



2008-09/I

G R A P E V I N E



A quarterly newsletter of Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur for alumni and friends

## Institute Milestones



**Convocation 2008:** The 40<sup>th</sup> convocation of IIT Kanpur was held on May 31, 2008. Prof. Shih Choon Fong, President, National University of Singapore (NUS Singapore), graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Prof. M. Anandkrishnan, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT Kanpur presided over the proceedings of the convocation. A total of 994 degrees were conferred to the students which include Bachelor of Technology (334), Master of Technology Dual Degree (5-year) (60), Master of Science (5-year) (40), Master of Science (2-year) (70), MBA (27), Master of Technology (356), Master of Design (06) and Ph. D (101). **Anindya De (BT/CSE), Ankit Misra (BT Dual/EE), and Madhuresh Agrawal (BT Dual/CSE)** received the **President's Gold Medal, Director's Gold Medal, and Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma Gold Medal** respectively.

Details are available at: <http://www.iitk.ac.in/doaa/convocation2008/>

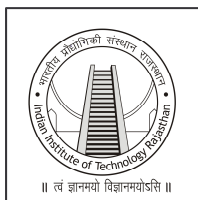
**Gopal Das Bhandari Memorial Distinguished Teacher Award:** Prof. K Srihari (Chemistry) is the recipient of the Gopal Das Bhandari Memorial Outstanding Teacher Award for the year 2008. Dr. Srihari obtained his undergraduate degree from University of Madras in 1987, M. S. from Villanova University, Pennsylvania, USA and Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in 1994. After a postdoc stint at Cornell, Srihari joined the Department of Chemistry, IIT Kanpur in 1997. His research interests are in the area of Chemical Dynamics and Coherent Control. The Gopal Das Bhandari Memorial Outstanding Teacher Award has been instituted by Mr. Anil Bhandari (BT/ME/1969) to honour his father. The award includes a cash prize of Rs.50,000/- and a citation.



**REACH Symposium 2008:** The second IIT K REACH symposium was held at Taj Chandela Hotel, Khajuraho, MP, during March 15-18, 2008. REACH stands for 'REsearch And CHallenges'. The aim of the symposium is to showcase the research being done at IIT Kanpur and promote interdisciplinary collaboration. In this Symposium, three themes were selected; (i) Biomimetics: Designs Inspired by Living Systems, (ii) Future of Energy, and (iii) Scientific Methodology of Forecasting. Each theme had 2-3 coordinators who selected speakers and talked of the themes. The Symposium was attended by 63 participants (44 IITK faculty, 14 IITK students, and 3 external speakers). This kind of academic activity is unique in IIT system and it is going to inspire young faculty and students by creating a research atmosphere in the Institute.



**IME Building:** Foundation laying ceremony to the new building for Industrial and Management Engineering Department was held on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2008. IME Department is currently offering a 2 years M.B.A. programme, a 2 years M.Tech. programme and Ph.D programme. In addition it is participating in one year diploma- visionary leadership in manufacturing program, jointly being conducted by IIT Kanpur, IIM Calcutta and IIT Madras for experienced engineers in manufacturing sector. The New building will facilitate increased activities in the area of management in the institute.



**IIT Kanpur Mentoring Newly established IIT Rajasthan:** **IIT Rajasthan** is one among the new set of IITs announced by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India. The location of IIT Rajasthan will be announced by the Govt. of India after completion of the formalities of land acquisition for setting up the new IIT in Rajasthan. In the meantime, IIT Kanpur has been designated as the mentor IIT for looking after the incubation activities of the new IIT. The academic session in IIT Rajasthan will commence from August 2008 in IIT Kanpur campus. To start with, a 4-year B.Tech. programme will be offered in three branches, viz., Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering with a strength of 40 students in each branch.

**IITK-NUS Collaboration:** Professor M Anandkrishnan, Chairman, Board of Governors, Professor Shih Choon Fong President, NUS Singapore and Professor Sanjay G Dhande, Director, IIT Kanpur greeted the community on the momentous occasion of signing of MoU between National University Of Singapore, and the Indian Institute Of Technology Kanpur. The purpose of this MoU is to trigger and promote joint research and development activities of mutual interest. The understanding between the IIT Kanpur and the NUS Singapore shall go a long way by addressing the needs of state owned Universities as well as the academic enterprises of industrial groups for creating vibrant academic research platforms.



## Support from Donors



J. N. Gupta & Rekha Gupta

**J. N. Gupta and Rekha Gupta Chair:** Shri Jitendra Nath Gupta (BT/EE/1977) and his wife Smt Rekha Gupta have committed to set up the "J. N. Gupta and Rekha Gupta Chair" at IIT Kanpur. Shri Gupta is presently working as Financial Controller in Ocean Oil UK Ltd., London. Shri Gupta committed to donate the Chair from 'Rekha Gupta Foundation'.



Satish Chandra Sharma & Veena Sharma

**Shiv Parkash and Dayawanti Sharma Memorial Scholarship:** To honour his parents, Shri Satish Chandra Sharma (BT/ChE/1966) and his wife Smt Veena Sharma have set up the "Shiv Parkash and Dayawanti Sharma Memorial Scholarship" @ Rs. 2,000 pm to be given to a UG student of Chemical, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering departments on merit-cum-means basis. Shri Sharma obtained his M.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Waterloo (Canada) and Ph.D from Case Western Reserve University (USA). He worked with General Tire and Rubber Company and with Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company for many years. At present he is a Senior Technical Advisor with Akron Rubber Development Laboratory, Inc., in Akron, Ohio (USA).

## Alumni News and Events

**West Coast Alumni Dinner May 4, 2008:** The IIT Kanpur Alumni Association Northern California Chapter celebrated its Annual Gala Dinner and Alumni Leadership Awards on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the India Community Centre Banquet Hall in Milpitas, CA. Dr. M. Anandakrishnan, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT Kanpur presented the four West Coast Alumni Leadership Awards to the honorees, as well as the 2008 Distinguished Alumnus Award to Prof. Jitendra Malik. Prof. Malik could not attend the DAA Ceremony held in IITK on February 24, 2008. There was an address by Dr. Anandakrishnan, a stage Magician Show, a Stand-up Comedy, and live music and dance featuring the All-IIT Alumni Band Geetanjali.



**Prestigious 2008 Diamond Award:** Mr. Jagjeet S Bindra, President of Chevron Global Manufacturing was honored by the University Of Washington College Of Engineering as a recipient of the prestigious 2008 Diamond Award for his distinguished career achievements. Mr. Bindra is the President of Chevron Pipe Line Company, where he is responsible for both domestic pipeline operations and international pipeline projects. He is the first and only Indian to hold the chief executive's position in the US Oil Industry. Mr. Bindra received his Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur in 1969, obtained his Master of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Washington, Seattle, in 1970 and MBA (honours) from Saint Mary's College of California in 1979.



Jagjeet S Bindra

## Workshops, Conferences & Lectures Series

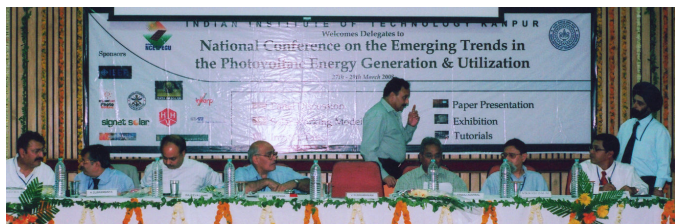


**LiDAR Conference:** An international school on airborne LiDAR technology was organized by the Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. The 5 days long school was from March 31, 2008 to April 4, 2008 and was held at the premises of the IIT Kanpur. LiDAR technology has become an industry-standard tool for collecting accurate and dense topographic data at high speed. The technology can be useful for countries for developing and monitoring their much-needed infrastructure, managing unplanned urban growth, monitoring disasters and saving scarce natural resources.

**2nd Joint Workshop in Mechanical, Aerospace and Industrial Engineering:** IIT Kanpur hosted the 2nd joint workshop in Mechanical, Aerospace and Industrial Engineering during April 5-6, 2008. The workshop aims to strengthen the research initiatives following the inaugural edition held at NTU Singapore in 2007. The workshop helped to explore new opportunities for research collaboration between IITK and NTU Singapore. Some of the outcomes of the first workshop are the joint research projects and summer internship of IITK students at NTU Singapore.







**The National Conference on the Emerging Trends in the Photovoltaic Energy Generation and Utilization (NCETPEGU):** The National Conference on the Emerging Trends in the Photovoltaic Energy Generation and Utilization (NCETPEGU) was organized at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur during 27-29 March, 2008. The Conference was an effort to bring to focus the importance of the PV technology. The World and particularly India is facing a crisis of meeting the ever increasing demand of electricity.

## Distinguished Lecture Series

- ✂ **Dr. R.S. Pandey Lecture Series:** Dr. Anindya Chatterjee, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IISC Bangalore delivered a lecture on "Rotor Whirl, Buckling, and Foreshortening" on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2007. Lecture series funded by Dr. Rakesh Pandey (BT/ME/78).
- ✂ **Annual Exhibition cum Lecture series under M.Des Programme:** Annual Exhibition Design (ADEX'08) from held from 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2008 to 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2008. Ten awards were given to best exhibits and designers. The Awards funded by Dr. R. C. Malhotra, former Director, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur.
- ✂ **Dr. M. A. Pai Lecture Series:** Prof. H. P. Khincha, Vice Chancellor, Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belgaum, Karnataka delivered a lecture on "Power Delivery Systems-Emerging Channelges" on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2008. Lecture series funded by Prof. Vijay Vittal (MT/EE/79).
- ✂ **Prof. Arbindo Nath Bose Lecture Series:** Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan, National Centre for Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bangalore delivered a lecture on "Maintenance, repair and regeneration in the nervous system" on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2007. Lecture series funded by Dr. Arindam Bose (BT/CHE/75).

## Student Achievements, Activities & News

- ✂ **President's Gold Medal 2008:** Anindya De (BT/CSE) has been awarded **President's Gold Medal** for Best Academic Performance in the graduating class in all disciplines of the undergraduate programme.
- ✂ **Director's Gold Medal:** Ankit Misra (BT Dual/EE) has been awarded **Director's Gold Medal** for Outstanding all round achievement and leadership among students graduating in B.Tech./M.Sc. (Int.) programmes.
- ✂ **INSA Young Scientist award :** Mr. Sagnik Dey (Ph.D./C.E. Student) has won INSA Young Scientist award for 2008.
- ✂ **Best Student Paper Award:** 'Towards Generating Diverse Topologies of Path Tracing Compliant Mechanisms' authored by 'Deepak Sharma (Ph.D. /ME Student), Prof. K. Deb and Prof. N. N. Kishore' has been awarded the Best Student Paper by the Evolutionary Programming Society at the 2008 IEEE.
- ✂ **Prizes in Mathematica Competition 2008:** The second and third prizes have gone to Mr. Rohit Nagpal (M.Sc./Maths & Stat.) and Mr. Mainak Chowdhury (BT/EE) in 'Student Mathematica Competition'.
- ✂ **Ratan Swarup Memorial Prize:** Sameer Behere (BT/ME) has been awarded **Ratan Swarup Memorial Prize** for Best All Rounder Student Graduating in B.Tech./M.Sc. (Int.) Programme.
- ✂ **Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma Gold Medal:** Madhuresh Agrawal (BT Dual/CSE) has been awarded **Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma Gold Medal** for Best All Round M.Tech./Ph.D. student for general proficiency including character, conduct and excellence in academic performance, extracurricular activities and social service.

## Faculty News

- ✂ Prof. Partha Chakroborty, Department of Civil Engineering has taken over the charge as the new Dean of Students' Affairs w.e.f. 03.06.2008.
- ✂ Prof. Binayak Rath (Ph.D./HSS/1980), Department of Humanities and Social Sciences has joined as Vice Chancellor, Utkal University, Orissa on April 8, 2008.
- ✂ Prof. N S Gajbhiye, Department of Chemistry has been appointed as Vice-Chancellor, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur, U.P.
- ✂ Prof. Vinod K Singh, Department of Chemistry has been appointed as Director, Indian Institute of Science & Educational Research, Bhopal, M.P. He has also been awarded the Vigyan Ratna Award of U.P.
- ✂ Prof. Dheeraj Sanghi(BT/CSE/1986), Department of Computer Science & Engineering has been appointed as Director, Laxmi Niwas Mittal Institute of Information Technology, Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ✂ Prof. J P Gupta (BT/CHE/1966), Department of Chemical Engineering has been appointed as Director, Rajeev Gandhi Institute of Petroleum, Raebareli, U.P.



Prof. P. Chakroborty



Prof. B. Rath



Prof. N. S. Gajbhiye



Prof. V. K. Singh



Prof. D. Sanghi



Prof. J. P. Gupta

## New Faculty Appointments

- Dr. Malay Banerjee, Department of Mathematics & Statistics (Ph. D. from Univ. of Calcutta, 2005)
- Dr. Malay Kumar Das, Department of Mechanical Engineering (Ph. D. from Penn State, 2007)
- Dr. Somesh K. Mathur, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences (Ph. D. from JNU, 2005)
- Dr. Shantanu Kumar Mishra, Department of Electrical Engineering (Ph. D. from Univ. of Florida, 2006)
- Dr. Rajesh M. Hegde, Department of Electrical Engineering (Ph. D. from IIT Madras, 2005)

## Faculty Awards and Honours

- Prof. Amalendu Chandra (Chemistry) has been invited to the Editorial Board of Journal of Molecular Liquids, Elsevier.
- Prof. Avinash K Agarwal (Mechanical Engineering) has been awarded "Ralph R. Teetor Educational Award -2008" from Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) International, USA.
- Prof. V.K Jain (Mechanical Engineering) has been appointed as a member of the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Manufacturing Technology Research published by Nova Science Publishers, New York (USA).
- Prof. Sudipta Dutta (Math & Statistics) has been awarded the prestigious Indo-US Science and Technology Forum Fellowship (IUSSTF) for the year 2008.
- Prof. Raghu Nandan Sengupta (IME) has been awarded the prestigious Indo US Science and Technology Forum Fellowship (IUSSTF Fellowship) for the year 2008.
- Prof. R.N. Mukherjee (Chemistry) has been awarded the J.C. Bose National Fellowship by the Department of Science and Technology.
- Prof. Bikramjit Basu (Materials and Metallurgical Engineering) has been invited as MEMBER OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD of "International Journal of Materials Engineering Innovation (IJMatEI)".
- Prof. F.A. Khan (Chemistry) has been selected for the award of CRSI (Chemical Research Society of India)
- Prof. Brahma Deo (Materials and Metallurgical Engineering) has been awarded "Distinguished Alumnus Award" by Banaras Hindu University(BHU).
- Prof. Sameer Khandekar (Mechanical Engineering) has been awarded the George Grover Gold Medal (Young Scientist Award) by the International Heat Pipe Committee.

## Book Release

- A book, "Java for Scientists and Engineers" by Dr. Sanjeev Saxena, Professor in the Department of C.S.E, has been published recently by Anamaya Publishers, New Delhi.
- A book "Iron making and steel making-theory and practice" by Dr. Ahindra Ghosh, Professor in the Department of MME (he retired a few years ago from IITK) and Dr. Amit Chatterjee of TATA Steel, published by Prentice Hall of India.
- A book "Flow through open channels" written by Dr. Rajesh Srivastava, Professor in the Department of Civil Engg. published by Oxford Press (higher education).
- A book on "Semiconductor Devices and Circuits" written by Dr. A K Dutta, Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, has been published recently by the Oxford University Press.
- A book of Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, Assistant Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, entitled "Productivity, Cost Structure, and Pricing in Urban Bus Transport" has been published by the Amani International Publishers, Germany
- A book "Linear Models and Generalizations" (third edition) by C.R. Rao, H. Toutenburg, Dr. Shalabh, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and C. Heumann published by Springer.
- A paper, co-authored by Arun Kumar Saha, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, entitled "Role of Leading-edge Coutouring on End-wall Flow and Heat Transfer: Computations and Experiments" has been awarded the 2006 Best Technical Paper Award by the International Gas Turbine Institute of ASME, New York.

## Obituary



**Prof. S. Venkateswaran**, born on February 9, 1926 in Pegu, Burma (Presently Myanmar) had his early education in Burma, done B.A. (Hons) and M.A. (Physics) in Christian College, Madras did D.I.C. and Ph.D. (Electrical Engineering) at Imperial College London in 1961. He served University of Colombo, Sri Lanka and University of Wales as Lecturer. He joined at IIT Kanpur in 1963 as Assistant Professor and promoted to Professor, Head (EE) and Deputy Director. He is survived by his wife Padma and daughters. He breathed his last on April 22, 2008.



**Prof. Y. V. C. Rao** obtained his B.Tech. degree in Chemical Engineering from Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, M.Tech. and Ph.D from IIT, Kanpur. He has published several research papers in national and international journals in the areas of thermodynamics, molecular energy transfer and shock waves. He has seven books on thermodynamics to his credit. Prof. Rao was a Fulbright visiting research scholar at the Columbia University, NY, a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, the Indian Institution of Chemical Engineers, the National Federation of Engineers and the World Innovation Foundation. Prof. Rao breathed his last on June 3, 2008 in Visakhapatnam.



**Prof. M. Rama Mohana Rao**, born on December 10, 1935, had obtained his Ph. D. from Osmania University, Hyderabad, did Post Doctoral Fellowship at University of Southern California in 1967. He joined IIT Kanpur in 1969. He took voluntary retirement in the year 1995. After retirement from IIT Kanpur, he joined University of Texas at San Antonio. Prof. Rao breathed his last on the night of June 7, 2008.

The Institute expresses its deepest condolences to the bereaved families of Prof. S. Venkateswaran, Prof. Y.V.C. Rao and Prof. M. R. Rao and prays for the peace of the departed souls.