

Recipients for INSA Distinguished Lectures-1
(for INSA Young Associates, INSA Associate Fellows and INYAS Members
(earlier or present) only – who has not attained the age of 50 years on 31st
December of preceding year of the Lectureship)
(for the year 2026)

Sectional Committee - I : Mathematical Sciences: Applied Mathematics, Pure Mathematics, Theoretical Computer Science, Statistics and Operations Research

Jakhar, Anuj (b 27.03.1992), PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics, Indian Institute of Technology–Madras, Chennai.

Dr. Anuj Jakhar is an accomplished mathematician specializing in algebraic and analytic number theory, valuation theory, and modular forms. His research uses valuation-theoretic methods to generalize classical irreducibility criteria and polynomial factorization results. He has determined discriminants and integral bases for broad classes of number fields, generalized Dedekind's criterion, and contributed to class field theory and monogeneity. His work also includes asymptotic results for shifted convolution sums linked to L-functions and Hecke eigenforms, representing impactful contributions to contemporary number theory.

Sectional Committee - II : Physics:

Astronomy, Astrophysics, Nuclear and High Energy Physics, Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics, Statistical Physics, Theoretical Physics, Mathematical and Computational Physics, Condensed Matter including Soft, Liquids and Nano Materials, Cosmic Radiation, Cosmology, Space Physics, Basic Planetary Sciences, Lasers and Optoelectronics, Plasma Physics, Solar Physics, Atmospheric Physics

Parkar, Vivek Vijay (b 06.09.1980), PhD, Scientific Officer (F), Nuclear Physics Division, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai.

Dr. **Vivek Vijay Parker** is a nuclear physicist at BARC whose work focuses on both fundamental and applied aspects of nuclear science. His research spans nuclear reactions, structure studies, and radiation–matter interactions, with implications for reactor physics and nuclear technology.

Sectional Committee - III : Chemistry:

Analytical Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, Theoretical and Computational Chemistry, Structural Chemistry, Chemistry of Materials, Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Bio-organic, Bio-inorganic and Bio-physical Chemistry

Gunanathan, Chidambaram (b 05.06.1977), PhD, Professor, School of Chemical Sciences, National Institute of Science Education and Research-Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Dr. Gunanathan advanced sustainable catalysis using earth-abundant metals, enabling efficient transformations of alcohols and ethers, selective deuteration, hydro functionalization, and atom-economical reactions with hydrogen or water as benign byproducts.

Sectional Committee - IV : Earth & Environmental Sciences:

Surface and Solid Earth Science, Applied Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics, Climate Sciences, Meteorology, Geo Engineering, Ocean Sciences, Geo Sciences and Applied Planetary Sciences

Chakraborty, Kunal (b 23.09.1982), PhD, Scientist-F, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India, Hyderabad.

He has made significant contributions to marine science, in general, and ocean biogeochemistry, in particular, ecosystems modelling and marine forecasting for societal benefit.

Sectional Committee - V : Engineering & Technology:

Electrical Engineering, Telecommunication Engineering, Electronics and Optoelectronics, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, Metallurgical Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering including Software and Data science, Information Science and Technology, Advanced Materials (such as Bio-materials, Hybrid Materials and Nano Materials), Polymer Science & Engineering

Devarakonda, Neelima Satyam (b 06.08.1979), PhD, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology-Indore, Simrol.

Prof. Neelima Satyam Devarakonda has transformed geohazard science through physics informed models of landslides, debris flows, and co-seismic failures. Integrating field monitoring, remote sensing, and artificial intelligence, she developed early warning systems for Himalayan regions and advanced bio-geotechnics, seismic microzonation, and resilient infrastructure for disaster risk reduction.

Sectional Committee - VI : General Biology:

Taxonomy, Structure, Ecology, Environmental Biology, Evolution and Behaviour of Plants, Animals and Microbes including Unicellular Eukaryotes

Abhilash, PC (b 20.04.1978), PhD, Associate Professor, Institute of Environment & Sustainable Development (IESD), Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

His research spans field and policy areas of sustainable development, restoration of degraded ecosystems, and local food security. He has been using multipurpose plant species along with bio-residues and bio-inoculants as low-input biotechnology. He has also developed biophysical indicators for ecological profiling and sustainability analysis of degraded and polluted land. He has standardized various adaptive, climate-resilient, and sustainable agricultural practices in the drylands of eastern UP. He has explored neglected and underutilized wild plants for dietary diversification, and optimized cultivation practices for promising species. He is deeply involved in science popularization among students and school/college teachers and has been involved with Children's Science Congress at the district level.

Sectional Committee - VII : Molecular and Cellular Biology:

Cell Biology, Physiology, Development, Genetics, Genomics and other Omics of Plants, Animals and Microbes including Unicellular Eukaryotes

Sharma, Mahak (b 23.04.1983), PhD, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research-Mohali, Mohali

Recommended for her contributions in lysosome biology and protein trafficking.

Sectional Committee - VIII : Biomolecular, Structural Biology and Drug Discovery:
*Biochemistry, Biophysics, Molecular Biology, Pharmacology, Structural Biology,
Bioinformatics, Computational Biology, System Biology*

Dey, Sucharita (b 20.11.1982), PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Bioscience & Bioengineering. Indian Institute of Technology-Jodhpur, Jodhpur.

Dr Suscharita Dey has carried out outstanding work during her doctoral and extended post-doc stint at Weizmann. Since joining IIT-Jodhpur she has continued the work on studying oligomeric proteins to understand the features of subunit interfaces and their role in self-assembly across ferrotious superfamily. Also studied the presence of some motifs in globular proteins. She is a promising young bio informatics person and may be considered for IDL-1 Lecture.

Sectional Committee - X : Agricultural Sciences:
*Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Fisheries, Food Science, Veterinary Science,
Pathogen Biology and Host Pathogen Interaction Both Plant and Veterinary
Importance*

Singh, Sudhir Pratap (b 15.12.1977), PhD, Professor, Department of Industrial Biotechnology, Gujarat Biotechnology University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Dr. Singh has made an excellent contribution in area of industrial enzyme produced in microbial systems. Before this, he had engineered plants for cytoplasmic male sterility by expressing Beceline gene.

He has also achieved biosynthesis of high value molecules such as allulose, trehalose, turanose, D-allose, γ – aminobutyric acid etc.