

Nandan Nilekani donates ₹315 crore to IIT Bombay

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June 20, 2023: Mumbai, India: Nandan Nilekani, co-founder and chairman of Infosys Limited and founding chairman of UIDAI, has donated ₹315 crore (\$38.5 million) to his alma mater, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay).



Nandan Nilekani and Mrs. Rohini Nilekani with Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri

Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri, Director, IIT-B, noted that including a previous contribution of ₹85 crore, Nilekani has donated total ₹400 crore to the institute. This initial contribution, IIT-B said, was ‘instrumental’ in construction of new hostels, co-financing the **School of Information Technology**, and establishing the **country's maiden university incubator**.

Laying out its future plans, IIT-Bombay said it will need a fundraising of \$500 million (₹4,106 crore) over the next five years. Nilekani's donation will, therefore, act as an ‘anchor contribution’ and help the institute kick-start plans to achieve its stated objectives.

The former UIDAI chairman described IIT-Bombay as a ‘cornerstone in my life.’ “This donation is more than just a financial contribution; it is a tribute to the place that has given me so much and a commitment to the students who will shape our world tomorrow,” he said.

Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri, Director, IIT-B, noted that the donation will be instrumental in fostering world-class infrastructure, stimulating research in emerging areas of engineering and technology, and nurturing a deep tech startup ecosystem at IIT Bombay.

IITB Director Subhasis Chaudhuri said, "IIT Bombay is committed to building research and academic excellence that can make India a leader in scientific discovery and its translation towards solving the pressing challenges facing humankind. Nandan's contribution will catalyse philanthropic contributions towards advancing research and development at universities in India."

Nandan Nilekani was the Founding Chairman of the **Unique Identification Authority of India** (UIDAI) in the rank of a cabinet minister from 2009 - 2014. Nandan has co-founded and is the Chairman of **EkStep Foundation**, a not-for-profit effort to create a learner-centric, technology-based platform to improve basic literacy and numeracy for millions of children.

In January 2023, he was appointed co-chair of the "**G20 Task Force on Digital Public Infrastructure for Economic Transformation, Financial Inclusion and Development**".

By-- Dr K N Mistry

www.DiGiNews360.com notes that Indian Businessmen have been donating to great Universities in USA and UK. They are also donating to IITs and IIMs.

The engineers, who have built the great engineering companies of India like L&T, ISRO etc, Indian Railways and the entire infrastructure of India are from the State Universities, which have crumbling infrastructure, Laboratories, Workshops and Libraries. www.DiGiNews360.com calls upon businessmen to start the culture of donating to the institutions, the alumni of which are building India.

Note: According to a study by the nonprofit Indiaspora, Indian American donors have contributed **more than** \$1.2 billion to US higher education institutions since 2000. (It does not include smaller gifts that aren't tracked nationally). The topmost beneficiary of the largesse of Indian American donors is UCLA. Harvard University and Boston University tied for second, followed by University of Chicago and University of Pennsylvania.