

# LEAP India

## LEADERSHIP FOR ACADEMICIANS PROGRAM

A national program to create and nurture leaders of  
Indian higher education organizations

13-24 January 2020

Indian Institute of  
Science Education and  
Research Kolkata

and

Nanyang Technological  
University Singapore

Supported by

Ministry of Human  
Resource Development,  
Government of India

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# ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Excellence in research, innovation and higher education are hallmarks of highly successful economies which lead the world in overall development indices.

Once upon a time, India was a cradle of knowledge and wisdom. Takshila and Nalanda Universities – among the oldest seats of learning in the world – attracted scholars from across Asia and the world and spread India's intellectual influence far outside its borders. Today, however, in spite of having a large number of higher educational organizations and a large base of talented faculty and students, no single Indian academic organization features among the top 100 institutions of the world.

A transformational change is necessary to propel some of the Indian higher educational organizations to the top. This cannot be achieved easily or quickly and necessitates mechanisms that link the leadership of institutions with their human resource in ways that can extract the very best out of the available talent and resources. Leadership of the highest calibre in higher educational organizations is therefore a crucial, if not the essential element in the path towards excellence.

Recognizing this, the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Kolkata in partnership with Nanyang Business School, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, has planned a unique leadership program custom designed for India. On the one hand, the program benefits from the unique expertise of NTU, which has achieved the status of being one of the best universities in the world (ranked at 11th) and the third best university of Asia. On the other hand, the regional partner IISER Kolkata brings in the sub-continental context ensuring the relevance of this program for India. We expect this program to catalyze excellence through able leadership, eventually transforming the landscape of academia in the country.

The program is intended to train top level potential leaders (Directors, Vice-chancellors) of Indian academic organizations and would therefore be very selective. 22 professors have been selected by MHRD to participate in the LEAP 2020 event at IISER Kolkata. The participants are successful academicians with high integrity and a flair for leadership and management.

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The LEAP program will be delivered by IISER Kolkata in partnership with NTU and will comprise of a two week Indian training component in Kolkata (13th – 24th January 2020) and a one week foreign training component at the Nanyang Business School, NTU (10th – 15th February 2020). The envisaged program would not only train participants on the technical aspects of top-level administration, but would also emphasize upon critical aspects of leadership that nurture creative excellence and disruptive innovation whilst setting high standards of integrity and inclusivity.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Leadership and Vision  
Administrative and Financial Management  
Regional Challenges and Opportunities  
Sustaining High Integrity and Ethos  
Performance Assessment and Strategy  
Internationalization and Outreach

## CURRICULUM

Leadership: Vision, Hiring, Nurturing, Inspiring, Conflict, Inclusivity  
Administration: Decision-making, Finance, Technology Best-practices  
Infrastructure: Planning, Building, Local Context, Bottle-necks  
Core Activity: Research and Development, Teaching Excellence  
Reach: International Presence, Society, Social Media and Outreach  
Assessment: Performance Metric Analysis, Ranking and Strategy  
Change: Social, Financial and Global Influences, Growth and Evolution

## METHODOLOGY

Focussed Lectures and Discussions  
Administrative Training Modules  
Round Tables and Debates  
Case Studies and Role Plays  
Participant Projects  
Post-program Engagement

## LECTURERS

National Academic and Industry Experts  
Higher Education Administrators  
Harvard Faculty and Administrators  
Uncommonly Creative Individuals

## IISER KOLKATA

The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Kolkata (IISER Kolkata) was the first of the IISERs. Established in 2006 with the goal of nurturing scientific excellence through the integration of undergraduate and graduate teaching with research and innovation, IISER Kolkata – currently ranked among the top 25 Indian Universities – is a testimony to the rapid rise of the new-age Indian academic institutions. The vision of IISER Kolkata is to reach and sustain high global standards in science education and research, expand the boundaries of human knowledge, and benefit society through integrated science education, outreach and technology transfer. IISER Kolkata is located in a lush-green campus in Mohanpur, close to the city of Kolkata.

## NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

The Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU) is the second oldest public autonomous research university in Singapore. Nanyang Business School (NBS) is the largest business school in Singapore with over 6,800 undergraduates and postgraduates. It is also the No.1 business school in Singapore and 3rd in the Asia-Pacific region according to the Financial Times. For 13 consecutive years since 2004, the Nanyang MBA has been ranked the best in Singapore according to The Economist. NBS has more than 160 professors from more than 20 countries, proficient in 30 languages holding doctorates from the most renowned universities in the world. This makes NBS one of the largest business schools in the world in terms of faculty strength.

<https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/leapindia/index.html>



**Chandrima Shaha**  
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Chandrima Shaha's primary interest in research includes the understanding of the intricacies of programmed cell death processes in rapidly proliferating cells. She is the Former Director of the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, where she is currently the Professor of Eminence. She is also the President of the Indian National Science Academy. She is an elected fellow of The World Academy of Sciences and of all three Academies in India. She served as Vice-President of International Affairs of the Indian National Science Academy and as a member in the Councils of all three Academies. Notable awards include, the Ranbaxy Science Foundation Award; the J.C. Bose Fellowship; the Shanti-Swarup Bhatnagar Medal of the Indian National Science Academy; DP Burma memorial Award; Om Prakash Bhasin Award; Archana Sharma Memorial Award of the National Academy of Sciences; Darshan Ranganathan Memorial Award and the Chandrakala Hora Memorial Medal of the Indian National Science Academy and the Shakuntala Amir Chand Prize of the Indian Council of Medical Research.



**K N Ganesh**  
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Krishna N. Ganesh, one of India's leading chemists, is presently the director of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Tirupati. He was previously the director of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune. After obtaining his PhD from Delhi in 1977, Ganesh moved to Cambridge University to obtain one more PhD. He completed his second PhD within three years and then came back to India and in 1981 joined the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad. He worked as a scientist in the National Chemical Laboratory, Pune from 1987 to 2006, after which he held directorship at IISER Pune. He has received a number of scientific recognitions including the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar award, Millennium Medal of Indian Science Congress, the Silver medal of Chemical Research Society of India, TWAS Prize in Chemical Sciences, and the H.K. Firodia award. He is a fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences in Bangalore, the Indian National Science Academy in New Delhi, the National Academy of Sciences in Allahabad, The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and a recipient of the JC Bose National Fellowship.



**Gertrud Schüpbach**  
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Gertrud (Trudi) Schüpbach is a Professor of Molecular Biology Emerita at Princeton University and the Henry Fairfield Osborn Professor of Biology. She was elected as member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She received Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Zurich, Switzerland. She performed post-doctoral work first at the University of Zurich and later at Princeton University. In recent years her work has branched into questions of RNA localization and translational control, as well as understanding the general biology of epithelial cells of *Drosophila*. She was elected to the European Molecular Biology Organization and became a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She received the Edwin F. Conklin Medal from the Society of Developmental Biology in 2006. She was conferred a honorary Ph.D. degree from the University of Zurich, Switzerland in 2011. She has served on the editorial board of *Developmental Cell*, *Royal Society Open Biology* and the *Annual Review of Genetics*. She is still on the editorial board of *PNAS*.



**Soumitro Banerjee**  
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Soumitro Banerjee did his B.E. in Electrical Engineering from the Bengal Engineering College, Shibpur, in 1981, M.Tech. from IIT Delhi in 1983, and Ph.D. from the same Institute in 1987. He was in the faculty of IIT Kharagpur since 1986, and moved to IISER Kolkata, in 2009. his area of research interest is the dynamics of nonlinear systems. He has published three books: "Nonlinear Phenomena in Power Electronics" (IEEE Press, 2001), "Dynamics for Engineers" (Wiley, London, 2005), and "Wind Electrical Systems" (Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2005). He is a recipient of the S. S. Bhatnagar Prize (2003), and was recognized as a "Highly Cited Author" by Thomson Reuters from 2004 to 2014. He is a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, the Indian National Academy of Engineering, the Indian National Science Academy, The World Academy of Sciences, and the IEEE.





**Partha Pratim Majumder**  
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Partha Pratim Majumder was the founding director of the National Institute of Biomedical Genetics (NIBMG), Kalyani, and is currently a Professor Emeritus at ISI, Kolkata and Distinguished Professor at NIBMG. He is also the President of the Indian Academy of Sciences. He has had an illustrious career in statistical genomics and has made significant contributions in understanding the population genetic structure of the Indian sub-continent. He has received several major awards and honours including the GD Birla Award, TWAS prize in Biology, Society of Biotechnologists M. V. Pylee lifetime achievement award, and the Golden Jubilee Commemoration medal of the Indian National Science Academy. He has served as member in various national and international academic committees, and is an elected fellow of all three national science academies., TWAS, and the Human Genome Organization.



## **S. Sivaram**

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S. Sivaram is a polymer chemist by profession and a mentor as well as a science administrator of distinction. He is a former director (2002-10) of CSIR- National Chemical Laboratory, Pune. He was a CSIR Bhatnagar Fellow (2011-16) and a J. C. Bose Fellow (2006-14). Currently, he is an Honorary Professor and INSA Senior Scientist at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune. He received the Gold Medal of the Chemical Research Society of India for the year 2018 for his lifetime achievements in chemistry and the International Award in Polymer Science bestowed by the Society of Polymer Science, Japan in 2017. He is an elected fellow of all the learned academies of sciences and engineering in India and The World Academy of Sciences, Trieste, Italy. He was conferred Padma Shri by the President of India in 2006. He serves on the Scientific Advisory Boards of Vyome Therapeutics Ltd, New Delhi (Chair), Apollo Tyres Ltd and many more. He is a consultant to TCG Life Sciences Limited & Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd, Kolkata, Reliance Industries Ltd. He also serves on the Board of several publicly listed chemical companies.



**Ram Ramaswamy**  
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Ramakrishna Ramaswamy is presently Visiting Professor at the Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology - Delhi, New Delhi. Earlier he taught at the Jawaharlal Nehru University from 1986 till his retirement in 2018, in the School of Physical Sciences and the School of Computational and Integrative Sciences. Educated at Madras University, IIT Kanpur and Princeton University, his research interests have, over the years, been in aspects of chemical dynamics, classical and quantum chaos, semi-classical quantization, disordered systems and statistical physics, molecular dynamics and cluster physics, computational biology and genomics. An elected Fellow of TWAS, The World Academy of Sciences, the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, and the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore, he served as President of the Indian Academy of Sciences from 2016 to 2018.



**Somdatta Sinha**  
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Somdatta Sinha's expertise is in the interdisciplinary fields of Theoretical Biology, Nonlinear Dynamics and Complex Systems. She did her PhD from the Jawaharlal Nehru University - one of the first working in the emerging area of Theoretical Biology. She was a scientist at the Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology, Hyderabad. In 2011, she joined IISER Mohali as a Professor of Biology and continued as a Visiting Professor till 2019. Currently she is an Adjunct Professor at IISER Kolkata and a Visiting Professor at the Ashoka University, Sonapat. Professor Sinha is a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy, Indian Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Sciences India and recipient of the Senior Women Bioscientist award from Department of Biotechnology and the J C Bose National Fellowship from the DST. She has been a Fellow of the Institute of Advanced Study, Berlin, Germany, Senior International Fellow of the Santa Fe Institute, USA and International Visiting Research Scholar of the Peter Walls Institute of Advanced Study at University of British Columbia, Canada.



**Sharmila Mande**  
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Sharmila Mande is a PhD in Physics from IISc Bangalore. Her research interests revolve around systems Biology and algorithm development for analyzing the large scale biological data and applying the same to understand human health. Her major focuses pertains to understanding role of human microbiome in diseases/disorder. She has a number of patented algorithms that address challenges faced by researchers in analysing large-scale biological data. She is a recipient of the TCS Distinguished Scientist Award.



**Shobhona Sharma**  
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Shobhona Sharma is a scientist specializing in immunology, molecular biology, and biochemistry at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai. She is also the chairperson of the Department of Biological Sciences, a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy and a Council member of the Indian Academy.



**Shekhar Mande**  
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Shekhar C. Mande is a Structural and Computational Biologist in Molecular Biophysics, who currently serves as the Director General of CSIR-cum-Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Govt of India. Since 2001, he was senior staff scientist at Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics. He served as director at National Centre for Cell Science in Pune. He serves on many advisory committees including task forces of the Department of Biotechnology and DST, Govt of India. Currently he chairs the basic Science task force of the Department of Biotechnology. He is the Vice President of Vijnana Bharati, a large voluntary science movement in India. Dr. Mande has won several honours including the B M Birla Young Scientist Award, and the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology. Besides this, he is a member of the management council of TIFR, Mumbai as a representative of the Maharashtra State Government, and the Governing Body of the Indo French Centre for Promotion of Advanced Research. He currently chairs the National Committee for the International Union of Crystallography of the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi.



## **Anil Sahasrabudhe**

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Anil Sahasrabudhe is the present chairman of All India Council for Technical Education. He started his career as Scientific Officer at IISc, Bangalore in 1983 and moved to Tata Consulting Engineers as Engineer in the same year. He served as Lecturer and Assistant Professor at North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology, Itanagar, He served as Director, College of Engineering, Pune on deputation from IIT Guwahati. As an Academician and Researcher in NERIST and IIT Guwahati, and Director of CoEP, he has taken up several new initiatives for Academic, Curricular & Co-curricular activities, Entrepreneurship, Research and Good Governance. Prof. Sahasrabudhe is presently working as Chairman & Expert Member on various National Level Committees, which include; Chairman, Basic Scientific Research, Empowered Committee of UGC, SWAYAM Board and Chairman BOG of NIT Itanagar. As a Member/Fellow he is actively involved in the activities of many Professional Bodies/Societies, such as ISTE, ASME, ASEE, ASI, IET, Institution of Engineers (IE). He was awarded with "Maha-Intrapreneur Award-2011" of Praj Industries, Pune.





## **L S Shashidhara**

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L. S. Shashidhara did his PhD from University of Cambridge. On completion of his post-doctoral studies at Cambridge, he returned to India to join National Centre for Biological Sciences and worked as a visiting fellow for two years. Subsequently, he moved to Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) as a scientist and group leader, after which he was transferred to the IISER Pune, as a professor. At IISER Pune he served the institute as a professor and the chair of Biology and the coordinator of the department of Biology. He also serves as an honorary professor at JNCASR. He served as the vice-president of the Indian National Science Academy. He has won the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize in the Biological sciences category, and has been elected an Associate Member of European Molecular Biology Organization, making him the third scientist from India to join a group of about 1800 researchers from Europe and around the world.

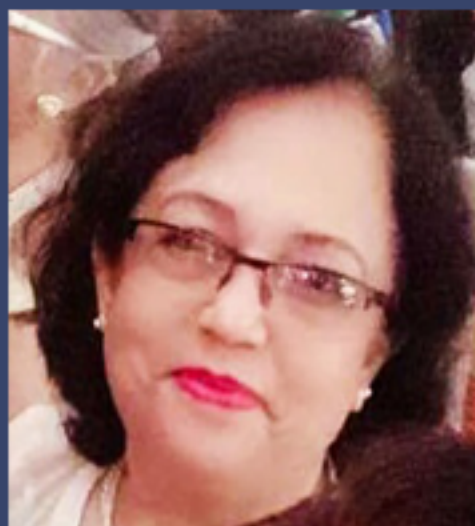


**Uday Balakrishnan**  
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Uday Balakrishnan is a former officer of the Indian Postal Service. He also served as Registrar of IISc, Bengaluru. After retiring as Member Postal Services Board and Chairman Investment Board, he has been in charge of the National Child Labour elimination programme and has also worked as the Chief Vigilance Officer of the Ministry of Labour. He has also served as Welfare Commissioner and been in charge of Women, migrant and unorganised labour. He has been twice Visiting Fellow at the Central European University Budapest and has been invited by the Jawaharlal Nehru University-New Delhi, Wissenschaftskolleg – Berlin, the Parmenides Foundation, the Ruhr University – Bochum, and the National Institute of Advanced Study Bangalore among several others. Dr. Balakrishnan set up the archives of the IISc. Uday is currently Visiting Faculty at the Centre for Policy Studies, at IISc.

**Radha Uday**  
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Radha Uday belongs to the IRAS (Indian Railways Accounts Service) and has been Financial Advisor to the SW Railways, the Railway Construction Organisation as well as the Rail Wheel Factory. She was also Chief of Finance for the Rural Electrification Corporation GOI and GM Finance Kochi Metro with the legendary Sridharan. She continues to be a very sought-after Arbitrator even after retirement, with her extensive domain knowledge in matters pertaining to financial management



**Indrani Basu**  
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Indrani Basu Mallik is a Clinical Psychologist by profession. She is the daughter of eminent Physicist and Academician late Prof. Aparesh Chatterjee and Mrs. Pani Chatterjee. Her education started in Canada and continued in UK and in India, as her parents moved from Canada to UK and then to India. She did her graduation from Lady Brabourne College, Kolkata. Her post graduation and Ph.D was from the Dept. of Applied Psychology, University of Calcutta. She pursued her Post Doctoral studies in University of Manchester, UK. She worked at the Clinical Psychology Dept. of Royal Oldham Hospital, UK for several years. After coming back to India, Indrani joined Saroj Gupta Cancer Centre and Research Institute as a Consultant Psychologist and also started practising Clinical Psychology in Kolkata.



**Saumitra Das**  
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Saumitra Das is one of the premier microbiologists of India. He performed his doctoral studies on host-pathogen interactions at the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology in Kolkata. He was then a post-doctoral fellow at UC, Los Angeles and after completion of his post-doctoral tenure, joined the university as an assistant research virologist. On his return to India, he joined IISc, Bengaluru, where he was Professor at the Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology, and coordinated the functioning of the Centre of Excellence for Research on Hepatitis C virus. He is presently the Director of the National Institute of Biomedical Genetics at Kalyani, West Bengal. He is fellow of all three National Academies in India, and won the NASI-Reliance Platinum Jubilee award, and the Ranbaxy Research Award for medical research.

## **Mrinal Kanti Musib** **biemkm@nus.edu.sg**

Mrinal Musib is a faculty in the department of Biomedical Engineering at the NUS, Singapore. Prior to that, he was a consultant for Johnson and Johnson at their regional office in Singapore looking after Medical Affairs/Information in ASEAN/APAC regions. He worked as a Senior Research Scientist at the State University of New York, Downstate Medical Centre in Brooklyn, New York. He is also the NUS-coordinator and principal lecturer in the “Medical Device Regulatory Affairs” program. He developed novel, technology-enhanced learning strategies like, MOOC’s, flipped classrooms, scenario-based learning etc. He is the recipient of the University’s “Excellence in Teaching” and “Innovation in Teaching” award. He is the current recipient of the ‘ERASMUS’ scholarship from the European Commission. He is also Judge for Reimagine Education Awards 2019/20.



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Venkat Srinivasan is a visiting researcher and archivist at the National Centre for Biological Sciences in Bangalore, India. The team is developing templates to pull archival material into coherent stories, and connect personal stories to established records of a scientific process. Prior to this, he was a research engineer at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Stanford University. He is an independent science writer, with work in *The Atlantic* and *Scientific American* online, *Nautilus*, *Aeon*, *Wired*, and *the Caravan*. This intersection of science journalism, scientific research and history led to probing ways to building diverse science narratives from archival material



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Suresh G. Menon is the Vice President and General Manager – Eastern Region of Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS), India's flagship IT services organisation, since August 2015. Prior to his current role, he served as the CEO of Diligenta Ltd, a UK based regulated subsidiary of TCS, focusing on Life and Pensions Insurance administration, since 2008. Suresh joined TCS in February 1986, and has held several diverse leadership roles in Australia, Germany, Japan and India. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Physics (was University First Rank holder) and a Master of Science degree in Physics from the University of Poona, India. He also holds a Master of Technology degree in Computer Science from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India. He has completed the Advanced Management programme at INSEAD, France.





## **Sourav Pal**

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Sourav Pal is presently Director of IISER Kolkata. He joined IIT Bombay in 2015. He was formerly the Director of CSIR-NCL, Pune. Prof. Pal is a distinguished theoretical chemist and has contributed to diverse areas of theoretical chemistry including the challenging aspects of methodological and conceptual developments. He received his Ph.D. degree from Calcutta University and post-doc from the University of Florida, USA. He was a visiting Professor at the University of Arizona, Tucson, USA, the Institute for Molecular Sciences, Okazaki, Japan and University of Torun, Poland. He was elected as the President of Chemical Research Society of India. He is a member of Executive Council of Federation of Asian Chemical Societies in the capacity of Editor of Publications and is Chairman of Chemical Division Council of Bureau of Indian Standards. He serves in several important scientific committees in the country. Dr. Pal received multiple prestigious honours including Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award, SASTRA-CNR Rao Award, Prof. Sadhan Basu Memorial Lecture Award and many more. He is a Fellow of INSA, IAS and NAS and J.C. Bose National Fellow of DST.



**Vinod Singh**  
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Vinod Singh holds Rahul and Namita Gautam Chair at Department of Chemistry, IIT Kanpur. His research work has been recognized with several awards and honors such as Swarnajayanti Fellowship, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize and Padma Shri among others. In addition, he has been elected as a Fellow of the INSA, IAS, NAS, and The World Academy of Sciences (FTWAS). He is a Member, Editorial Advisory Board of Org. Lett. and J. Org. Chem. He was conferred upon D.Sc. (honoris causa) by Jabalpur University. He has made significant contributions in the management of higher educational Institutes, science education, science policy and planning. As a Founding Director of IISER Bhopal, Prof. Singh built the Institution ground up. He has served as the Mentor Director of IISER Berhampur, Director of SPA Bhopal and the Chairman of BoG, NITTTR Bhopal. He also held the additional charge of Directorship of MANIT Bhopal and the Mentor Director of IIIT Bhopal. Professor Singh had been a Member of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC to PM) during 2009-2014.



## **V Chandrashekhar**

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Vadapalli Chandrasekhar obtained his PhD degree from IISc, Bangalore and post-doc from University of Massachusetts, USA. He joined the Department of Chemistry at IIT Kanpur where he has been a full professor since 1995. He also worked at TIFR, Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences, Hyderabad; and as both, Dean and Director, NISER, Bhubaneswar. Currently he is the Centre Director of the TIFR, Hyderabad. His research interests are in the area of molecular materials, inorganic rings and polymers, main-group organometallic chemistry and polynuclear metal assemblies. He has been a recipient of the S. S. Bhatnagar Award of the Council, Scientific Industrial Research, India and the Friedrich-Wilhelm-Bessel Research Award of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany. He is a Fellow of the IAS, Bangalore; NAS, Allahabad; INSA, New Delhi and the World Academy of Sciences, Trieste, Italy.



## **Partha Pratim Chakrabarti**

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Partha Pratim Chakrabarti is an Indian computer scientist. He is a distinguished professor and the former director of IIT Kharagpur. His work has been incorporated in standard text books as well as industry level tools of major international companies. He is also an honorary awardee of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology. His areas of interest include Artificial Intelligence, Formal Methods, CAD for VLSI & Embedded Systems etc. He has worked closely with Govt. Of India as well as in various industries and has successfully led and completed large projects of national and international importance. Important among them include DST, CSIR, IGSTC, Volkswagen Foundation, National Semiconductor Corporation, Intel Corporation and many more. He is a Fellow of the Indian NSA, New Delhi, IAS, Bangalore, Indian National Academy of Engineering and the West Bengal Academy of Science & Technology.



## **Sujata Bogawat**

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Sujata Bogawat is a Chartered Accountant and also holds a Business Management degree from NMIMS, Mumbai. She has diverse experience of 17 years across manufacturing, services, not for profits and start-up companies. She has expertise in the field of financial management and accounting, legal and statutory compliance, and raising finance.



**Avijit Majumder**  
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Abhijit Majumder received his PhD from the Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Kanpur. His doctoral research was on adhesion and soft mechanics. In 2010, he moved to inStem Bangalore and then to Harvard Medical School Boston for his Post-Doctoral research on cell mechanics and microfluidic devices respectively. At present, he is an Assistant Professor at Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Bombay and Wellcome Trust-DBT India Alliance Early Career Fellow. Abhijit has received national and international awards for his research including Peeble Travel Grant Award and Alan Gent runners up award from Adhesion Society USA, and TR35 Young Investigators award by Technology Review MIT, USA. His present research interest includes stem cell, cell mechanics and microfluidics. Abhijit also has keen interest in spreading scientific awareness among masses, particularly students. He is member of the Global Young Academy where he is the co-leader of the Rainbow Working Group which deals with inclusiveness in general, with a special focus on LGBTQ communities.



## **Bidisha Sinha**

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Bidisha Sinha is an Associate Professor at Department of Biological Sciences at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Kolkata. She earned her PhD in Life Sciences from National Centre for Biological Sciences in 2007 having worked on understanding gene expression noise and its control by chromatin compaction. Her postdoctoral years were spent at Institut Curie, Paris (2007-11) where she worked to show how cave-like structures in our cell-membranes work as membrane reservoirs and help cells keep their integrity under stress. At IISER Kolkata, her lab now studies membrane homeostasis - the spatial and temporal regulation of membrane mechanics in live cells. She has received support from Wellcome Trust - DBT India Alliance Intermediate Fellowship (2013-19), Ramanajun Fellowship (2013) and SERB core research grant (2019-2022).



**Ishan Chakraborty**  
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Ishan Chakraborty is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Jadavpur University. He is presently pursuing PhD from the same department under the supervision of Dr. Ananda Lal. He has been awarded the Abul Kashem rahimuddin Samman in 2019 by the Government of West Bengal for his contribution in the field of elocution and Bengali poetry recitation. He has also received the State Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities 2019 in the category of Role Model from the Government of West Bengal. His areas of interest include Rabindranath Tagore, Translation Studies, Disability Studies, Body Politics, American Literature and 19th Century Bengali and english Literature. He is one of the coordinators in the RUSA 2.0 sponsored project "Bodies of Difference: Pedagogies of the Marginal in the Global South.





**Kedar Khare**  
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Kedar Khare graduated from the integrated MSc program at IIT Kharagpur with highest honours and obtained his PhD in Optics from The Institute of Optics, University of Rochester, USA. After spending several years as a Lead Scientist with General Electric Global Research, Niskayuna, USA he has been a Physics faculty member at IIT Delhi since December 2011. He also works as an Associate Editor for Journal of Modern Optics published by Taylor & Francis, UK. Over the years Prof. Khare has made a number of contributions to computational imaging systems with applications to healthcare as well as defense. A central theme of his research work is to explore new algorithmic ideas that allow image recovery from noisy and/or “incomplete” data that lead to novel high end instruments with affordable cost.



**Pallava Bagla**

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Pallava Bagla is a charismatic science communicator respected for his deep understanding of Indian S&T system. 'New Frontiers in Science & Development' is the online platform he contributes to actively in addition to Science and Getty Images. His pioneering work showcasing India's maiden mission to Mars and Moon has been applauded and aired in English and Hindi for New Delhi Television. In his two decades of writing for the prestigious American weekly Science, his stories have highlighted India to the world. He has won three national awards for his science writing. He has won three national awards for excellence in journalism. In 2010, he was awarded the 'David Perlman Award for Excellence in Science Journalism' given by the American Geophysical Union, Washington DC, considered the 'Oscar for Science journalism' for his landmark writings which exposed the Himalayan glacier blunder by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He served as President of the International Science Writers Association and was a member of the Executive Board of the World Federation of Science Journalists.



**Spoorthy Raman**  
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Spoorthy Raman is the Managing Editor at Research Matters since 2016. In her span of about three years as a science writer, she has written about a wide range of topics, based on research papers, interviews, features and events. She was the recipient of the EurekAlert! Fellowships for International Science Reporters 2019, and was awarded the 'Merit Prize' in the Asian Scientist Writing Prize, 2017. She is trained as a computer science engineer with a Master's degree in Information Technology from the International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore. After her stint as a Software Engineer, she found that her passion lies in science writing and started her journey with Research Matters. She is excited about all things new, be it technology or a skill.



**Shubhra Priyadarshini**  
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Subhra Priyadarshini is an award-winning science journalist and currently the Editor of Nature Publishing Group's India portal. She has been keenly following the evolving science, research and innovation climate in Asia through the last couple of decades. She worked as a journalist with major Indian dailies The Times of India, The Indian Express, The Asian Age, The Telegraph, India's premier news agency Press Trust of India and Down To Earth magazine. She worked briefly for the Observer, London. Priyadarshini has been a British Chevening scholar, a Robert Bosch fellow, an IREX-UNESCO fellow and a Kavli Prize Media Scholarship awardee. She received the BBC World Service Trust award for her coverage of the "Vanishing Islands of Sunderbans" in the Bay of Bengal and the PANOS South Asia Media Excellence Award for her incisive coverage of climate change issues. She won acclaim in India for her coverage of the Orissa super cyclone in 1999 and the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004. She mentored the first ever FameLab India competition organized by British Council in India to hunt for the best science communicators and presenters across the country.



**Maitree Bhattacharyya**  
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Maitree Bhattacharyya is keenly interested in the study of the progress of scientific and societal interactions. She graduated from Presidency College with Honours in Physics and obtained M.Sc degree from the University of Calcutta. She started her research career in the Department of Biophysics and Molecular Biology, University of Calcutta, from where she obtained her PhD degree, and then pursued research with a Research associateship from CSIR. After that, she joined the University of Calcutta as an Assistant Professor. Later, she was awarded a DBT Overseas fellowship and worked as Visiting Scientist in UCSD, USA. Presently, she is a Professor in the Department of Biochemistry in the University of Calcutta. Dr. Bhattacharyya has also been the director at Jagadish Bose National Science Talent Search (JBNSTS), Kolkata from January 2015.



**Palash Baran Pal**  
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Palash Pal has been an outstanding theoretical physicist in the field of particle physics in India. He has spent most of his research career at the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata and is presently Emeritus Professor at Calcutta University. His varied research interests in field-theory based particle physics include weak interactions, theories beyond the standard model, astrology and cosmology related to particle physics, and a linearized theory of gravity. Other than his passion and dedication towards his core subject, Prof. Pal has been continuously engaged in popular science outreach in his immediate community, and has written as many as nine books in Bengali towards this – two which he has also translated in English. He regularly writes popular science articles in vernacular newspapers, and is indeed a crusader in promoting the scientific method in a society largely unaware and unappreciative of it.

## **Mathangi Ganesh**

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Mathangi Ganesh has teaching and research experience spanning the last 20+ years in Medical institutions in Chennai. She has been a mentor through the various hats she has adorned, as Anti ragging nodal officer, convener of students counselling centre, ECFMG institution co-ordinator and Research co-ordinator. She is a member in the editorial board of scientific journals and also a peer reviewer for international journals of repute. Dr. Mathangi has won several awards including the Young scientist award, Young woman scientist award from the Government of Tamil Nadu, Visiting Scientist award and Raine Visiting Professorship award from University of Western Australia, to mention a few. She has been active in the area of assessment and accreditation by NAAC, UGC and MCI and served as IQAC coordinator for 10 years at Chettinad Academy of Research and Education. She has served as NAAC Peer Team member as well. Her interest in moulding young minds also extends also through her programs and activities for youth and teachers at Sri Ramakrishna Mutt and Mission.

**Geetha Desai**  
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Dr. Geetha Desai is a Professor of Psychiatry and a consultant perinatal psychiatrist at NIMHANS, Bangalore. Her research interests are primarily in women's mental health, chronic pain and medically unexplained symptoms, with special focus on medication use during lactation, mother infant bonding disorders, and mental health problems during pregnancy.





**K VijayRaghavan**  
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Krishnaswamy VijayRaghavan is distinguished professor and former director of The National Centre for Biological Sciences. He was appointed by Government of India as the principal scientific adviser to succeed the distinguished scientist Dr. R Chidamabaram. He also served as a secretary of Department of Biotechnology, India. He was conferred the Padma Shri by the Govt. of India on and the Infosys Prize in the life sciences category in 2009. In 2012 he was elected a fellow of The Royal Society. He was elected as a foreign associate of the US National Academy of Sciences. VijayRaghavan graduated with a Bachelor of Technology degree in chemical engineering from IIT Kanpur. He completed his doctoral research in the field of molecular biology and holds a Ph.D from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. During his post-doctoral work, from 1984 to 1985, he was a research fellow and then, from 1986 to 1988, a senior research fellow at the California Institute of Technology.



**Najma Akhtar**  
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An internationally renowned educational administrator, Professor Najma has four decades of academic scholarship in educational leadership. She is known for spearheading international educational administrators' course for senior officials from 130 countries for more than 15 years at NIEPA. She has established and successfully developed first state level management institute (SIEMET) at Allahabad for developing educational administrators for the country. She has managed affairs of premier educational institute in various critical statutory positions such as Controller of examination and Director Academic Programs at Aligarh Muslim University. At IGNOU, she led many distance educators capacity building courses at national and international level.



**Anindita Bhadra**  
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Anindita Bhadra is a behavioural biologist at the Department of Biological Sciences and the Associate Dean of International Relations and Outreach, at IISER Kolkata. She did her PhD at IISc Bangalore, on the social politics of a paper wasp. She joined IISER Kolkata as an IISER Fellow in 2009, where she set up the Dog Lab to work on the behavioural ecology of free-ranging dogs. She is interested in understanding the evolutionary history of dogs using the free-ranging dogs as a model system. Anindita was involved in the founding of the Indian National Young Academy of Science (INYAS), which she led for the first three years. She is a member of the Global Young Academy and is currently serving on its Executive Committee. She is very interested in teaching and is engaged in various outreach activities, especially involving children. She also writes popular science articles quite regularly in Bangla. She has various interests beyond academia. Anindita and her husband run a professional theatre group, mukhOsh, based in Kolkata.

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The national organizing committee is led by Prof. Sourav Pal, Director of IISER Kolkata. Dr. Anindita Bhadra, Department of Biological Sciences, Associate Dean of International Relations and Outreach, IISER Kolkata is the coordinator of the program. The partnership with NBS is administered by Puneet Kumar Narula, Country Director (India) & Head-University partnerships of the Nanyang Business School, NTU. This program is supported by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

The organizing committee of IISER Kolkata comprises of several faculty and staff members.

Anirban Banerjee (Associate Professor, Mathematics and Statistics)

Ayan Banerjee (Professor, Physical Sciences)

Avijit Debnath (Junior Assistant, Director Office)

Chiranjib Mitra (Professor, Physical Sciences)

Dipjyoti Das (Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences)

Dibyendu Das Assistant Professor, Chemical Sciences

Rumi De (Associate Professor, Physical Sciences)

Joy Chakraborty (Mr. Joy Chakraborty PA/Guest House Incharge)

Sanjay Kumar Mandal (Assistant Professor, Earth Sciences)

Sayam Sen Gupta (Associate Professor, Chemical Sciences)

Shantanu Das Mahapatra (Assistant Registrar, IA)

Sumit Khnara (Associate Professor, Chemical Sciences)

Suraj Bordoloi (Assistant Registrar, DoFA)

Susmita Roy (Assistant Professor, Chemical Sciences)