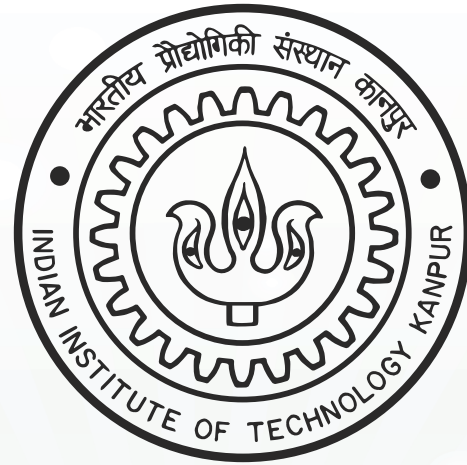


भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान कानपुर
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur



CELEBRATING
66
Years
OF EXCELLENCE

संस्थान स्थापना दिवस
तथा
संस्थान अध्येता एवं पूर्व छात्र पुरस्कार समारोह
**INSTITUTE FOUNDATION DAY
AND
INSTITUTE FELLOW & ALUMNI AWARD CEREMONY**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025

Institute Fellow • Distinguished Alumni Award
Distinguished Services Award • Young Alumni Award



Director's Message

With immense pride and joy, I wish you all a very Happy 66th Foundation Day of IIT Kanpur –a day that marks not just the establishment of an institution, but the beginning of a continuing journey of knowledge, innovation, and mentoring generations of young minds.

And, honoring the legacy of our founders who not only laid the cornerstone of this Institute but also set a strong foundation for a place where science and technology would blend seamlessly with human values, a place where ideas would flourish, and where young minds would be inspired to create solutions for a better tomorrow.

As we commemorate this day, I want to reflect on what we have accomplished together during the past year.

In a significant initiative, we have established the Wadhwani School of Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Systems (WSAIS) in partnership with the Wadhwani Foundation. The school aims to drive scalable, high-impact innovations in Advanced AI, Intelligent Systems, Cybersecurity, Robotics, and AI Policy & Outreach to empower future innovators through interdisciplinary teams, cutting-edge infrastructure, and global partnerships.

In addition, we have also established the Center for Educational Research and Teaching Excellence (CERTEx) to support IITK's mission of fostering a research-backed and technologically advanced educational environment that equips students and faculty to set the highest academic standards. To further accelerate the translation of lab research into real-world solutions, we have also launched the Interface Office for Technology and Applications (IOTA) in the Directorate.

Besides, as the construction of Gangwal School of Medical Sciences and Technology (GSMST) is going forward swiftly, we have also begun the construction of Kotak School of Sustainability (KSS) building, which is designed to be a LEED Platinum-certified, Net Zero Energy facility.

Going forward, recognizing the invaluable contributions of our alumni, donors and other key stakeholders, and acknowledging the need for strategic guidance in navigating the evolving landscape of higher education and research, the Director's Advisory Council (DAC) of IIT Kanpur is established as a high-level advisory body to provide strategic counsel to the Director and assist in shaping the long-term vision and direction of the Institute.

Last year, we began with an ambitious vision to strengthen IIT Kanpur's global impact and set out to raise 5000 Cr for upgrading infrastructure, R&D facilities, and support for faculty and students. I am glad to update you all that 46% of our 5000 Cr campaign target for the Institute's vision has already been committed, including 11% from alumni. It gives me immense pleasure to note that the number of alumni who participated in last year's Institute-Alumni engagement events, including reunions, IIT Karvaan, and Distinguished Alumni Meet, has more than doubled compared to previous years. We had a meaningful time celebrating the 'Spirit of IITK' and discussing the vision for the Institute. 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 Alumni Award, Distinguished Services Award, and Young Alumni 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. Tadinada Venkata Prabhakar
(MT/EE/1979)
(PhD/CSE/1987)
Former Professor,
Department of Computer Science and Engineering,
Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur



Prof. Tadinada Venkata Prabhakar
(MT/EE/1979)
(PhD/CSE/1987)
Former Professor,
Department of Computer Science and Engineering,
Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

Prof. Tadinada Venkata Prabhakar served as a faculty member in the CSE Department at IIT Kanpur from 1986 until superannuating as faculty emeritus in 2022. This nearly four-decade-long tenure delivered advancements of national importance to areas such as web-scale online education, multilingual technologies for agricultural applications, and heritage preservation.

An alumnus of IIT Kanpur's CSE and EE departments, Prof. Prabhakar is best known for anticipating the potential of online education and developing the MOOC management system, MookIT. Innovations in program design and UI/UX made MookIT extremely adaptable and host-friendly. It was a MookIT-based platform that enabled IIT Kanpur to continue pedagogical activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. MookIT has been used by over 2,000 courses globally and is still widely used at IITK. Prof. Prabhakar also conceptualized and led IIT Kanpur's online eMasters degree program.

Prof. Prabhakar has aggressively championed technology accessibility, shepherding the development of the widely used Agrotagger, Agropedia, AgMOOCs, Virtual KVK, and Digital Mandi portals that made time-critical information accessible to farmers in their native languages. He developed the Mobimooocs platform, which pioneered the conduct of online courses using feature phones and extended coverage to those without access to smartphones or high-bandwidth connections. He also implemented the PK Kelkar Library's automation system in 1988 and coordinated the Media Technologies Centre.

A beloved teacher and sought-after mentor, Prof. Prabhakar supervised 7 PhD theses, over 160 Master's theses, and introduced cutting-edge courses on architecting for the cloud, MOOCs, web technologies, and object-oriented modeling.

Prof. Prabhakar's achievements have been recognized by several awards, including the "1989 Batch" Faculty Award in 2019, the 2019 Test of Time Award at the Innovations in Software Engineering Conference, the 2016 Teaching Innovator Award by the MHRD, and the 2012 Agriculture Leadership Award.

In recognition of his contributions to this institute and to the nation as an Educator,
Researcher, Innovator, and Administrator,
IIT Kanpur takes immense pride in honoring Prof. Prabhakar as an Institute Fellow.



The Distinguished Alumni 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 prestigious award has been presented to alumni for their Academic Excellence, Professional Excellence, Entrepreneurship and Management Excellence and Service to Humanity.



Prof. Venkatesan Sundaresan
(MSc2/PHY/1973)
Distinguished Professor
of Plant Biology,
University of California,
Davis



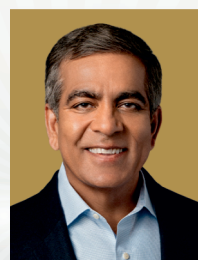
Prof. Arijit Bose
(BT/CHE/1976)
Distinguished Engineering Professor,
University of Rhode Island



Dr. Rema Padman
(BT/CHE/1981)
Trustees Professor of Management
Science and Healthcare
Informatics,
Carnegie Mellon University



Shri Awanish Kumar Awasthi
(BT/EE/1985)
(IAS Retd.) - Advisor to
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Government of Uttar Pradesh



Dr. Deepak Narula
(BT/EE/1985)
Founder, Managing Partner, and
Co-Chief Investment Officer,
Metacapital Management



Shri Gyanesh Kumar
(BT/CE/1985)
Chief Election Commissioner,
Election Commission of India



Prof. Rishikesha T. Krishnan
(MSc5/PHY/1986)
Professor of Strategy,
Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore



Shri Manish Chandra
(BT/CSE/1987)
Founder, Board Member
& Former CEO,
Poshmark



Dr. Naresh Chand Gupta
(BT/CSE/1988)
Founder & CEO
Accuracap Consultancy
Services Pvt. Ltd.



Shri Rishi Kapoor
(BT/EE/1988)
Vice Chairman and
Chief Investment Officer,
Investcorp



Shri Sanjay Malhotra
(BT/CSE/1989)
Governor,
Reserve Bank of India (RBI)



Prof. Amit Agrawal
(BT/ME/1996)
Professor,
Department of Mechanical Engineering,
Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay



Shri Ambuj Kumar
(BT/EE/2002)
Founder,
Fortanix and Simbian



Prof. Venkatesan Sundaresan

(MSc2/PHY/1973)

Distinguished Professor of Plant Biology,
University of California, Davis

Prof. Venkatesan Sundaresan, a recent recipient of the Wolf Prize in Agriculture and an elected Member of the National Academy of Sciences, USA, is a Distinguished Professor of Plant Biology & Plant Sciences at the University of California-Davis. He has made seminal contributions across various fields of plant biology. His research interests and expertise encompass embryo sac development, zygotic transition, pluripotency factors, and apomixis, and genomics of host-microbiome interactions.

After receiving his B.Sc in Physics from University of Pune, M.Sc in Physics from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, M.S in Physics from Carnegie-Mellon University, Ph.D in Biophysics at Harvard University, and postdoctoral research at Harvard and UC Berkeley, he was invited by James Watson to head a research group as an independent investigator at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. In 1996, he became the founding Director of the then-called Institute of Molecular Agrobiolgy in Singapore, which quickly became an internationally leading institute in the plant and microbial sciences.

During his tenure as a Professor at UC-Davis, he has also held appointments as Chair of the Department of Plant Biology, and as Program Director of the BREAD program, a collaboration between the National Science Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He has served on the editorial boards of Genetics, Plant Reproduction, The Plant Cell and Trends in Plant Science. His lab generated the first library of sequenced gene insertion mutants, enabling rapid testing of gene function via reverse genetics, first in Arabidopsis, and then in rice. Their work includes host-microbiome interactions in roots, seeking to uncover how they promote plant growth and drought tolerance. Recently, his lab discovered the molecular mechanisms by which fertilized eggs in plants form embryos, and used these findings to make hybrid crops that can provide high yields in perpetuity, thus achieving a long-sought goal in agriculture. Through these studies, they aim to enhance crop resilience and productivity, contributing to sustainable agriculture and food security.

Honouring his stellar contributions in the fields of Functional Genomics, Plant Reproduction
and Plant Microbiomes,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Prof. Venkatesan Sundaresan the Distinguished Alumni Award 2025.



Prof. Arijit Bose

(BT/CHE/1976)

Distinguished Engineering Professor,
University of Rhode Island

Prof. Arijit Bose is a Distinguished Professor of Engineering in the Department of Chemical, Biomolecular, and Materials Engineering, at the University of Rhode Island, Kingston. His research encompasses the development of energy storage materials with a focus on endurance, safety and compactness, nanoparticle/nanostructured materials synthesis characterization and deployment in practical problems, as well as self-assembly dynamics and thermodynamics of soft materials.

He received his B.Tech. in Chemical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, and a Ph.D from the University of Rochester. He joined URI in 1982 after two years at DuPont and served as Chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering at URI from 2004 to 2009. He has been a Visiting Scientist at MIT (1989;1995-96), a Visiting Research Fellow at Cabot Corporation (2002-2004; 2009-2011) a Visiting Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley (2017; 2024). At IIT Kanpur, he serves as a Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering and as an Advisory Board Member of the Kotak School of Sustainability.

Prof. Bose has published more than 150 papers, which have been cited over 9,300 times. He has twice received URIs Vincent and Estelle Murphy award for outstanding research. He has nine issued US patents and has twice received URIs Intellectual Property award. Along with colleagues at University of California, Berkeley and Stanford University, he cofounded Audiance, Inc. in 2019, to develop safe, long endurance, anatomically sized batteries for powering active implantable medical devices, as well as other niche applications.

Prof. Bose has always chosen problems with relevance to industry. He and his collaborators pioneered the use of cryo-electron microscopy to study solutions of surfactants and polymers, now being used in consumer products. He showed how nanoparticles can be deployed for stabilizing emulsions, useful for mitigating ocean oil spills. His work on batteries focuses on developing solutions for significant issues facing the industry today, including safety, endurance and supply chain stability. He is most proud, however, of the graduate and undergraduate students he has advised, many of whom are making a major impact in their own careers.

Honouring his stellar contributions in the fields of Colloidal Sciences, Self-assembly and
Energy Storage Materials,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Prof. Arijit Bose the Distinguished Alumni Award 2025.



Dr. Rema Padman

(BT/CHE/1981)
Trustees Professor of Management Science and
Healthcare Informatics,
Carnegie Mellon University

Dr. Rema Padman is Trustees Professor of Management Science and Healthcare Informatics in the Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University. She is also Thrust Leader of Healthcare Informatics Research at iLab and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Biomedical Informatics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

She received B.Tech in Chemical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India, M.S in Operations Research from the University of Texas, Dallas, Ph.D in Operations Research from the University of Texas at Austin and National Library of Medicine Senior Fellowship (Individual National Research Service Award) in Applied Informatics from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Dr. Padman's research investigates healthcare analytics, informatics, operations and processes for data-driven decision support in the context of clinical and consumer-facing information technology interventions in healthcare delivery and management. Her recent focus on Artificial Intelligence for Health Literacy develops and evaluates digital therapeutic approaches for health literacy for adults and children globally. She has trained over 30 PhD students and postdoctoral scholars, authored over 300 papers, and advises healthcare informatics and analytics projects for provider, payer, pharmaceutical, consulting, foundations and nonprofit organizations.

She has received numerous awards for research and teaching, including the inaugural Bufalini Prize for AI in Medicine in 2023, named after one of the most influential 19th century clinicians in Italy, and the 2022 Transformational Solutions - New Frontiers Award, a World Bank Group Transformational Business Award, for the Digital Vaccine project. She has been recognized as one of the top women in MedTech and nominated for the Most Influential Women in Health IT Award. She is an elected Fellow of the American Medical Informatics Association.

Honouring her stellar contributions in the fields of
Operations Research, Information Systems and Healthcare,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Dr. Rema Padman the Distinguished Alumni Award 2025.



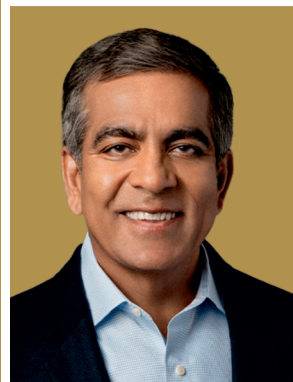
Shri Awanish Kumar Awasthi
(BT/EE/1985)
(IAS Retd.) - Advisor to Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Government of Uttar Pradesh

Shri Awanish Kumar Awasthi is currently serving as Advisor to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. He is a former Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Confidential, Visa Passport, Jail Administration & Reform and Vigilance Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh and Chief Executive Officer, Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) & Uttar Pradesh State Highways Authority (UPSHA).

He hails from Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh and did his B.Tech in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur in 1985. In a career spanning over 35 years, Shri Awasthi, an IAS officer of the 1987 batch, has mostly served in the Energy, Tourism, Higher Education, Irrigation, Institutional Finance, Industrial Development and Home Departments and handled important assignments including Joint Secretary, Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in the Department of Disability Affairs, Chairman & Managing Director, U.P. Power Corporation Ltd., C.E.O., Noida, Principal Secretary, Tourism and ACS Information. He was also the District Magistrate & Collector of Lalitpur, Azamgarh, Badaun, Ayodhya, Varanasi, Meerut and Gorakhpur districts.

He is prominently known for his pioneering work done for the upliftment of disabled persons during his stint as Joint Secretary in the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. As CEO of UP Expressway Authority he ensured the completion of Purvanchal & Bundelkhand Expressways in the state and started the construction of the 594 km long Ganga Expressway, the largest single infrastructure project of the State. As the Home Secretary of the State he very actively contributed to the upgradation and modernization of the UP Police & ensured an effective law & order machinery of the State. He is currently working on the One Trillion Dollar Economy Project of Uttar Pradesh.

Honouring his stellar contributions in the fields of Public Administration, Infrastructure and
Policy Leadership and Social and Institutional Development,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Awanish Kumar Awasthi the Distinguished Alumni Award 2025.



Dr. Deepak Narula

(BT/EE/1985)

Founder, Managing Partner, and
Co-Chief Investment Officer, Metacapital Management

Dr. Deepak Narula is the Founder and Managing Partner of Metacapital Management, one of the most experienced hedge fund managers specializing in mortgage-backed securities (MBS) and structured credit investing. He has over thirty years of experience in this sector. As the Chief Investment Officer of Metacapital, he is involved in all aspects of the firm's overall development and investment strategy. He also serves on the Board of Directors at the Vedanta Society of New York.

He holds a B. Tech in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (1985) and a Ph. D in Management Science from Columbia University (1989). In addition, he has taught courses at Columbia Business School. Prior to founding Metacapital in 2001, Dr. Narula was Managing Director and head of MBS trading desks at Lehman Brothers, building a highly profitable business for the firm. Previously, Dr. Narula worked in Mortgage Research and was Head of the Mortgage Strategy Group at Lehman Brothers until 1995. From 1993 to 1995, he was a ranked analyst on the Institutional Investor All-American research team for his work on MBS.

A leading figure in the MBS industry and widely regarded as an icon on Wall Street, Dr. Narula is frequently featured in major financial media including Bloomberg, CNBC, Barron's, The Wall Street Journal, and The New York Times. He has championed various philanthropic causes, including supporting Ph. D scholars at Columbia Business School, tech initiatives at IIT Kanpur, and invaluable work undertaken by the Ramakrishna Vivekananda centers in the U.S and India.

Honouring his stellar contributions in the fields of Financial Markets and Investment
Management and Philanthropy,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Dr. Deepak Narula the Distinguished Alumni Award 2025.



Shri Gyanesh Kumar

(BT/CE/1985)

Chief Election Commissioner,
Election Commission of India

Shri Gyanesh Kumar took charge as the 26th Chief Election Commissioner of India on 19th February 2025. He is a 1988 Batch Kerala Cadre Officer of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).

He received his B. Tech in Civil Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and has also studied Business Finance from ICFAL, India, and Environmental Economics from HILD, Harvard University, USA. He has worked as Municipal Commissioner of Corporation of Cochin; MD of Kerala State Cooperative Bank; District Collector of Ernakulam; Secretary of Goshree Islands Development Authority; MD of Trivandrum Airport Development Society and Resident Commissioner of Kerala House in New Delhi.

As Secretary to the Government of Kerala, he has handled diverse departments such as Finance Resources; Fast Track Projects; Public Works Department; Modernising Government Program; and Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs. In the Government of India, he has rich experience of upgrading all Defence Shipyards while working as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Defence; Joint Secretary & Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs while unprecedented transformations were taking place in Jammu & Kashmir as well as Ayodhya. Further, he has served as Secretary in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Secretary in the Ministry of Cooperation for strengthening the largest cooperative movement in the world.

After superannuation on 31st January 2024, he was appointed as the Election Commissioner in Election Commission of India on 15th March, 2024 and oversaw the largest elections of the world i.e. Lok Sabha Election 2024.

Honouring his stellar contributions in the fields of Transformational Policy,
Administrative Expertise, and Electoral Governance,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Gyanesh Kumar the Distinguished Alumni Award 2025.



Prof. Rishikesha T. Krishnan

(MSc5/PHY/1986)

Professor of Strategy,
Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore

Prof. Rishikesha Krishnan is a Professor of Strategy at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB). He has led two of India's leading business schools as the Director – the Indian Institute of Management Indore (2014-19) and the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (2020-25) - with distinction. He held the Jamuna Raghavan Chair in Entrepreneurship at IIMB from 2007-2010. His main areas of interest are strategy and innovation.

Prof. Krishnan holds an M.Sc in Physics from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur; an M.S in Engineering-Economic Systems (now Management Science & Engineering) from Stanford University; and the title of Fellow (equivalent to Ph.D) from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, where his thesis proposal won the outstanding thesis proposal award instituted by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India. He has been listed in the Thinkers50 India list of most influential management thinkers from India.

Prof. Krishnan has extensive corporate board and advisory experience. He is currently on the boards of Gujarat State Petronet Ltd., Wheels India Ltd., and the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA). He is also on the advisory board of YourNest Investment Advisors. He has served on several committees set up by the Government of India and prominent industry associations related to innovation in India. He is a member of the CII National Committee on Technology, Innovation & Development; Research, and the CII National Higher Education Committee. Prof. Krishnan was a member of the expert committee set up by the Government of India in 2017-18 under the chairmanship of Justice BN Srikrishna to propose a data protection framework for India. He has been on the jury of the Economic Times start-up awards.

Apart from academic publications, Prof. Krishnan has written two books: "8 Steps to Innovation: Going from Jugaad to Excellence" (co-authored with Vinay Dabholkar) which won the Best Book Award for 2013-14 from the Indian Society for Training & Development and "From Jugaad to Systematic Innovation: The Challenge for India."

Honouring his stellar contributions in the fields of Management Education and
Thought Leadership,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Prof. Rishikesha T. Krishnan the Distinguished Alumni Award 2025.



Shri Manish Chandra

(BT/CSE/1987)

Founder, Board Member & Former CEO,
Poshmark

Shri Manish Chandra is the Founder and Board Member of Poshmark, a leading social marketplace for fashion resale that combines e-commerce with community engagement. Since founding the company in 2011, he has guided its vision, strategy, and growth, transforming Poshmark into one of the most recognized names in sustainable fashion commerce. Under his leadership, the platform continues to empower millions of sellers and buyers while shaping the future of social shopping.

He holds a B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, an M.S in Computer Science from the University of Texas at Austin, and an MBA in Marketing and Finance from the Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley. His educational background uniquely blends deep technical expertise with strong business acumen, equipping him to lead and scale technology-driven enterprises.

Over the course of his career, he has achieved several significant milestones. Before Poshmark, he co-founded Kaboodle, an online social shopping site acquired by Hearst Communications in 2007. He has also held leadership roles at Sybase, Versant, and Versata. At Poshmark, he oversaw the company's successful IPO on Nasdaq in 2021 and its subsequent acquisition by Naver Corporation in 2023. With more than two decades of experience in building innovative businesses, Shri Chandra continues to champion sustainability, entrepreneurship, and the power of community-driven commerce.

Honouring his stellar contributions in the fields of Entrepreneurship and
Innovation in Technology and E-Commerce,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Manish Chandra the Distinguished Alumni Award 2025.



Dr. Naresh Chand Gupta

(BT/CSE/1988)
Founder & Chief Executive Officer,
Accuracap Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd.

Dr. Naresh Chand Gupta is the founder and CEO of AccuraCap, a quant-driven asset management company that applies technology and research to equity investing.

He received his B.Tech in Computer Science from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, and his M.S and Ph.D in Computer Science from the University of Maryland, College Park. His doctoral dissertation was nominated for the ACM Distinguished Dissertation Award, and his early research made fundamental contributions in artificial intelligence, computer vision, planning, and machine learning.

Dr. Gupta conceived, founded, and built Adobe India into one of the largest global R&D centers. Returning to India in 1997, he established Adobe's India operations from scratch and helped shape the country's broader Global Capability Center ecosystem. Under his leadership, teams in India grew to over 4,000 engineers, filing more than 100 global patents annually and building many widely used products, including InDesign, Illustrator, Captivate, Photoshop Elements, and Acrobat. He also founded and led Adobe's worldwide Print and Publishing Business Unit, serving as a Corporate Officer and member of Adobe's Executive Team.

For his pioneering role in establishing India's R&D ecosystem, Silicon India recognized him as the "Father of Offshore R&D" in 2005, and Zinnov honored him with the "R&D Visionaries Award" in 2008. He currently serves on the Boards of eClerx and NoPaperForms, and has earlier served on the Boards of Info Edge (India) Ltd. and Affle (India) Ltd.

He is also a Distinguished Alumnus and Hall of Fame honoree of the University of Maryland, College Park.

Honoring his stellar contributions in the fields of Technology Innovation, Global Business Leadership, and Research-driven Entrepreneurship, IIT Kanpur confers upon Dr. Naresh Chand Gupta the Distinguished Alumni Award 2025.



Shri Rishi Kapoor

(BT/EE/1988)
Vice Chairman and Chief Investment Officer,
Investcorp

Shri Rishi Kapoor is now Investcorp's Vice Chairman and Chief Investment Officer (CIO), overseeing the Firm's investment activities across North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East, covering Private Equity, Real Estate, Infrastructure, Credit, Absolute Returns Strategies and Insurance Solutions. He has been with the firm for over 33 years, serving as the Co-Chief Executive Officer from 2015 to 2024 and as Chief Financial Officer from 2003 to 2015. He joined Investcorp in 1992 from Citigroup.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and an MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. He is a member of Duke University's Middle East regional advisory board, the Oxford Energy Policy Club, His Majesty King Charles' Sustainable Markets Initiative, the Board of Directors for National Bank of Bahrain. Previously, he served as a board member for several years at Gulf Air Holdings Group, Bahrain Airport Company and Gulf Aviation Academy.

Shri Kapoor is a frequent speaker on media channels and at conferences as an expert voice on private markets investing across different geographies and asset classes. He has been recognized by Forbes Middle East as one of the top 10 Indian executives impacting the Middle East, and by Top CEO Middle East as a top Chief Executive in the GCC financial services and investment sector.

Honouring his stellar contributions in the fields of Global Finance and Investments, IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Rishi Kapoor the Distinguished Alumni Award 2025.



Shri Sanjay Malhotra

(BT/CSE/1989)

Governor,
Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Shri Sanjay Malhotra is the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India since December 2024.

He received his B. Tech in Computer Science from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and his Masters in Public Policy from Princeton University, United States. In his very first attempt, he topped the Civil Services Exam, 1989 and joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1990.

He served in various capacities in the Government of Rajasthan and Government of India, besides having a stint in the United Nations. While he was Principal Secretary, in-charge of Energy Department in Rajasthan, Mr. Malhotra was instrumental in appointment of distribution franchisees in four towns, introduction of PPP in transmission and innovations in metering, billing and collection. As Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Power and later as Chairman and Managing Director of REC Limited, he dealt with transmission, distribution, reforms and restructuring and was deeply involved in policy initiatives and privatization of distribution utilities of Union Territories. He served as Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Financial Services and Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, and was instrumental in implementing a number of reforms.

Honouring his stellar contributions in the fields of Public Policy, Banking, Taxation and Power, IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Sanjay Malhotra the Distinguished Alumni Award 2025.



Prof. Amit Agrawal

(BT/ME/1996)

Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering,
Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay

Prof. Amit Agrawal is a Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. Previously, he has also served as the Dean of International Relations at IIT Bombay. His research interests include the development of novel bio-microdevices, micro-scale flows, theoretical fluid mechanics, synthetic jet and microchannel based cooling of electronic devices, and turbulent flows.

He received his B.Tech from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and Ph.D from University of Delaware, USA. He has supervised 39 Ph.D Theses, 13 Postdoctoral fellows, 68 Masters Students, authored 13+ patents and a book titled - Microscale Flow and Heat Transfer: Mathematical Modelling and Flow Physics. His group is credited with providing the first analytical solution of the Burnett equation, development of a unique blood plasma separation microdevice and derivation of equations which are more general than the Navier- Stokes equations.

Prof. Agrawal was awarded the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology for his contributions to engineering sciences in 2018 by CSIR, India.

Honouring his stellar contributions in the fields of Fluid Mechanics, Heat Transfer, and the development of Novel Bio-Microdevices, IIT Kanpur confers upon Prof. Amit Agrawal the Distinguished Alumni Award 2025.



Shri Ambuj Kumar
(BT/EE/2002)
Founder,
Fortanix and Simbian

Shri Ambuj Kumar is a visionary technologist and entrepreneur whose groundbreaking work in cybersecurity has redefined data protection and AI-led cyber defence. As the founder of two industry-leading companies, Fortanix and Simbian, he has consistently pushed the boundaries of innovation to address critical security challenges and made the world more secure and private.

A prolific inventor with more than 100 patents, Shri Kumar is recognized as the father of Confidential Computing, the first commercially successful technology for data-in-use encryption. Today, this innovation is trusted by hundreds of organizations, including industry giants like IBM, Intel, and Goldman Sachs, to secure their most sensitive data. It is also crucial in protecting mobile phone user data from unauthorized access and wiretaps.

As the founder and CEO, Shri Kumar led Fortanix to secure \$135 million in funding, establishing the company as a global leader in encryption. The company's focus on quantum-resistant encryption solutions and its rapid growth, earning rankings on the Deloitte Fast 500 and Inc. 5000, underscore his business foresight.

Recognizing the surge of AI-led attacks on critical infrastructure worldwide, Shri Kumar founded Simbian. The company's core offering is an Agentic AI platform that uses advanced, proprietary knowledge unavailable to attackers to keep organizations secure, quickly earning the trust of major partners such as Wipro, NTT Data, and Infosys.

Shri Kumar's early career provided the technical bedrock for his later innovations. At NVIDIA, he developed fundamental components, including memory controllers and GPUs, which are now powering the global AI revolution. His subsequent tenure at Cryptography Research Inc. further solidified the multidisciplinary approach necessary for his entrepreneurial success.

He holds a B. Tech from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, and an M.S from Stanford University, both in Electrical Engineering. Beyond innovation, his entrepreneurial spirit extends to mentoring young entrepreneurs solving hard problems.

Honouring his stellar contributions in the fields of Cybersecurity and
Technological Innovation,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Ambuj Kumar the Distinguished Alumni Award 2025.



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 Shirish Joshi
(BT/CHE/1978)
Principal
Tesla Design, LLC



Shri Aseem Shukla
(BT/CHE/1983)
Director of Finance,
Klöckner Pentaplast



Shri Nishith Mohan
(BT/ME/1988)
Program Lead –
BIM Outsourcing at Tailorbird, Inc.



Shri Shirish Joshi

(BT/CHE/1978)

Principal
Tesla Design, LLC

Shri Shirish Joshi is the Principal at Tesla Design LLC, a private consulting group based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Tesla Design started in 2003 to provide internet-driven services to small non-tech businesses who, at the time, had little knowledge of the internet and how to use its many possibilities.

He received his B.Tech. in Chemical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and his MBA from the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore. In his 40+ year career, he has worked at Dunlop India, Oracle Corp, Genesys Telecommunications, and consulted with Google for over ten years. At Oracle he played a key role in the specification, development and launch of the industry's first Business Intelligence suite. At Genesys, he supported all the marketing initiatives for the industry's first automated workforce optimization product. From 2010 till 2020, he provided go-to-market support services to the newly-formed Google for Work group (now known as Google Web Services) to drive their initial and ongoing business efforts. He has been a trusted advisor to numerous small businesses in the non-technology space. Shri Shirish Joshi is currently based in the San Francisco Bay Area.

He has supported IIT Kanpur over a period of over 25 years. His major contributions include involvement in the formation of the IITK Alumni Association Silicon Valley Chapter, content contributions for the IITK Golden Jubilee celebrations, and over four years of continuing effort to bring the story of IITK to life through a revival of the Spark magazine.

Honouring his stellar contributions to the institute,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Shirish Joshi the Distinguished Services Award 2025.



Shri Aseem Shukla

(BT/CHE/1983)

Director of Finance,
Klöckner Pentaplast

Shri Aseem Shukla is a seasoned corporate finance executive with more than 35 years of leadership experience at global industrial and financial services organizations. In his current role at Klöckner Pentaplast, one of the world's leading plastics manufacturers, he oversees the financial performance of the Global Films business, providing financial leadership to both the Commercial and Operations teams across four continents. His past experience includes management roles at Fortune 500 companies including Honeywell, Dupont, and Wells Fargo, as well as the Tredegar Corporation and Amsted Rail. His career has straddled the intersection of chemical manufacturing and finance in Corporate America, and he is an expert in the polymer and film industries.

He received his B.Tech in Chemical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and a finance MBA degree from the University of Iowa. He is currently based in Richmond, Virginia.

He has consistently exemplified a deep commitment to his alma mater, and he continues to be engaged in initiatives that foster alumni connections and institutional visibility. As part of such an initiative, he relaunched The Spark – an old student publication – in electronic form under the aegis of DORA with the goal of making it a strategic tool to connect with the various stakeholders and enhance IIT Kanpur's image and recognition.

Honouring his stellar contributions in the fields of Global Financial Leadership,
Strategic Management, and Service to the IITK alumni community,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Aseem Shukla the Distinguished Services Award 2025.



Shri Nishith Mohan
(BT/ME/1988)
Program Lead –
BIM Outsourcing at Tailorbird, Inc.

Shri Nishith Mohan is Program Lead – BIM Outsourcing at Tailorbird, Inc., a SaaS platform company for the multi-family real estate owners that generates 98% accurate property models from public data and uses these models for smarter asset and construction operations management. He is a seasoned technocrat having 35+ years of consulting, conceptualization, proposal writing, bid management, project execution in IT, ITES, Engineering Design & Research with 28 years in senior management roles.

He holds a B.Tech degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. His diverse entrepreneurial skills are demonstrated through his co-founding of Synapse, Are-En-Ciel Exim Co. Pvt. Ltd., Graphic Conversion & Software India, and Apice Solutions Private Limited. These ventures span various sectors including software product distribution, merchant exports, IT consultancy and services, and certified sourcing of industrial components.

Shri Nishith Mohan played a key role in establishing the Alum Covid & Medical Support group, contributing to saving hundreds of lives. As a lead volunteer in the Covid India Initiative, he mobilized critical medical supplies and infrastructure. As the 1998 Batch Coordinator, he has also been instrumental in supporting fundraising efforts and organizing various initiatives.

Honouring his stellar contributions in the fields of Technology Leadership, Strategic Delivery,
and Community Engagement,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Nishith Mohan the Distinguished Services Award 2025.



The Young Alumni 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.



Shri Abhinav Jain
(BT-MT/CSE/2009)
Founder & CEO of Shop101,
now part of Glance InMobi



Prof. Dinesh Bharadia
(BT/EE/2010)
Associate Professor and
Inaugural Klein Gilhousen
Chancellor's Endowed Faculty,
University of California, San Diego



Dr. Eshan Chattopadhyay
(BT/CSE/2011)
Associate Professor of Computer Science,
Cornell University



Shri Bhavesh Mittal
(BT/CHE/2013)
Partner,
McKinsey & Company



Shri Abhinav Jain

(BT-MT/CSE/2009)

Founder & CEO of Shop101,
now part of Glance InMobi

Shri Abhinav Jain is the Founder and CEO of Shop101 and pioneered the dropshipping e-commerce sector in India. He launched Shop101 to enable entrepreneurs to set up online stores without having to manage supply chain operations or invest in holding inventory.

Post the merger of Shop101 with Glance InMobi, he set up and scaled the e-commerce platform, Roposo Clout. The business is one of the few profitable e-commerce businesses in India, reaching millions of shoppers and providing indirect employment to more than 10,000 people. The peak scale of the business would make it worthy of an independent valuation of more than \$1 billion.

After his B.Tech - M.Tech (Dual Degree) in Computer Science & Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, he pursued an MBA from Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. Before founding Shop101, he started his professional journey as a Consultant at Bain & Company.

Shri Abhinav Jain actively mentors startup founders, investing in more than 20 startups, and has spoken about entrepreneurship at various forums. He has also been involved in many social causes, especially around education.

Honouring his stellar contributions in the fields of Entrepreneurship, Innovation,
and Startup mentorship,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Abhinav Jain the Young Alumni Award 2025.



Prof. Dinesh Bharadia

(BT/EE/2010)

Associate Professor and
Inaugural Klein Gilhousen Chancellor's Endowed Faculty,
University of California, San Diego

Prof. Dinesh Bharadia is an Associate Professor in the ECE department, and is inaugural Klein Gilhousen Chancellor's Endowed faculty member with an affiliate appointment with the CSE department at the University of California, San Diego. He leads the Wireless Communication Sensing and Networking group (WCSNG), where his research focuses on building efficient, performant systems for sensing, computing, communicating, and securing the information in our connected world, solving real-world problems.

He received his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, his M.S and Ph.D from Stanford University in 2016, and was a Postdoctoral Associate at MIT. During his Ph.D at Stanford (Ph.D, 2016), Prof. Dinesh solved a long-standing open problem in wireless: enabling practical in-band full-duplex radios. By inventing architectures that cancel a radio's own transmission (self-interference) across RF/analog and digital domains, his work showed that a single radio can reliably transmit and receive on the same frequency at the same time. This breakthrough opened new directions across communication theory, RF design, and systems, and sparked commercialization. As Principal Scientist at Kumu Networks (2013–2015), he helped bring full-duplex into field trials with Deutsche Telekom and SK Telecom.

At UC San Diego, his research continues with the same spirit in areas of wireless imaging, battery-free connectivity, novel sensing modalities, NextG connectivity, sensing, privacy and security in connected systems, robotics, and medical applications; his work has accrued over 13,000 citations. His group, WCSNG, has attracted funding from the NSF, industry partners, and DoD programs, supporting a vibrant team of over 40 students at any given time. His research is licensed and translated by several startups, and he advises multiple companies; lab innovations have influenced products at Haila, Kumu Networks, and Totemic Labs. Several of his former Ph.D students and postdocs now hold faculty positions at leading U.S. universities.

Prof. Dinesh Bharadia has received global recognition, including being named to the Forbes Worldwide 30 Under 30 (Science) list, being a Marconi Young Scholar, being featured in MIT Technology Review's Innovators Under 35, receiving the Michael Dukakis Leadership Award, and being a recipient of the Kailath Stanford Graduate Fellowship.

Honouring his stellar contributions in the fields of Advancing Wireless Communication and
Networked Sensing and Translational Research,
IIT Kanpur confers upon Prof. Dinesh Bharadia the Young Alumni Award 2025.



Dr. Eshan Chattopadhyay

(BT/CSE/2011)
Associate Professor of Computer Science,
Cornell University

Dr. Eshan Chattopadhyay is an Associate Professor of Computer Science at Cornell University, where he has been on the faculty since 2018. Before joining Cornell, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and at the Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing in Berkeley.

Dr. Chattopadhyay did his B. Tech in Computer Science and Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. He went on to complete his Ph.D from the University of Texas, Austin. He later held postdoctoral positions at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and the Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing at UC Berkeley. His research is in theoretical computer science, focusing on computational complexity, the role of randomness in computation, and cryptography.

His work has been recognized with a number of awards, including the recent Gödel Prize, shared with David Zuckerman, for their influential research on randomness extraction, and the National Academy of Sciences Held Prize, as well as honors such as a Sloan Research Fellowship, an NSF CAREER Award, and a Best Paper Award at STOC.

Honouring his stellar contributions in the fields of Secure Computing, Foundations of Cryptography, and Theoretical Computer Science, IIT Kanpur confers upon Dr. Eshan Chattopadhyay the Young Alumni Award 2025.



Shri Bhavesh Mittal

(BT/CHE/2013)
Partner,
McKinsey & Company

Shri Bhavesh Mittal is a Partner with McKinsey & Company serving clients within Advanced Industries across India, SEA, Japan, Europe and North America. He was elected Partner in 2023 with the fastest trajectory globally, thereby becoming one of the youngest and fastest elected Partners at McKinsey & Company.

He received his B.Tech in Chemical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and his MBA from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore. He is a trusted advisor to CEOs, an expert in new-age GTM solutions: D2C, e-commerce acceleration, and digitizing traditional channels. He partners with industry groups and stakeholders to shape vision and drive execution in automotive and electrical goods.

Shri Bhavesh Mittal is a visionary thinker focused on India's long-term growth, with his work "India's Future Arenas" shaping national conversations among policymakers and industry leaders. His insights have been featured in major publications like Business Standard, Mint, and Fortune India. He also led the IITK Vision 2030 strategy, a pro-bono effort, demonstrating deep commitment to the development of his alma mater, IIT Kanpur.

Honouring his stellar contributions in the fields of Strategic Leadership in Business Transformation and Go-To-Market Innovation, IIT Kanpur confers upon Shri Bhavesh Mittal the Young Alumni Award 2025.