

## **PADMA SHRI PROFESSOR DEEPAK B. PHATAK**



Padma Shri Deepak B. Phatak was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 1948. He graduated with a degree in electrical engineering from Shri Govindram Seksaria Institute of Technology and Science, Indore. He then completed his M.Tech and his Ph.D in computer science from Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. He is a recipient of the Padma Shri Award in 2013 for his contribution to science and technology.

Padma Shri Deepak B. Phatak has been working at IIT Bombay since 1 December 1971. From 1991 to 1994, he was the Head of the Department of Computer Science. He was then Dean of Resource Development from 1995 to 1998 and the Head of the Kanwal Rekhi School of Information Technology from 1998 to 2002. From 2004 to 2005, he was head of Shailesh J. Mehta School of Management. He is currently the Subrao M. Nilekani Chair Professor of the KReSIT (Kanwal Rekhi School of Information Technology) which is now merged with the Department of Computer Science Engineering, IIT Bombay.

He started an IT incubator to foster innovation through start-up companies. It has now grown into the Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), and is considered the best incubator in India. He also started the country's first interactive distance learning program using VSATs (Very small aperture terminal). This initiative has now grown into the Centre for Distance Engineering Education (CDEEP). Using the experience gained in that initiative, he recently completed a national mission project to train 1,000 teachers at one time, in several core engineering subjects using ICT (Information and Communication

Technology), through a series of ISTE workshops. By June 2012, his efforts had succeeded in training over 20,000 teachers from across 1,200 engineering colleges in the country.

He is also known for his notable work in upgrading Aakash, which is considered the world's cheapest tablet. He was also responsible for developing an aircraft maintenance training simulator now used in the Indian Air Force, development of smart card technology for banking debit/credit applications, surveillance systems for the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Ekalavya Project and clicker devices (which is a portable handheld device designed to allow participants to submit answers to a quiz or poll by clicking on one of a set number of choices).

He has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement award by Skoch Foundation in 2003, Lifetime Achievement award by Data Quest in 2008, Lifetime Achievement award by IIT Bombay in 2014 and Lifetime Achievement award by INTEROP Mumbai in 2014. In 2009, he was ranked one of the 50 most powerful people in India by Business Week.

Padma Shri Deepak B. Phatak was our distinguished guest on the occasion of the National Workshop on Technology Enabled Learning (TECHEL) conducted here on 4-5 August, 2015. He also inaugurated the A.N. Khosla Centre for Technology Enabled Learning.