

## INAE Annual Convention 2025

### Introduction:

The INAE Annual Convention 2025 was organized on December 18-20, 2025 at HAL Management Academy (HMA), Bengaluru. INAE organizes its Annual Convention every year, during the month of December as one of its Flagship events. The Convention of the Academy is a mega event attended by Fellows, Foreign Fellows, Young Associates and Invitees. The Annual Conventions have been very successful with good attendance in the last several years.

### Day 1:

The INAE Annual Convention 2025 commenced on Dec 18, 2025 with the Award Lectures by winners of INAE major Awards chaired by Dr PS Goel, Former President, INAE & Honorary Distinguished Professor at NIAS, Honorary Distinguished Professor ISRO; Formerly Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences. This session featured lectures by winners Life Time Contribution Award in Engineering; Prof. Jai Krishna & Prof. SN Mitra Memorial Awards; Outstanding Teacher Award and Woman Engineer of the Year Award instituted by the Academy to recognize engineering luminaries and stalwarts of engineering in different categories. The lectures presented a brief overview of the most distinguished and noteworthy contributions of the awardees that have brought them honour and glory in the engineering realms. Recognizing talent in engineering is important at all stages for engineering professionals and one of the best ways is to confer awards that shall encourage and give a fillip to them.

INAE Life Time Contribution in Engineering Award is conferred to recognise life time contribution in engineering made by eminent persons to any branch of engineering within the purview of the Academy. This year's awardees are among the most eminent engineering personalities in present times. The two awardees for INAE Life Time Contribution in Engineering Award 2025 were Prof. J.B. Joshi, *FNAE*, Chancellor and Former Director, Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai, a renowned Chemical Engineer who has done truly outstanding work in developing design procedures for Multiphase Reactors which form heart of the chemical process and nuclear industry and Dr. Sanak Mishra, Former President, INAE and former President of the Indian Institute of Metals and formerly Managing Director, Rourkela Steel Plant and Director, Steel Authority of India Ltd.; Vice-President, ArcelorMittal and CEO India Projects and Secretary General, Indian Steel Association, both of whom have contributed immensely in their respective fields and walks of life and are highly acclaimed in the engineering community.

Prof JB Joshi delivered an address on "Generation of National Wealth Through Science and Technology" and brought out some pertinent issues on this topic of vital interest to the Nation. Dr Sanak Mishra expounded some important issues of interest to industry and detailed his professional journey wherein he made contributions to the Steel Industry in various capacities that are being conferred the Life Time Contribution in Engineering Award which is the highest recognition given by the Academy.

INAE Prof Jai Krishna Memorial Award for the year 2025 was conferred on Prof. Anil Kumar Bhowmick, *FNAE*, former Professor of Eminence at the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur and Founder Director of IIT Patna and currently a faculty at the University of Houston, USA. INAE Prof SN Mitra Memorial Award for the year 2025 was conferred on Prof Bhim Singh, *FNAE*, ANRF National Science Chair and Emeritus Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. The INAE Outstanding Teachers Award was instituted to honour engineering teachers who have excelled in the field of teaching in Indian Colleges, Universities, and Institutions, and have provided guidance towards technology development and inspired students to take up careers in Engineering and Technology and the two awardees were Prof. Sirshendu De, Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Kharagpur and Prof. S.V. Kulkarni, Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering at IIT Bombay. The Academy instituted an award to honour woman engineers named as "INAE Woman Engineer of the Year Award" and this year the award is presented to Dr. Geetha

Manjunath, Founder, CEO and CTO of NIRAMAI Health Analytix Private Ltd, Bengaluru who founded a startup that has pioneered a new non-invasive imaging test for detecting Early Breast Cancer. All these winners of major awards of INAE delivered inspiring and illuminating talks that indeed captured the attention of the august audience.

On Day 1 the INAE Governing Council Meeting was held and there was an illuminating session on “Introduction to INAE Membership” wherein briefing was done on the new streams of Membership of INAE introduced by the Academy to have a wider reach and participation of engineering community viz Corporate Membership; Institutional Membership and Individual Membership. While Fellowship being the Gold standards, all engineers may not rise to become a Fellow, there are many capable engineers in the country who would benefit being associated with INAE. The Membership portal was launched during this feature of the Convention which is an excellent way of bringing a larger section of engineering professionals under the umbrella of INAE.

### **Day 2:**

The second day commenced with the Inaugural Session, after the traditional Invocation and lighting of the lamp illuminating addresses were delivered by the dignitaries on the dais. This year’s Annual Convention was even more memorable as the Inaugural Session featured an enlightening address by Chief Guest - Prof. Ashutosh Sharma *FNAE*, President, INSA, Institute Chair Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Kanpur and former Secretary to the Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of India. Prof Ashutosh Sharma delivered an enlightening address on “Making S&T Work/or Not” and his words of wisdom captivated the audience.

The Welcome Address by Mr. J.D. Patil, President, INAE and Address by Guest of Honour- Dr D.K. Sunil, *FNAE* Chairman & Managing Director, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) also inspired the august audience. This year also as per tradition, there has been an overwhelming response for attending the subject event at Bengaluru at the scenic campus of HAL Management Academy (HMA), Bengaluru.

Mr J.D. Patil, President, INAE in his welcome address gave an introduction of the Academy and shed light on the important issues of the Academy’s journey towards financial and functional autonomy and the steps taken to generate Corpus Fund to meet the operational costs after disengagement from the Government as per directives w.e.f. April 1, 2025 onwards.

The highlights of the day were the Technical Presentations by newly elected Fellows & Young Engineer/ Innovator & Entrepreneur Awardees held in four parallel sessions. The audience was indeed delighted to listen to the highlights of the engineering accomplishments of the newly elected Fellows & Young Engineer/ Innovator & Entrepreneur Awardees and the interactive sessions were much appreciated by all. The most awaited feature of the Annual Convention was the Grand Awards Ceremony on Dec 19, 2025 wherein the family and friends of the awardees also joined the audience to laud and give rounds of applause to the awardees of the Young Engineer Award, Young Innovator & Entrepreneur Award, INAE Outstanding Teachers Award, Professor Jai Krishna Memorial Award and INAE Professor SN Mitra Memorial Awards, Women Engineer of the Year Award and Life Time Contribution Award in Engineering.

It was a memorable evening that culminated in the Plenary Talk on “Commemorating 50 years of Solar in India: Achievements and Challenges” by Prof. Juser M. Vasi, *FNAE*, Professor Emeritus, IIT Bombay who impressed the audience with his deep insights and depth of knowledge and experience. He brought out some of the most pertinent opportunities and challenges in India’s foray in Solar energy and gave an overview of the history of Solar Photovoltaics in India; India’s National Solar Mission and challenges and opportunities for the widespread adoption of Solar Energy in the country.

At the end of the day the Gala Dinner was a networking opportunity and a pleasant way to close the day and was well attended by all Fellows, Young Associates, awardees, Dignitaries and Invitees and their families and a time for relaxation after the technical deliberations of the day.

### **Day 3:**

One of the important features of the Convention is the Induction ceremony wherein newly elected Fellows and Young Associates are welcomed in the folds of the Academy. All INAE Young Engineer Awardees become Young Associates of the Academy until attaining the age of 45 years and the Induction Ceremony begun with welcoming them into the realms of INAE. This was followed by the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Special General Meeting which was attended by only Fellows and Young Associates. During the AGM, besides the formal official proceedings, a Brainstorming Session was held wherein views were sought on important ongoing technical initiatives of the Academy as well as championing of new programs with support from the Fellowship and ways for furtherance of the technical activities of INAE in line with its objective to advance the growth of engineering and technology and promote engineering education in the country and also increase its outreach in the National and International engineering domains.

An interesting feature of the day was the Fireside Chat with Mr. N.R. Narayana Murthy, FNAE, Founder Infosys on Dec 20, 2025 held on a topic covering future of engineering and technology in India and was a unique component of the program giving a flavour of the perspectives of a stalwart industry leader on issues of National engineering interest. The session was moderated by Prof. Indranil Manna, Immediate Former President, INAE who presented a plethora of mind searching questions which are extremely relevant in the present context for the technological advancement of the Nation. Mr Murthy had the audience spellbound with his deep insights and mentioned that engineers and INAE as a professional body of brightest engineering minds may consider addressing some national challenges like improvement of Air Quality Index; improvised methods of recycling of water and catalysing better agricultural practices. He expounded the way forward for propagation of Artificial Intelligence for a range of applications and novel ideas for technological advancement of the country through mentorship by eminent engineering experts from within and outside the country. He was happy to note that the Centre for Engineering Education Excellence (CEEE) program being implemented by INAE with CSR support from Infosys Foundation and partnership with AICTE and five of the oldest IITs at Kharagpur, Kanpur, Madras, Bombay and Delhi is progressing well and is playing a useful role in the growth of engineering education by facilitating mentoring of engineering teachers from lesser endowed engineering colleges and institutions by expert faculty members from the five IITs.

In the year 2025, INAE has 1033 Indian Fellows and 112 Foreign Fellows on its rolls identified in ten Engineering Sections who are elected in recognition of their personal achievements in engineering which are of exceptional merit and of distinctive eminence in new and developing fields of technology. The grand finale of the third day and the Annual Convention was the Induction Ceremony of newly elected Fellows and Foreign Fellows which is a unique recognition much sought after as it recognized engineering professionals who have reached a Gold Standard in their career paths.

The enthralling three-day Annual Convention was enlightening and interesting for all participants and a much awaited event which is increasing in visibility and outreach with each passing year, in line with the noble objectives of the Academy and its contributions towards the growth of engineering and technology and engineering education, helping in paving the way for Nation Building and a *Viksit Bharat@2047*.

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