

iit Alumni Newsletter June 2016

2016 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, Boston

[HURRY, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION](#)



The conference is open not just to IIT alumni but to everyone and with over 1,200 attendees and 100 speakers expected, you are sure to find it a fun, exciting and enriching experience. Hurry and **SAVE MONEY ON EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATION** – less than \$200 is a great value!

- **Get Inspired by world class speakers** such as
 - **Stephen Kaufer** – President and CEO, TripAdvisor
 - **Eric Gebhardt** – Chief Platforms and Operations Officer, GE
 - **Rajesh Subramaniam** – EVP Global Marketing and Communications, FedEx Services
 - **Dr. Amitabha Ghosh** – Space Scientist and Chair, NASA Mars Rover Mission
 - **Dr. Gururaj “Desh” Deshpande** – Technology & Social Entrepreneur
 - **Dr. Nitin Nohria** – Dean, Harvard Business School
 - and many more.
- **Expand your minds to the latest technology trends** in
 - **Life Sciences & Healthcare:** integrative medicine, healthcare delivery, medical devices
 - **Energy & Environment:** renewable energy generation, storage, efficiency, water tech
 - **Frontiers of Technology:** IoT, cloud based enterprise, security, AI, Big Data
 - **Education:** University Presidents panel, digital learning, democratization of education
- **Participate in the Business Plan Competition** with cutting edge technology ideas, access to investors, and chance to win \$25,000 in cash prizes.
- **Network with industry leaders**, make business connections, advance your career.
- **Renew old friendships and create new ones** with plenty of opportunities between sessions and over meals or a friendly game of bridge to reminisce about good ol’ days.
- **Have fun** with world-class musical entertainment, great food, on line bridge tournament.
- **Bring your family** to enjoy the lovely New England summer, tour local attractions, and take your kids to visit the world’s best Universities while you are here.

Check out the website for more details on the [CONFERENCE SCHEDULE](#).

Business Plan Competition:

Enter our business plan competition with an innovative product or business proposal. You will have access to Venture Capitalists, Angel Investors and decision makers from leading enterprises, and exposure to a talented pool of technical and business folks. Businesses can include, but not limited to: information technology, biotechnology, green technology, advanced manufacturing and medical devices. The final round will be held at the Conference on **Sunday, August 14, 2016** and up to \$25,000 in cash prizes will be given out. For guidelines for submission, please visit the [website](#).

HURRY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

IIT ALUMNI TALKS

Do whatever you like to do, but do something: A talk with Professor Sridhar Tayur

Sridhar Tayur (BT ME 86) is a Ford Distinguished Research Chair and a Professor of Operations Research at Carnegie Mellon (Tepper School of Business). He is also the founder of SmartOps, where he had served as the CEO for 12 years, and of OrganJet. Read on as he talks about his time in insti, why he chose to pursue a career in OR and why that turned out to be the best decision of his life.



Any memorable incidents in insti?

Nothing that I particularly remember, although the whole college experience was extremely fun, be it Mardi Gras, or all the inter hostel competitions and rivalry, or the Saturday night OAT movies, it was all amazing. We also used to frequent the Quark café in front of Saras, which I see has now expanded greatly into Zaitoon. It was hardly the size of two hostel rooms then. Some of us were planning to go abroad back then, so we had stayed back in the summer before the final year to prepare for our GRE. Since there were only a few of us for those extra weeks, we got to know each other better and it boosted our friendship.

I wouldn't really call it memorable, but it's related to the Chennai floods incident that happened recently, a similar such flood struck Chennai in 1985. We were in insti at the time. There was no electricity, no water and obviously no classes were being held as well. But the

exams were still held on time.

It seems nothing can get the insti to postpone exams. (Laughing) Yes that's true. We still managed to wrap up the semester more or less on time. They certainly weren't as bad as the recent ones.

One other positive incident that I remember vividly was India winning the 1983 cricket world cup. Oh that was amazing! The celebrations in insti and of course across the nation were unimaginable. The next time I visited India was in 2011, when they won again.

You should come more often.

Haha yes I think I should plan a trip every four years, the correlation seems to be pretty high! I'd say that those four years of insti were probably one of the best, and you won't get those back again, no matter what you go on to do in life.

Any club activities or sports that you participated in?

Yes I was part of the Godav field hockey team. I played cricket as well but hockey was my main sport. Though I wasn't very good at it, I used to take part in LitSoc competitions like writing and potpourri. Aside from that I used to go for an evening run with friends and just hang out in general. Studies generally ranked after these in our list of priorities, I never really found it to be oppressive.

Any Saras – Godav rivalry?

Oh sure! It wasn't as intense as you have described it to be now, but it was surely there. The zeal and hunger to win and beat them never left, though it was always a healthy competition. Godav had the best volleyball and basketball teams in insti back then and we used to thrash everyone in that. Apart from that, we also had these inter-wing sports competitions which I used to relish. Till date even after 30 years I still keep in touch with my wing mates!

Any life skills which insti taught you?

Well yes definitely. I wouldn't call them life skills as such, but the intensity with which the curriculum is taught sort of makes it easier to deal with problems later on in life. Right from the entrance exams all

through the four years of college, if you were aiming for IIT or you were aiming for a CGPA of somewhere between 9 and 10, then there's a certain level of intellectual agility and sharpness that you have to work with. The quality of competition here is extremely high. I remember when I went to Cornell I was able to cope just fine. One of my professors over there remarked that I seemed to be finding the subjects easier than the other students, the truth being that I actually was! Students may complain about the rigid and tough system or the genius peer group that they have to live with but it's the very same system that will make life easy for you later on, especially if you're a ten pointer here.

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Adapted from – Chennai36 IIT Madras magazine

IIT NEWS

Parrikar bats for better engagement of alumni

PUNE: Defence minister Manohar Parrikar on Tuesday urged top academic institutes like Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) to engage alumni in their present activities to ensure that the pride of an institute remains intact.

Addressing the 8th convocation of DIAT, Parrikar said, "The stature of an institute is interlinked with the performance of its students. Better the performance of the students, greater the pride of an institute. Ex-students can contribute a lot in terms of goodwill, time and money."

Parrikar pointed out that IITs draw their strength more from the contribution of their ex-students than from the government's money. He lauded DIAT for complementing the DRDO laboratories by carrying out fundamental and exploratory research leading to the development of new science and technology.

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PM Modi to mark Skill India anniversary at IIT Kanpur

With focus firm on the next year's Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Kanpur on July 15, where he will take part in the first anniversary of 'Skill India' at IIT-Kanpur. He will later address a public meeting at the railway ground.

Union Minister of State for Skill and Development Entrepreneurship (independent charge) Rajiv Pratap Rudy visited IIT-K campus Friday and reviewed preparations for the event with institute's authorities. He also inspected the site of public meeting.

BJP MLA from Maharajpur in Kanpur, Satish Mahana said: "PM had launched 'Skill India' on July 15 last year. This year PM will be in Kanpur where he will also address the students competing to

qualify for World Skills competition scheduled to be held in Abu Dhabi”.

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Adapted from - Written by Lalmani Verma | Lucknow | New Indian Express

IIT-Madras develops warning system for gas turbines

CHENNAI: A group of engineers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) has cracked the elusive secret code of thermoacoustic instability, a problem that gas turbine and aerospace industry has been grappling with for decades, incurring losses to the tune of \$1 billion annually. The team has developed a host of precursors, dubbed as the world's first early warning system for gas turbine power plants and jet engines.



Prof Sujith and his student visnhu working on turbulent combustor at the IIT-Madras lab.

The technology has found interest among some of the major players in the sector, including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and our own Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

“We are exploring the process of working together with the ISRO. However, before we test the technology in aerospace sector, it will be tried first with ground-based engines like gas turbine power plants. We are now in talks with major gas turbine companies such as Ansaldo Energia, General Electric and Siemens to test the technology with real data. It needs lots of testing to root out any lacuna such as triggering of false alarms,” Prof R I Sujith of the Department of Aerospace Engineering in IIT-M told Express. A key person behind the project, he recently visited NASA in this regard. The firm, which aims to double sourcing from India, is looking at partnerships with institutions such as the IITs

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Adapted from – NewIndianExpress 19th June, 2016.

PANIIT ALUMNI NEWS

VMware to acquire tech firm Arkin Net founded by 4 IIT alumni

US-based software technology firm VMware will acquire Arkin Net founded by IIT Kanpur alumni Shiv Agarwal, Rohit Toshniwal, Mukul Gupta and IIT Bombay alumnus Abhijit Sharma.

US-based software technology firm VMware will acquire the Arkin Net, a data centre security, operation and analytical services company based in Pune and Silicon Valley. Both the companies

did not disclose the financial details of the transaction. According to VMware, the deal is expected to close in second quarter of 2016. Arkin is backed by Nexus Venture Partners. With this acquisition, now VMware can offer an integration of its VMware vRealize Suite and Arkin solutions for cloud management that provide better visibility and control across the entire data center environment.

VMware vRealize Suite is a software product suite designed to enable IT professionals to create and manage hybrid clouds. Whereas the Arkin platform provides insights into the data centre traffic flows via a pre-assessment tool.

According to VMware this will enable them to offer faster virtual networking and security software – VMware NSX – deployment via micro-segmentation planning.

Post deployment, Arkin significantly lowers time to resolution, leveraging constructs such as time-machine, plain English search and contextual analytics across virtual and physical layers, said VMware.

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