

# Launch of the Surendra and Dorothea Shah Chair

Indian Institute of Technology Madras

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## ABOUT THE DONORS

**Prof. Surendra P. Shah** is distinguished for his seminal research on synthesizing engineering mechanics and material science. He has made unique, original and extensive contributions to better understand and define properties of cement-based materials, and to develop new advanced materials, which have become world standards in these fields. He is responsible for developing high performance concrete, fibre reinforced concrete, self-consolidating concrete, shrinkage reducing admixtures, carbon nano-tube reinforced cement-based composites and extrusion processing of concrete. These have revolutionized the way modern concretes are used worldwide. His fundamental motivation has consistently been to connect the microscopic behavior to structural response of concrete.

Prof. Shah currently serves as the Presidential Distinguished Professor, University of Texas, and Walter P. Murphy Emeritus Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Northwestern University. He is the founding director of the pioneering NSF Science and Technology Center for Advanced Cement-Based Materials that led to game-changing developments, as well as a network of researchers spreading across the World. Google Scholar shows, for him, an h-index of 139, more than 84,000 citations, and over 5,000 citations every year since 2015.

His recent recognitions include membership of the National Academy of Inventors (2020), National Academy of Engineering (2019), Foreign Member, Academy of Athens (2018), Distinguished Professor, IIT Madras and Jinan University (2016), Foreign Member, Chinese Academy of Engineering, Indian Academy of Engineering, and Russian Academy of Engineering (2016). He has received the highest awards of Honorary Member from the American Concrete Institute and RILEM. (2010).



**Mrs. Dorothea Shah** was born in upstate New York, near Cornell University. She and Suru met in Harrisburg, PA. She taught high school students while they were doing their graduate studies at Cornell. Later, she taught at Evanston High School, where she introduced a new course on *Two democracies: India and Japan*, with support from the Japanese Consulate. After retiring, she became very active in promoting Indian culture to students from the Chicago area schools. In recognition of her work, she was awarded a Fulbright grant to send teachers to India. She is the founding President of the Indo American Museum, which has now a new building and is called the National Indo American Museum. She is the proud mother of two sons and grandmother to six grandchildren. She has been very well appreciated, over several decades, by the graduate students and post docs of the Structural Engineering Group at Northwestern for her home parties, where Indian food was always abundant. Even while busy entertaining, she would always spend time with each guest, enquiring about their welfare. She fondly remembers the details of the families of many of the students and loves to meet with them.

