

Webinar on “Introduction to Electric Vehicle, Global Trend and India’s Imperative”

Topic: Introduction to Electric Vehicle, Global Trend and India’s Imperative
Speaker: Prof. Ashok Jhunjunwala (Padma Shri, Head- IITM Incubation Cell)
Date: 18th Jan. 2021 (Monday)
Time: 5.30 P.M. to 6.30 P.M.

World’s fastest growing economy India imports most of its oil and is also home to the world’s 10 most polluted cities. While converting its transport to electric vehicles (EVs) is the obvious step for the country, the costs of EVs today, requiring considerable subsidies to become affordable and viable, is a bottleneck for its spread in India. Prof. Jhunjunwala and his group, including several incubated spin-out companies, have come up with multiple innovations to overcome this challenge.

Biography of the Speaker:

Prof. Ashok Jhunjunwala received his B.Tech. (Electrical Engineering) from the IIT Kanpur and PhD from the University of Maine. He has been a faculty member at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras since 1981, where he is currently Institute Professor.

Prof. Jhunjunwala is considered a pioneer in nurturing Industry-Academia interaction in India towards R&D, Innovation and Product Development. He conceived and built India’s first university affiliated business park (IIT Madras Research Park). He has been developing products for masses; affordable yet technically advanced products in India, like Wireless in Local Loop, Remote health monitoring system, ATM, Solar-DC to homes, Affordable electric vehicles, etc.

Prof. Jhunjunwala has made numerous technology contributions, which impacted the lives of people in India over the last twenty-five years. Setting up of IIT Madras Research Park at Chennai, a nationally pioneering initiative to promote Industry-Academia R&D collaboration. It has taken innovation to a new height as about 100 established industries and over 150 incubated startups work with IITM’s faculty and students within the innovation system of IITMRP. All this has resulted in numerous cutting-edge products, technology and services, often overcoming barriers hitherto considered impossible to surpass, addressing critical problems of national and global importance. Additionally, Prof Jhunjunwala was also instrumental in driving India’s startup

revolution and has incubated 200+ deep-tech companies, driving innovation and entrepreneurship across India and the region.

Professor Jhunjhunwala is Member of national Academy of Engineering (NAE), USA and Fellow of IEEE and World Wireless Research Forum (WWRF). He is also a fellow of the four S&T academies in India, namely, INSA, NAS, IAS, INAE. Prof. Jhunjhunwala was conferred the highest civilian Honor, Padmashri in India. He has received a number of awards in India including Shanti-Swarup Bhatnagar Award, Vikram Sarabhai Research Award, H. K. Firodia Award, Millenium Medal at Indian Science Congress, UGC Hari Om Ashram Award, IETE's Ram Lala Wadhwa Gold Medal, JC Bose fellowship, Dronacharya Award and Lifetime Achievement Award by TIE, Chennai among others. He has also received Silicon India Leadership Award in USA. He has also been conferred honorary doctorate by University of Maine, USA and Blekinge Institute of Technology, Sweden.