

**Prof. T. G. SITHARAM** (DOB: 17<sup>th</sup> May 1961)

**Visionary Engineer | Institution Builder | Policy Transformer**

Former Chairman, AICTE | Former Director, IIT Guwahati | Professor, IISc Bangalore



***Expert in Education, Skill, Research & Innovation, Industry collaboration & Innovation, Administration, Policy making, Financial Governance,***

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## 1.PROFILE

Visionary academic leader with 35+ years of experience in shaping technical education, research, innovation, and national policy. Proven expertise in financial governance, fund management, and institutional oversight, having served as Chairman of Finance Committees of premier national institutions and led CSR and philanthropic resource mobilization for research and innovation at scale. Demonstrated ability to align public funds, private capital, and institutional objectives with transparency, accountability, and measurable outcomes. Established Centers of Excellence in AI, drones, cybersecurity, and emerging tech, transforming institutions and impacting millions through grassroots and digital initiatives. Prof. Sitharam has written many impactful articles and opinions published across leading news portals, highlighting key developments in engineering and technical education.

With over four decades of pioneering contributions in civil and geotechnical engineering, infrastructure development, and technical education policy, Prof. T. G. Sitharam blends scientific depth with nation-building foresight. He is ranked among the top 2% of scientists globally (Stanford) and is recognized as a rare leader who bridges academia, government, and community innovation. His leadership in projects like the Ram Temple foundation, Chenab Bridge, and Sarovar Mala demonstrates how engineering, tradition, and ecology can harmonize for sustainable growth.

### **Core Competencies**

- Higher education, Research, Innovation & Startup Funding Ecosystems
- Institutional Governance & Compliance
- Policy Design & Large-Scale Program Execution
- Industry–Academia–Government Partnerships
- Public Finance, CSR & Philanthropic Resource Mobilization

**2. Involved in prestigious national projects (in more than 150 consulting projects) and most importantly:**

### **Landmark Contributions**

#### **i).Shri Ram Temple Foundation – Engineering Dharma**

- Personally led the redesign of the temple’s foundation during COVID-19.
- Proposed a scientifically sound, geotechnically stable design.
- Publicly recognized by sri. Champat Rai, General Secretary of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra, and many others for his unique solution.

#### **ii).Chenab Bridge – Defying Gravity & Seismic Risk**

- World’s highest railway arch bridge; worked for **17 years** on slope stability and abutments. Consultant to M/s AFCONS Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd through IISc
- Innovated a "**design as you go**" methodology in fragile terrain.
- Ensured safety in high seismic zones; Innovative solutions for slopes & Foundations.

#### **iii).Project Sarovar Mala – Patented Water Revolution**

- Conceived a network model linking tanks and lakes like a “mala” (garland).
- Patent Approved- eco-adaptive system for flood control, water security, and ecological revival. Smart water network to store river flood water in sea-based reservoirs and a method of interlinking these reservoirs (Sarovar MalaTM), India patent no. TEMP/E-1/44294/2016-CHE, 2016.
- Smart water network to store river flood water in sea-based reservoirs and a method of interlinking these reservoirs (Sarovar MalaTM), Thallak Gundurao Sitharam, India Copyright Registration number L-72417/2018 dated 16.01.2018
- Efficacy of coastal reservoirs to address India’s water shortage by impounding excess river flood waters near the coast, Copyright Registration number L-72419/2018 dt. 16.01.2018.
- Aligns with Jal Shakti Mission and climate-resilient development.

#### **iv).Seismic microzonation projects**

- for city of Bangalore, Lucknow, NER, Sikkim and NCR Delhi

#### **v).Design of Large tailing dams, Ash ponds, red mud ponds and water holding Dams.**

**vi).Created 3 startups at IISc** and one of them has expanded to four countries with more than 150 personnel (Director, SGES Pvt Ltd, 2007-2019).

As a talent catalyst, addressed more than a million students through graduation ceremonies, convocation addresses, NEP workshops, etc. as Chief guest/Guest of Honor and motivated several lakhs of young students on skilling, upskilling and reskilling with emphasis on future skills including AI, generative AI and Agentic AI.

As Chairman of AICTE groomed, guided, and empowered teams and built leadership pipelines to achieve Vikasit Bharat goals.

Laid the foundations and established an AI Lab to serve as a marquee lighthouse for institutions that are struggling with AI.

CO-Chair, Human Capital Working Group, AI Impact Summit, Feb 2026

### 3. STRATEGIC ROLE ALIGNMENT IN EDUCATION SECTOR

<b>Key Areas</b>	<b>Demonstrated Excellence</b>
Skilling Ecosystems	<i>Integration of 20% skill-based training in AICTE curriculum; Championed Industry 4.0 readiness and enabled digital skilling for 1M+ learners..</i>
Upskilling & Reskilling	Rolled out training in AI, ML, robotics, blockchain, quantum computing. Built multilingual rural/tribal job placement platforms.
Global Workforce Readiness	Initiated global collaborations and industry-aligned skills; designed curriculum for Job readiness (language + domain skills). Enabled global collaborations.
Digital Platforms	Rolled out placement portals, e-learning libraries through National Education Alliance for Technologies (NEAT), AI-enabled courses, and e-training platforms through AICTE and skill partners.
Policy & Governance	Led NEP 2020 roll-out in technical education; emphasis on regional language textbooks; Pioneered equitable expansion policy aligned to GER goals.
Public-Private Partnerships	Mobilized ₹650+ Cr in philanthropy for IIT Guwahati; enabled CSR-backed and industry-led training schemes at AICTE.
Quality Assurance	Through AICTE, implemented Margdarshan mentoring, NBA/NIRF standards as part of the Board, accreditation drives for 600+ institutions.
Innovation Ecosystems	Established AICTE Innovation & Research and development Cells across 14000+ institutes, 70+ CoEs, funded 500+ innovations; launched Smart India Hackathon and created 425 Idea Labs and IPR pipelines
Inclusion & Equity	'Initiated tribal and women-centric skilling, AI-based vernacular platforms, and equitable funding support through scholarships for girls.
NCVET – Vocational education	Co-Authored a document in Green skilling and opportunities with NCVET. Developed guidelines for Apprenticeship embedded Degree programmes. Developed working professional programme in engineering colleges

## 4. LEADERSHIP IMPACT

### International:

- Appeared in Top 2% scientists listed by Stanford consecutively for the last six years Ranked 6th in Earth Sciences in India and 193rd overall in world (AD Scientific Index).
- Served as Visiting Professor in Canada, USA, Australia, China, Hongkong, Japan

### AICTE Chairman (21, Dec 2022– 20, Dec 2025) - Education Reforms:

- Financial Governance & Resource Mobilization
  - Mobilized CSR and philanthropic funding from industry and partner organizations to support research, innovation, startups, Centers of Excellence, and student innovation ecosystems across AICTE-approved institutions.
  - Enabled industry-academia co-funded models for innovation, skilling, and applied research while ensuring transparency, accountability, and outcome-based utilization of funds.
  - Strengthened financial oversight mechanisms for large-scale national programs in skilling, innovation, and institutional capacity building.
- **Skilling Initiatives:**
  - Enforced **20% skilling integration** in engineering/tech courses via AICTE-NCVET resolution.
  - Initiated a **digital upskilling campaign** targeting 1 crore+ students & faculty.
  - Guided **National education Alliance for Technology (NEAT)** and on boarded many Edu tech complains to offer skill courses.
- **Employment & Placement:**
  - Launched India's first **multilingual rural & tribal placement portal** and career portal connecting 600K villages to 2,000+ industries.
  - Enabled job matching through AI algorithms to reduce urban-rural disparities.
- **Innovation & Startups:**
  - Established **AICTE Innovation, Research & Start-up Cell** to nurture entrepreneurial culture across 3,000+ institutions. Creation of 13 Innovation centers in 13 cities, IPR popularization and patent filing promotion through KAPILA scheme at AICTE
  - Created 70+ **Centres of Excellence in Emerging Technologies** (AI, Robotics, Blockchain, Quantum Computing, Bio-Tech).
  - Rolled out 425+ **Idea Labs**, supported 500+ student/faculty-led innovations and IPs.
  - Coordinated India's largest **Smart India Hackathon** and **Design Thinking & Entrepreneurship Boot camps**. **Coordinated a network of** Venture fund to support student startups

- Laid the foundations and established an AI Lab to serve as a marquee lighthouse for institutions that are struggling with AI.
- **Faculty & Student Development:**
  - Rolled out **platform** to train 1 lakh+ faculty in pedagogy, digital tools, and NEP implementation.
- **Institute Development:**
  - Launched **Margdarshan Scheme (2023–24)**: Mentorship by IITs/IIITs to rural institutes - Enabled UG/diploma textbooks in Hindi + 13 languages via AICTE e-Kumbh. - Advocated for **seat-cap reforms** under NEP-2020 to boost access
- **Inclusivity & Financial Support:**
  - Rolled out ‘**Saraswati**’ and ‘**Yashasvini**’ **scholarships** for women from disadvantaged groups. Initiated Productization fellowships for groups of innovators and Industry fellowships for teachers.
  - Created **merit-based innovation funding for startups** across AICTE institutions.
- Indian Institute of Science, Court and Council member, March 2023-Dec 2023

#### **Chairman, Finance Committee, IIT Guwahati (2019–2020):**

- Led budgetary planning, financial oversight, capital expenditure approvals, and compliance with GFR and audit norms; contributed to strengthening financial discipline and enabling large-scale infrastructure and research investments.

#### **Chairman, Finance Committee, Central Institute of Technology (CIT), Kokrajhar, Assam (2020–2021):**

Oversaw institutional budgeting, financial controls, expenditure approvals, and statutory compliance, ensuring prudent utilization of public funds in a strategically important institute in the North-East.

#### **Director, IIT Guwahati (July 2019– Dec 2022)**

- **Raised ₹650 Cr+ external funds**; A testimony to standards achieved.
- Elevated IITG’s QS World Ranking - improved to 395. – Established new 5 multidisciplinary schools, 4 research centres. – establishment of post-graduate medical schools and Hospital
- **Chairman and Director of IITG Innovation & Startup Hub**: 50+ startups, 20+ industry alliances. Taken IITG to top rank institute in QS world ranking in Citation per faculty.
- **Chairman, Board of Governors (2019-2020)**, IIT Guwahati and Chairman, Finance Committee IIT Guwahati 2019-2020.

- **Chairman, Board of Governors, CIT Kokrajhar, Assam (2020-2021)** and Chairman, Finance committee, CITK.
- **Chairman, Board of Management**, North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST), Nirjuli, Arunachalpradesh – 2021
- **Chairman, Research Council, CSIR-CBRI** (Central Building Research Institute), Roorkee 2019-2020.
- **Founding Chairman, Center for infrastructure, Sustainable Transport and Urban Planning (CiSTUP)**, IISc, Bangalore 2009-2014 – Established this center at IISc in collaboration with Govt of Karnataka, Started Research, M Tech and PhD programmes in Transportation and Infrastructure engineering with emphasis to train officers from BMTc, KSRTC and DULT of Govt of Karnataka.

#### **Professor, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore (1994–Present) –**

- Guided 40+ PhDs, published 500+ papers, authored 25 books, secured 5 patents.
- Completed over 125 consulting projects; trained 30+ postdoctoral researchers. - Developed India-specific seismic microzonation frameworks adopted by NDMA – Created a guideline document for Seismic Microzonation for NDMA.
- Founded 3 startups; **one scaled globally (150+ employees, presence in 4 countries).**
- KSSIDC Chair Professor in the area of Energy and Mechanical Sciences, IISc, Bengaluru (2015-2018)
- Founder Chairman, Center for infrastructure, Sustainable Transport, Urban planning (CiSTUP), 2009-2014 (started a new master's programme)

#### **NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS & BOARD MEMBERSHIPS**

- Chairman, IIT Guwahati research Park a section 8 company and Assam Advanced Healthcare Innovation Institute (AAHII) - a Research and Innovation Institute in the area of medical sciences which includes a 500-bedded 'Connected' Multi-Specialty Hospital spread over 12 Acre land in the existing IIT Guwahati campus
- Extensive experience in finance committee leadership, fund oversight, and public financial management across IITs, CFTIs, statutory bodies, and Section-8 companies, aligning institutional finances with national priorities and regulatory frameworks.

- **Chairman, Executive committee**, Visweswaraya Industrial and Technological Museum (VITM), NCSM, Ministry of Culture 2016-2022.
- **Member, National council of Science Museums(NCSM)**, Ministry of Culture- 2016-present
- Memberships: **SERB (2019-2022)**, IOE committee, NASSCOM Future Skills, DST, IITG Research Park, Anuvadini Foundation (section 8 Companies)
- Member of Board of Governors/EC of Central Power Research Institute, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), NIT Meghalaya; NIT Tripura; IEST, Shibpur, Kolkata.
- Member of many selection committees for directors, VC selections across CFTIs, IITs, NITs, IIM's and CSIR
- Senior Advisor to the BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry

## 5. DISTINCTIONS & HONOURS

- **Fellow**: INAE, ASCE (USA), ICE (UK), IGS, ISTE, ISET
- **Honorary Fellow** of Indian Geotechnical Society, 2015
- **Editorial**: International Journal of Geotechnical Engineering (IJGEE) USA and Chief Editor; Springer Civil & Environmental Book Series, Singapore. Editorial board member of many prestigious Journals in India and Abroad.
- **Visiting Professorship**: Canada- University of Waterloo; University of Dalhousie; Japan: Yamaguchi University; China: Hong kong; Australia- University of Wollongong, USA: university of Texas at Austin, TX
- **President** of Indian Society for Earthquake Technology (ISET) for two terms. Vice President ISET for two terms .
- **President**: International Society for Coastal Reservoir Research for five years
- **Recipient**:
  - Sir M. Visvesvaraya Lifetime Achievement Award 2023 and
  - Sir C.V. Raman Award from Govt of Karnataka, 2002
  - STTAR SHIKSHA GARIMA PURASKAR sept 27, 2025
  - IGS-Kueckelmann Award 2015; Prof. Gopal Ranjan Research Award 2014; Recipient of 1998 S. P. Research Award
  - Dr Pritam Singh Academic Transformation Leader Award 2025 from Dr. Pritam Singh Foundation
- Keynote speaker in 20+ countries.
- Mentor for the Green TERRE Foundation (GTF) - Advisor to UN-affiliated bodies.
- ISTE award, Institution of Engineer's award, Many best paper awards

- Appeared in Top 2% scientists listed by Stanford consecutively for the last six years Ranked 6th in Earth Sciences in India and 193rd overall in world (AD Scientific Index).
- Addressed in more than 150 convocations, graduation ceremonies, foundation day lectures reaching more than a million students

## 6. EDUCATION

- Ph.D.-Civil Engineering – University of Waterloo, Canada (1987-1991)
- M.Sc (Engg) – Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (1984-86)
- B.E. Civil Engg – Govt. BDT College of Engineering, Davanagere (Univ. of Mysore) -First class with distinction) (1978-1983)
- Postdoctoral Scientist – University of Texas, Austin, Texas, USA, (1991-94)
- D.Sc. (Honoris Causa) – Vel Tech University (2023) and JNTU Hyderabad (2025) for exceptional contributions to Geotechnical and Infrastructure Engineering

**PUBLICATIONS AND BOOKS:** 500+ publications in Journals and conferences; 55 Books (text books 20, edited books of conference proceedings -30, etc.):

**Google Citation Index: H-index of 64 and i-10 index of 200 (>12900 citations)**

### Recent Books on AI and Education:

1. “AI Shakti-AI Bharat”, Challenges into opportunities and dreams into realities, Wireframe document on AI for all, T G Sitharam, Dr. M. Verma, Mr. Kochhar, 2025, Khanna Book Publishing Co (P) Ltd., New Delhi, pp. 164, 2025
2. The Road Ahead 2.0 (2 volumes 750 pages), Education world, 2024 by prof. T G Sitharam and Yogesh Kochhar, (2 volumes: ISBN 978-93-341-9461-6 & ISBN NO-978-93-341-9750-1, 2025
3. Unlocking the potential of Technical education to shape India’s Future – Fueling Innovation, Growth and Inclusion, by Prof. T G Sitharam, ISBN 978-93-6194-306-5. 2024
4. “Empowering Minds: the Transformation of IIT Guwahati” by Prof. T. G. Sitharam, 2025
5. Building a Future Ready India: Vision plan & Strategy for Technical education during Amrit Kaal (enhancing the role of technical education for vikasit Bharat, by: T. G. Sitharam, 2025, ISBN 978-93-55386-11-3

### Selected Books in Geotechnical engg:

1. Vivek, P., & Sitharam, T. G. (2020). Granular Materials Under Shock and Blast Loading. Springer Singapore.

2. Comprehensive Seismic Zonation Schemes for Regions at different Scales. Sitharam T.G., Naveen James and Kolathayar S. ISBN: 978-3-319-89658-8, Springer International Publishing, 2018.
3. Earthquake Hazard Assessment. Kolathayar S and Sitharam TG. ISBN 978-1-138-30923-4, CRC Press / Balkema, Taylor & Francis Group, 2018.
4. Sustainable Water Resource Development Using Coastal Reservoirs (2020), T.G. Sitharam Shu-Qing Yang Roger Falconer Muttucumaru Sivakumar Brian Jones Sreevalsa Kolathayar Lim Sinpoh, Elsevier, ISBN: 9780128180020,
5. Preparing for Earthquakes: Lessons for India. Sitharam T.G. and Kolathayar S. ISBN: 978-3-319-59521-4, Springer International Publishing, 2017.
6. Sitharam T.G. (2012). "Geotechnical Applications for Earthquake Engineering: Research Advancements", IGI Global, USA, ISBN-13: 978-1466609150.
7. Samui P., Das S. and Sitharam T.G. (2010). "Soft Computing: in Geotechnical Engineering", VDM Verlag, Germany.
8. Ramamurthy T.N and Sitharam T.G. (2004). "Geotechnical Engineering-I (Basics of Soil Mechanics)", S.Chand Publishers, New Delhi, p. 300, August, 2004, ISBN 81-219-2457-X.
9. Sitharam T.G. and GovindaRaju L. (2004). "Applied Elasticity", Interline Publishing, Bangalore / Bhopal/ Mumbai/ Kuala Lumpur, New Delhi, p. 286, ISBN-81-7296-083-2.

• **Impact:** In the world- AD scientific Index, Prof Sitharam has secured rank 6 in India and 956 in the world in the area of earth science and Rank 193 and 11250 in the world for the category in engineering and technology (in India and the world respectively). The world-AD scientific Index analyses data from 2448388 scientists and 24477 institutions across 13 major academic fields and 197 disciplines covering 221 countries, making it one of the most extensive sample based studies in its field.

### **Prof. Sitharam Contribution on AI Impact summit (15-20<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026 at New Delhi)**

Prof. T.G. Sitharam, former Chairman of AICTE, is playing a pivotal role in the India AI Impact Summit 2026 by serving as the India Co-Chair for the Working Group on Human Capital, directly addressing the workforce transition into an AI-enabled economy. In this capacity, he chairs high-level meetings- online and offline—such as the 5-6<sup>th</sup>, January 2026 meeting at IIT Guwahati—to formulate strategies for education reform, lifelong learning, and skill development that prioritize human augmentation over mere replacement. His focus is on ensuring that AI adoption is inclusive, treating it as a public utility to empower citizens, particularly in the Global South, while promoting "Bhasha Bandhan" to bridge AI with local languages.

His contribution emphasizes that the "real infrastructure" of the AI age is human capital, arguing that India must shift from fragmented skilling to comprehensive, adaptive learning

ecosystems. Prof. Sitharam focuses on bridging the skill mismatch caused by rapid automation, highlighting that while routine jobs are at risk, AI creates new roles in development, ethics, and governance. His efforts aim to generate a "National Enhancing Human Capital Report" as a key contribution to the Summit, promoting a shift in technical education to prioritize critical thinking and AI integration, and ensuring that India leads in developing a "trusted and responsible" AI ecosystem.

## 7. SUMMARY:

Prof. (Dr.) T G Sitharam was the Chairman, All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), Govt of India (Pay matrix level 17 in 7<sup>th</sup> CPC) from December 21, 2022 and completed his 3 year term on December 20, 2025. Earlier, he was the director, IIT Guwahati for 3.5 years (Pay level 17) since July 2019. Prior to this, for 13 years he served as Senior professor (pay level 16 HAG) and Professor (Pay level 15) at IISc, Bengaluru. He is a visionary academic leader with 35+ years of shaping technical education, skilling, research, and innovation. He is the architect of scalable, tech-integrated models, and has spearheaded NEP 2020 reforms, industry partnerships, and national projects. He has established Centers of Excellence in AI, drones, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies, transforming institutions and impacting millions through grassroots and digital initiatives.

With over four decades of pioneering contributions in civil and geotechnical engineering, infrastructure development, and technical education policy, Prof. T. G. Sitharam blends scientific depth with nation-building foresight. He is ranked among the top 2% of scientists globally (Stanford) and is recognized as a rare leader who bridges academia, government, and community innovation. Prof. T. G. Sitharam is a distinguished academic leader, institution builder, and policy expert with over 35 years of transformative contributions to India's technical education, skilling, innovation, Contribution to National projects, and research ecosystem. With deep technical roots at IISc Bangalore and IIT Guwahati and international academic exposure, Prof. Sitharam uniquely combines policy vision, operational excellence, and people-centric governance. His track record positions him as a transformative leader in India and globally bridging policy with execution, and innovation with impact.

Prof. T.G. Sitharam's key contribution to the India AI Impact Summit 2026 is leading the Human Capital Working Group, focusing on skilling, upskilling, and creating inclusive AI education to bridge the skill gap, positioning human talent as the core infrastructure for India's AI future., and driving inclusive AI adoption for global benefit. He emphasizes lifelong learning, adaptability, and human-centered AI, preparing people for job transformation rather than elimination, and integrating national efforts into the global summit framework.

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