



Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

INSTITUTE LECTURE SERIES



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LECTURE HALL
COMPLEX

FROM AI INNOVATION TO PUBLIC IMPACT

Research, Education and Responsibility at the University at Buffalo

SPEAKER

Prof. Satish K. Tripathi

Professor and President Emeritus, University at Buffalo



Satish K. Tripathi, PhD, is President Emeritus and University Professor at the University at Buffalo (SUNY). As the longest-serving president (2011-2026) in UB's history, he oversaw a period of significant growth in research and scholarly activity.

Prof Tripathi served as UB's provost from 2004-2011. From 1997-2004, he was the dean and William R. Johnson Jr. Family Chair and Distinguished Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at the Bourns College of Engineering at the University of California, Riverside. Previously, he spent 19 years as a professor of computer science at the University of Maryland, including seven as department chair.

He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; is a fellow of the IEEE, the AAAS and the International Academy of Artificial Intelligence Sciences. Tripathi graduated at the top of his class from Banaras Hindu University (B.Sc. and M.Sc.). He holds a master and doctorate in computer science from the University of Toronto. He has received honorary doctorates from Maharaja Surajmal Brij University, the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad, and Brock University, Canada.

ABSTRACT

Artificial intelligence is advancing at extraordinary speed, reshaping research, education, industry and society. For universities, the challenge is no longer simply to keep pace with AI, but to help determine how its capabilities are developed, applied and governed. This talk traces the University at Buffalo's AI journey from its pioneering work in AI-powered postal automation and handwriting recognition to today's frontier-scale computing infrastructure through Empire AI. It highlights how that capability is being translated into societal impact, with particular emphasis on UB's leadership of the NSF National AI Institute for Exceptional Education, alongside research in health, cybersecurity, sustainability and other domains. It also examines how UB is rethinking education through interdisciplinary AI + X programs and the Department of AI and Society.

The talk concludes with a fundamental responsibility accompanying these advances: ensuring that increasingly powerful AI serves people and society. Questions of ethics, human values and judgment therefore are not peripheral to AI innovation; they are central to how universities must approach its future. The overarching premise is that AI leadership requires more than technical capability. It requires infrastructure, impactful research, interdisciplinary education and, ultimately, responsible human judgment.

All are cordially invited to attend
Office of Dean Research & Development