Speakers Profile
INAUGURATION SPEAKERS

Vikram Gupta
FOUNDER & MANAGING PARTNER, IVYCAP VENTURES

Akshay Singhal
CEO & FOUNDER, LOG 9 MATERIALS
Vikram Gupta is the Founder and Managing Partner of IvyCap Ventures, a USD 200 mn Venture Capital Fund that invests through the Alumni ecosystems. He has over 25 years of experience in Private Equity, Business Consulting, M&A, Strategy and Operations in Healthcare and Life Sciences, Education, Consumer Goods and other industries. He has held leadership positions across various well-known companies in India and Abroad. Prior to founding IvyCap, Mr. Gupta was the founding member at Ajay Piramal sponsored USD 100 mn Healthcare focused Private Equity Fund that he conceptualized, and raised in 2008 when the world markets were going through turmoil. Mr. Gupta worked in the US with IBM Business Consulting Services for over four years in strategy and planning, business development and project management across various assignments. He conceptualized and led IBM’s Healthcare and Life Sciences practice for Clinical Genomics. He has also held senior positions with various well known Indian companies. Mr. Gupta is the Co-Chairman of PEVCAI (Private Equity and Venture Capital) at ASSOCHAM and is an active member of IVCA (Indian Venture Capital Association) and CII (Confederation of Indian Industry). He received Distinguished Alumnus Service Award from IIT Delhi in the year 2020. Mr. Gupta has completed his B.Tech. in Chemical Engineering from IIT Delhi and has MBA degree in Strategy and Finance from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, USA.

VIKRAM GUPTA
27-year-old Akshay Singhal is a young and dynamic technopreneur and a 2018 Forbes Under30 Asia Awardee. He stands to solve climate change with nanotechnology and empower the young pioneers who will push the world forward through entrepreneurship and innovation. He is the founder and CEO of Log 9 Materials, a startup that “nannovates” and attempts at paving a sustainable future using “graphene—the wonder material”. Since his childhood, Akshay had a keen interest in science and technology, and its huge potential in transforming human lives. He has been doing research in nanotechnology since his sophomore year of graduation at Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee. He graduated with honors in Materials Engineering from IIT Roorkee in 2015 and has also submitted his PhD thesis on Graphene at IIT Roorkee in 2020. He has research experience from University of Alberta, Canada and has published more than 6 scientific articles and filed more than 15 patents. He was a Institute Silver medal recipient from IIT Roorkee for his extensive research during undergraduate studies. With his research, he realized that there is need of commercial production of high quality graphene and other nanomaterials in India and hereafter, decided to start his own venture wherein he would be independent to take up new avenues of R&D with respect to graphene nanotechnology, and fund them through commercialization of products being developed. This gave rise to Log 9 Materials which has been developing cutting edge indigenous technologies in the field of energy storage and filtration since 2015. In 2019, Log 9 Materials also established a subsidiary, Log 9 Spill Containment which develops and manufactures absorbents for Oil and Chemical spills and other materials for Water and Air Purification. In 2020, Akshay steered his team at Log 9 Materials to pioneer the use of UV Disinfection to disinfect surfaces off the COVID-19 virus and other microbes under the brand name of ‘Coronaoven’. For his entrepreneurial accomplishments in the field of core engineering, he was also awarded the Young Entrepreneur Award in 2020 by the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE).
Day-3 Apps on Physics (23rd February)
Day-4 Chem Collective (24th February)

ABOUT HER

She has completed her Ph.D in the field of Bio-Organic Chemistry from IISc-Bangalore in 1997, thereafter she has also completed a 2 year Postdoctoral studies at Duke University Medical Centre in 2001. From 2001 to 2013, she worked for various projects at IIT-Bombay including independent funding from DBT. From 2013 to present she is working as Senior Project Research Scientist at the MHRD (MoE) funded Spoken Tutorial Project leading the content creation in ICT topics for Science subjects useful for school and college education.

SNEHALATHA KALIAPPAN

BRIEF

Apps on Physics

Apps on Physics are simulations that help us to understand basic concepts in Physics. These Apps are freely downloadable and easy to use. It is intended for teaching and learning Physics from secondary school to higher secondary. It is freely available for download at http://www.walter-fendt.de. The Apps are available in java script and htm formats.

ChemCollective Virtual Labs:

The ChemCollective virtual lab is an online simulation of a chemistry lab. It is designed to help students link chemical computations with authentic laboratory chemistry. The lab allows students to select from hundreds of standard reagents (aqueous) and manipulate them in a manner resembling a real lab. Simulation-based exercises offer new ways to promote learning and motivation. Interactive exercises can allow students to explore and reinforce fundamental concepts that are increasingly complex, realistic, and engaging. ChemCollective virtual labs software is available free of charge to all educators and students. Teachers and students can use it on the web without any licensing requirements. ChemCollective virtual labs are part of the National Science Digital Library (NSDL).
Mr. Ashank Desai is the Founder, Vice Chairman & MD of Mastek Ltd. Now Mastek $ 200 – million-plus, publicly-held IT player with global operations providing solutions to Government, Retail, & BFSI. Majesco, the demerged entity from Mastek, was listed in New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) /NASDAQ before going private. It was the first Pure-Play Software Products company from India to be listed in US Stock-Exchanges.

He is the Managing Trustee of Mastek Foundation, which works with around 25 NGOs. Mr. Desai is widely recognized as an industry veteran and is one of the Founder members & Past Chairman of NASSCOM, and associated with NASSCOM for the past 32 years. He was a former President of Asian Oceanian Computing Industry Organization (ASOCIO), an Association of 20 countries in this region.

Involvement in Education
Mr. Desai is actively involved in the field of education and is a Member of Governing Board of IIM Ahmedabad for 10 years, a Member of Governing Board of Goa Institute of Management (GIM) for the last 10 / 11 year, now President of GIM Society. He also serves on the Advisory Boards of SJM School of Management, and at his alma mater IIT Bombay. Governing Board Member of Goa Engineering College (GEC), Mahatma Gandhi Mission's College of Engineering and Technology (MGMCET) & IIIT Bhubaneswar. He is also Vice Chairman of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for the Goa Government.

Involvement in Entrepreneurship Issues
Founder Member & Vice-Chairman, of an IIT, Bombay organization Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE) since last 15 years. Actively involved in The Indus Entrepreneurs (TIE), three Angel Networks & a PE firm as either investor or mentor or Advisory board member. Involved in CII at regional and National level driving Start-Up engagement Programmes with corporates.

Awards & Felicitation
Recently he has been felicitated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his contribution to NASSCOM & IT Industry for the last 25 years. He has been conferred with the “Distinguished Alumnus” Award from IIT Bombay and “Fellow of the Society” by Computer Society of India (CSI) in recognition of his services to the Indian IT Industry as an entrepreneur and for his contribution to the growth of education. He was conferred with the much-coveted Outstanding Entrepreneur Award at the Asia Pacific Entrepreneurship Awards (APEA) 2010 India
Prof Narendra Shah has earned his Doctorate in “Process Engineering” from UTC-France (1990) and MEng (Agri Machinery and Food Processing) from Asian Institute of Technology - Bangkok in Thailand (1980). He is with the Centre for Technology Alternatives for Rural Areas (CTARA) of IIT Bombay since 1991. Dr Shah teaches courses such as Food Engineering, Agro-Based Industries (Design and Case Studies), Soils and Agriculture and Food & Nutrition Delivery. He undertakes research work in the areas of Value Addition in Agro-Food processing, Technologies for Food Preservation and Food formulations for addressing Malnutrition. Dr Shah has 85+ publications based on his R & D work. He has received awards for his research work such as: IIChE- Hindustan Dorr-Oliver award for Use of S and T for Rural Development work in Controlled Atmoshere Technology for bio-commodities and PK Patwardhan Technology Development Award for process and product developments in Jaggery Making from sugarcane. He led Projects in Agro-Food domain activities of Tata Centre for Technology and Design at IIT Bombay. Dr Shah has widely travelled in countries of different Continents such as USA, Europe, Africa and Asia. He carries a passion for “Technology Development & Diffusion” in agro-based industry towards “Inclusive-Growth”. Some of his recent research projects are: and Lipid Based RuTF (Ready to Use Theraputic Foods) for Malnourished Children < 6 years and Food-supplementation using Soya based Health Drink for School going children in Mumbai suburb, Ozone treatment of Cotton stalks as Animal Feed, Supply chain using cold-storages for “Mogra” and Fruits+ Vegetables for small farmers using ECS in Palghar District of Maharashtra (India), Jaggery product and Process improvements, Decentralized Seed-storage systems.
Day-5 Introduction to Incorporating Artificial Intelligence in K-12 Curriculum (25th February)

ABOUT HIM
Engineer by education, Manas graduated from Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay in 2017. He joined PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), USA in 2017 and worked across several machine learning and AI based projects for clients spanning across sectors such as healthcare, e-commerce, and retail and energy. Later, he joined Amazon as a research scientist in the customer services division. He has extensive experience in developing AI based solutions, such as chatbot, image recognition etc., at scale. He is currently working in the ML team at Amazon to create an interactive chatbot for enhancing customer experience by improving query resolution.

BRIEF

Introduction to Incorporating Artificial Intelligence in K-12 Curriculum:
The session aims to provide the prescribed approach by CBSE to include Artificial Intelligence (AI) in K12 curriculum. The intended audience of the session will be teachers, other academic staff, and Vidya students along with their parents. We intend to cover our motivation behind introducing AI as a subject for school going children, followed by demonstration of the methodology as prescribed by CBSE (Excite, Purpose, Possibility, Ethics) using sample activities, and our perspective on the feasibility of implementing the same within Vidya Schools. We intend to propose this session as a primer to our larger vision of initiating emerging-tech based curriculum at Vidya.
WEBINAR SPEAKER

Kavi Arya

PROFESSOR, CSE
DEPARTMENT, IIT
BOMBAY
Dr. Kavi Arya is Professor of Computer Science & Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology (Bombay). He did his B.Sc.(Hons.) in Computing Science from Imperial College of Science & Technology (UK) and M.Sc. (Hons.)/Ph.D. in Computation from University of Oxford. In 1988-90 he worked at IBM’s T.J. Watson Research Labs (Yorktown Heights, NY/U.S.A.) with the Animation Workstations Group. He worked in various positions in industry before coming to IIT Bombay in 2000. Prof. Arya is convenor of the Embedded & Real time Systems Lab (ERTS). He is Principal Investigator of the e-Yantra Project (http://www.e-yantra.org), funded by NMEICT, popularizing "Project Based Learning" using robotics in engineering colleges. e-Yantra runs a National Robotics Competition that teaches complex engineering skills in a scalable manner. This competition has grown exponentially from 4,500 registrations in 2012 to over 34,500 registrations in 2019. In 2020 e-Yantra launched a pilot e-Yantra Schools Robotics competition to take the benefits of Project Based Learning to Schools in India and neighboring countries - that has been a resounding success. e-Yantra runs an innovation challenge (eYIC) that trains students in innovation and entrepreneurship. Prof. Arya has developed products for agencies such as Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and the Indian Army. He spent 2007 on sabbatical with the Mahindra & Mahindra Group as a Chief Technology Officer (CTO). He is empaneled on high-level committees such as Technology Development Board (DST) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) among others. He is on the Governing Council of KR Mangalam University, Gurgaon, India and is on the Governing Council of Vidya.

e-Yantra:
e-Yantra is a robotics outreach project hosted at IIT Bombay and funded by the Ministry of Education. In its decade-long existence it has empowered lakhs of engineering students with skills in robotics and automation rendering them able to solve real problems with robotics. It teaches robotics through Massive Online Open Courses that present as a 6 month long competition. The secret sauce is "Project Based Learning" or "learning by doing." Prof. Arya shares the story of e-Yantra and its recent pilot of a competition designed for school students (8-11 std) which has been a resounding success.