticality, which describes a new class of phase transitions, and the discovery of dualities in quantum field theories related to two-dimensional superconducting states. These discoveries have far-reaching implications across many areas in the field of physics.

Prof. Todadri's excellence in research has been recognized with prestigious honors, including his election as a Simons Investigator, a Sloan Research Fellow, and a fellow of the American Physical Society. In 2023, he was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and in 2024, he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, USA.

After completing his undergraduate studies at IIT Kanpur, and earning his PhD from Yale University, he further honed his expertise as a postdoctoral researcher at the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics in Santa Barbara, California. Since 2001, Prof. Todadri has been a professor of physics at MIT, where his research focuses on exploring novel phases and phase transitions of quantum matter that extend beyond conventional paradigms.

Honoring his stellar contribution in the field of Theoretical and Condensed Matter Physics, IIT Kanpur confers upon Prof. Senthil Todadri the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2024.

Distinguished Alumnus Award



Shri Rajat Dhawan

(BT/CHE/1994)

India Chair & Senior Partner
McKinsey & Company Inc.

Shri Rajat Dhawan is the Senior Managing Partner and Chair of McKinsey India, where he has been counseling CEOs and Boards on performance transformation, corporate strategy, and organizational effectiveness, and catalyzing firm's innovations towards delivering holistic client impact.

Over a 27-year career at the firm, he has helped several marquee clients evolve into global leaders across sectors such as automotive, advanced electronics, pharmaceuticals, oil & gas, basic materials, and so forth. Shri Rajat founded several centers of competence in India, which house functional expertise in domains such as AI, analytics, product development, manufacturing, and purchasing.

A chemical engineering graduate in the year 1994 and an MBA from IIM Lucknow, he is also a founder and sponsor of Ashoka University: Leading Liberal Arts and Sciences University, in India.

Outside of McKinsey, Shri Rajat works to create an enduring impact for communities in India, as a champion of driving sustainable, inclusive, and resilient growth for the Indian economy. He has led the creation of this growth roadmap for "India's Century" through 2047, and specifically crafted the funding imperatives for sustainable and inclusive growth in India during its G20/B20 presidency.

Honoring his stellar contributions to the corporate sector in India,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Rajat Dhawan the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2024.

Distinguished Alumnus Award



Dr. Sumit Gulwani

(BT/CSE/2000)

Distinguished Scientist & Vice President
Microsoft

Dr. Sumit Gulwani is a Distinguished Scientist and Vice President at Microsoft, where he spearheads scientific advancements in AI technologies and their integration into mass-market products. Dr. Sumit began his professional career at Microsoft Research in 2005. His pioneering work, starting with the famous Flash Fill feature in Excel (now featured in middle-school computing textbooks), has significantly shaped the field of AI-assisted Programming. It demonstrated that programs can be generated efficiently from imprecise specifications, leading to automation across a wide range of tasks for developers, low-code/no-code users, and even within education to enhance learning experiences for students.

Since 2015, Dr. Sumit has led a blended research and engineering team funded by multiple Microsoft business units, enabling him to deliver popular AI features in numerous Microsoft products. These include the Formula-by-Example feature in Excel, PowerApps, PowerAutomate, Data connectors in PowerQuery, by-example cmdlets in PowerShell, IntelliCode Suggestions in Visual Studio, and recently various features in multiple Copilots. Dr. Sumit's intrapreneurship exemplifies how deep foundational research can directly influence product development and vice versa.

Dr. Sumit's groundbreaking work in neuro-symbolic AI, which combines neural methods like large language models with logical-reasoning-based symbolic techniques, has been recognized with several awards. He is the first industrial researcher to receive the prestigious Max Planck-Humboldt Medal and holds the rare distinction of earning three Most Influential Paper awards for his first three major papers in program synthesis. With 170+ research publications and 13 paper awards, he is also a Fellow of the ACM and AAIA, and a recipient of the ACM SIGPLAN Robin Milner Young Researcher Award.

Beyond his research, Dr. Sumit initiated the PROSE Research Fellowship Program in India, a remote apprenticeship model designed to scale impact while nurturing globally diverse talent. He is an ACM Distinguished Speaker, having delivered over 70 keynotes and invited talks. He is a champion of storytelling training and initiatives, emphasizing the power of narrative in technology.

He earned his PhD at UC-Berkeley (where he received the ACM SIGPLAN Doctoral Dissertation Award) and undergraduate degree in computer science at IIT Kanpur in 2000 (where he was awarded the President's Gold Medal).

In recognition of his stellar contributions to scientific advancements in AI-assisted programming and their integration into mass-market products,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Dr. Sumit Gulwani the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2024.

Distinguished Alumnus Award



Shri Amit Kumar

(BT/CE/2000)

Co-Founder & CEO

NoBroker

Shri Amit Kumar is a visionary entrepreneur and co-founder of NoBroker, the world's largest Customer-to-Customer (C2C) marketplace and India's first and only property tech unicorn. In an industry often perceived as opaque with a strong presence of middlemen and information asymmetry, his groundbreaking work with NoBroker has revolutionized the real estate sector by eliminating intermediaries, making property transactions truly between customers.

Over the past decade, NoBroker has transformed the real estate landscape, growing to a valuation of over ₹8,300 crore and generating an impressive annual revenue of ₹1,200 crore. Under his leadership, NoBroker has not only served more than 3 crore customers but also helped ordinary people save a staggering ₹16,000 crore in brokerage fees. Shri Amit's commitment to democratic growth extends to all stakeholders, enabling employees to generate wealth exceeding ₹500 crore through ESOPs and providing employment to over 6,500 people.

He completed his graduation in civil engineering in the year 2000 and masters from IIM Ahmedabad. Shri Amit's passion for giving back to the community shines through his active mentorship of budding entrepreneurs, angel investments in multiple start-ups, and frequent speaking engagements at premier institutions like IITs, IIMs, and other engineering and management schools.

Shri Amit is an influential figure in the start-up ecosystem. His dedication to nurturing entrepreneurship and developing the start-up community makes him a respected leader and an inspiration to many.

Honouring his stellar contribution in the field of entrepreneurship and startup ecosystem, IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Amit Kumar the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2024.

Distinguished Alumnus Award



Dr. Saurabh Kumar Tiwary

(BT/EE/2001)

Vice President & General Manager
Cloud AI Google

Dr. Saurabh Kumar Tiwary is the Vice President & General Manager of Google's Cloud AI business unit, overseeing product families such as Vertex AI, Kaggle, Colab, and AI Studio. A leader in the AI field, Saurabh previously served as Corporate Vice President and Technical Fellow at Microsoft, where he played a crucial role in the AI transformation of the company. He led the Microsoft Turing group, driving advancements in large-scale model training, inference, and integration across major Microsoft products, including Microsoft Copilot, Office 365, Windows, Edge, and Bing. Dr. Saurabh also advised Microsoft Ventures Fund (M12), influencing its AI investments in start-ups.

He pioneered several initiatives at Microsoft, including the MS-TAP (Turing Academic Program) and the strategic partnership with OpenAI, integrating GPT-3, ChatGPT, and GPT-4 models into Microsoft products. levels of Google and Microsoft, positioning him as a key figure in the AI revolution.

After earning his BT in Electrical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 2001, Dr. Saurabh completed his MS and PhD from Carnegie Mellon University and an MBA from the Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley.

Honouring his stellar contributions in the field of AI Innovation and Leadership in the Tech Industry, IIT Kanpur confers upon Dr. Saurabh Kumar Tiwary the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2024.

Distinguished Alumnus Award



Shri Soham Mazumdar

(BT/CSE/2002)

Co-Founder & CEO

WisdomAI

Shri Soham Mazumdar is a serial entrepreneur and technology visionary known for his pioneering contributions to the field of cybersecurity and data analytics. As the co-founder and Chief Architect of Rubrik, Shri Soham played a pivotal role in steering the company from its inception to a remarkable milestone of over \$500 million in annualized revenue. Under his architectural guidance and leadership in R&D, Rubrik evolved into a leading cyber security firm, offering robust data security solutions through its Security Cloud platform, designed with a zero-trust architecture to safeguard data across enterprise, cloud, and SaaS environments. Rubrik's success culminated in a highly anticipated IPO in 2024 on the New York Stock Exchange, with a market capitalization of \$5.6 billion

Continuing his entrepreneurial journey, Shri Soham co-founded WisdomAI, a cutting-edge Gen AI-powered data analytics company, where he currently serves as CEO. His vision for leveraging AI to transform data analytics further solidifies his reputation as an innovator at the forefront of technology.

Shri Soham's entrepreneurial pursuits began with Tagtile, where he was the Co-Founder and CTO. Tagtile's success led to its acquisition by Facebook in 2012, marking the beginning of his impactful journey in the tech industry.

Prior to his entrepreneurial ventures, Shri Soham was a technical lead at Google in Mountain View, California. He made significant contributions to the Teragoogle project, a groundbreaking re-architecture of Google's Web Search Engine to scale it to a trillion documents. His exceptional work earned him Google's most prestigious Founder's Award, presented by Sergey Brin and Larry Page.

An academic prodigy, Shri Soham represented India in the International Math Olympiad and won a Silver Medal. He secured an All India Rank of 3 in the IIT-JEE 1998 and pursued a degree in Computer Science from IIT Kanpur, graduating in 2002. He further honed his expertise with a Master's in Computer Science from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, in 2004.

Honoring his stellar contribution in the field of Data Security,
AI based Analytics and Entrepreneurship, IIT Kanpur confers upon
Shri Soham Mazumdar the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2024.



The Distinguished Services Award (DSA) recognizes alumni who have provided exemplary service in advancing the Institute's stature and standing. These individuals serve as an army of goodwill ambassadors across various fields, enhancing and supporting the Institute's initiatives in areas such as project collaborations, academic partnerships, industry alliances, alumni interactions, student workshops, mentoring, summer projects, fundraising, placements etc.



Shri Anurag Goel
(BT/ME/1971)

Corporate Consultant for Innovation & Growth
President, Alumni Association -
IIT Kanpur Outer Delhi Chapter



Dr. Rajeev Ranjan
(BT/EE/1990)

Custom CPU Principal Hardware Engineer
Qualcomm Technologies

Distinguished Services Award



Shri Anurag Goel

(BT/ME/1971)

Corporate Consultant for Innovation & Growth

President, Alumni Association - IIT Kanpur Outer Delhi Chapter

Shri Anurag Goel has 52 years of rich and varied experience spanning industry, academia, and consultancy. Currently, he serves as an independent corporate consultant specialising in innovation and growth and also the Vice Chairman of Pan IIT Alumni India and Chairman of Steering Committee of IIT Kanpur Alumni Convention 2024 where more than 800 IITK alumni participated. A self-motivated corporate professional with entrepreneurial zeal, Shri Goel is dedicated to providing value-added services to industry, research, and academics. He passionately advocates that in today's rapidly changing, highly competitive, liberalised global economy, a flexible mindset geared toward continuous improvement and innovation, combined with skills in Total Quality and Cost Leadership, is essential for managers, executives, and employees. His approach empowers them to contribute effectively to improving the bottom line and achieving sustained long-term corporate growth.

Shri Goel completed his BT in Mechanical Engineering in 1971. His proactive efforts in addressing IIT Kanpur alumni issues have consistently delivered impactful results. Notably, in March 2013, he organised the IITK Convention at IIT Delhi, attracting nearly 1,350 participants. Almost 40 years ago, he initiated monthly local gatherings for IITK alumni in Ghaziabad, demonstrating his exceptional ability to involve others in alumni activities.

In recognition of his stellar contribution in facilitating Alumni Engagement
and Community Building,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Anurag Goel the Distinguished Services Award 2024.

Distinguished Services Award



Dr. Rajeev Ranjan
(BT/EE/1990)

Custom CPU Principal Hardware Engineer
Qualcomm Technologies

Dr. Ranjan is a seasoned engineering veteran in the semiconductor and electronic design automation industries. Through his professional tenure he has worked at both start-ups and established companies. As Chief Technology Officer at Jasper Design Automation, he was one of the leading members of the startup team that brought Formal Verification technology to the mainstream design flow and pioneered a brand new market. This led to a successful exit of Jasper Design Automation via acquisition by Cadence Design Systems. Through his 20+ years career in the EDA industry, Dr. Ranjan has held key technical leadership roles and has extensive experience assembling and directing top global teams and building strong relationships with customers worldwide. Dr. Ranjan has recently embarked on a new chapter in his professional career as a CPU Hardware Engineer at Qualcomm. He is part of the Custom CPU group that is at the heart of the Qualcomm's next-generation Snapdragon Elite processor.

Dr. Ranjan has been serving in the IIT Kanpur Alumni community for close to two decades. As President of the IIT Kanpur Alumni Association Silicon Valley (IITK SVAA) chapter from 2010 to 2012, he cultivated leadership within the community and mentored successive leaders to carry forward the chapter's mission. Dr. Ranjan took over the presidency of the IIT Kanpur Foundation in 2020, and has been instrumental in redefining the Foundation's image within the North American alumni community. Working with the teams at IIT Kanpur and IIT Kanpur Development Foundation, under Dr. Ranjan's leadership, IITK Foundation has reached new heights in raising funds for the alma mater to enable numerous initiatives that would help IIT Kanpur become one of the world's premier institutions.

Dr. Ranjan earned his BT from IIT Kanpur, in 1990, followed by an MS from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1992. He completed his PhD at the University of California, Berkeley in 1997. He also received an MBA degree from Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania in 2015 and was one of the recipients of the Palmer Scholar award (granted to the top 5% of graduating class).

In recognition of his stellar contribution as a Goodwill Ambassador for the Institute, IIT Kanpur confers upon Dr. Rajeev Ranjan the Distinguished Services Award 2024.



The Young Alumnus Award (YAA) recognizes alumni under the age of 40 who have made significant contributions, achieving exemplary recognition and distinguishing themselves early in their careers in their chosen domains, thereby bringing glory to their alma mater.



Prof. Aparna Singh
(BT/MME/2007)
Associate Professor
IIT Bombay



Dr. Abhishek Bhowmick
(BT/CSE/2010)
Co-Founder & CTO
Samooha



Prof. Pulkit Agrawal
(BT/EE/2011)
Associate Professor
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Young Alumnus Award



Prof. Aparna Singh
(BT/MME/2007)
Associate Professor
IIT Bombay

Prof. Aparna is an accomplished researcher and mentor, currently serving as an Associate Professor in the Department of Metallurgical Engineering and Materials Science at IIT Bombay. She is a distinguished academic with a wealth of achievements and has earned prestigious accolades, including the "Young Metallurgist of the Year 2018" awarded by the Ministry of Steel, "Young Engineer Award 2022" by the Indian National Academy of Engineering and "Young Associateship 2023" by the Indian National Science Academy. A membership of National Academy of Sciences has also been conferred on her in 2024.

As a dedicated supervisor, Prof. Aparna has successfully guided eight PhD students to their degrees. The alumni of her research group have secured positions in renowned institutions, such as faculty roles at IIT BHU and ISM Dhanbad, and research scientist positions at Helmholtz-Zentrum Hereon and EPFL. Prof. Aparna's academic contributions include more than 70 journal publications along with filing of more than 14 patents, reflecting her innovative approach and commitment to advancing her field.

Prof. Aparna's research extends beyond academia, as she actively collaborates with industry leaders to develop advanced materials such as new wheels using advanced steels and epoxy composites for antennas. Her work is characterised by a holistic perspective that integrates the arts, sciences, and engineering, reflecting her belief in the interconnectedness of diverse fields.

Her professional career includes a tenure as a Process Integration Engineer in the Technology Development Group in Hillsboro, Oregon, where she was recognized with an Organisational Award for developing a pioneering process for creating the finest layer interconnects near the transistor layer.

Prof. Aparna's academic journey began at IIT Kanpur, where she excelled as a BT student, winning multiple accolades, including the Director's Gold Medal, Proficiency Medal, and the Mars Fontana Prize in Corrosion Engineering. She was awarded the H.F. Taylor Fellowship to pursue her higher studies at MIT, where she completed her PhD in Materials Science in just four years, along with a Minor in Political Science.

Honoring her stellar contribution in the field of development of novel high strength and toughness nano-structured steels and composites,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Prof. Aparna Singh the Young Alumnus Award 2024.

Young Alumnus Award



Dr. Abhishek Bhowmick
(BT/CSE/2010)
Co-Founder & CTO
Samooaha

Dr. Abhishek Bhowmick is a visionary technologist and entrepreneur who has made significant contributions to the fields of technology, mathematics, and theoretical computer science. As the Co-Founder and CTO of Samooaha, he developed a groundbreaking secure data collaboration platform. His startup was acquired by Snowflake, a major public cloud company, for an impressive high-value figure. Samooaha's success was recognized by its inclusion in Fast Company's Most Innovative Companies List of 2024 and its feature on CNBC.

Before founding Samooaha, Dr. Abhishek spent over 5 years at Apple, leading several privacy and security efforts at the scale of billions of iPhones worldwide, forging a path from theoretical research to practical deployment addressing complex global challenges. He is a computer science graduate from the year 2010. Beyond his technological achievements, Dr. Abhishek resolved a foundational 30+ year open problem in information theory, dating back to 1977, with significant implications in theoretical computer science. His groundbreaking contributions earned him the honor of being a two-time invited speaker at the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) at Princeton, hosted by Turing Award Winner Avi Wigderson.

With a strong commitment to philanthropy and community service, Dr. Abhishek actively collaborates with leading figures in computer science and industry giants to identify opportunities that support and empower exceptional talent. His dedication to advancing fundamental research and mentoring young talent reflects his passion for driving positive change in the world of technology and beyond.

Honoring his stellar contributions in the fields of Technological Innovation,
Computer Science, and Entrepreneurship,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Dr. Abhishek Bhowmick the Young Alumnus Award 2024.

Young Alumnus Award



Prof. Pulkit Agrawal
(BT/EE/2011)
Associate Professor
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Prof. Pulkit Agrawal is an Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at MIT, where he directs the Improbable AI Lab. His research focuses on robotics and learning methods for control, making significant advancements in these fields. Prof. Agrawal's contributions have been widely recognized, including the Best Paper Award at the Conference on Robot Learning 2021 for his work on in-hand object re-orientation and the Best Student Paper Award at the Conference on Computer Supported Collaborative Learning 2011. His accolades also include the IEEE Early Career Award in Robotics and Automation, Sony Faculty Research Award, Salesforce Research Award, Amazon Research Award, and a Fulbright Fellowship.

Prof. Agrawal is also an entrepreneur and advisor, co-founding SafelyYou, a company dedicated to reducing falls in people with dementia. He actively advises several other startups, contributing his expertise to drive innovation in the AI space. His work has gained substantial recognition, with over 11,000 citations and an h-index of 35, reflecting the impact of his research at an early stage in his career.

His influence extends beyond academia, with his work featured in renowned platforms like Netflix, BBC, TechCrunch, Forbes, and Wired. Prof. Agrawal is a sought-after speaker, delivering invited talks at major international robotics/AI conferences, and prestigious institutions and companies such as Oxford, UPenn, University of Washington, Toronto, Caltech, Microsoft, Google, IBM and more.

Before joining MIT, Prof. Agrawal earned his PhD from UC Berkeley and completed his Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 2011, where he was awarded the Director's Gold Medal.

Honoring his stellar contribution in the field of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Prof. Pulkit Agrawal the Young Alumnus Award 2024.



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.

No recipient was selected for the Satyendra K. Dubey Memorial Award in 2024.



