Prof. (Dr.) A K Saini

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Profile

Prof. (Dr.) A K Saini is Professor and Director of IcfaiTech, the Faculty of Science and Technology of The ICFAI University, Jaipur, and a scholar working at the intersection of machine learning, computer vision and affective computing. With more than twenty-five years of experience in teaching, research, academic administration and institution-building, and an unbroken association with the ICFAI Group since 2004, he brings deep continuity of leadership to the university's science and technology programmes. His particular research focus on automated pain assessment from facial expressions and multimodal physiological signals culminated in 2025, when his team won the first X-ITE Pain Challenge, an international affective-computing competition organised by the University of Ulm, Germany, in conjunction with the 13th International Conference on Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction (ACII 2025), Canberra. Dr. Saini's academic foundation reflects a steady progression through some of India's leading technical institutes. He holds a Ph.D. in Machine Learning from the National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra (2020), for research on automated facial pain expression analysis, building on an M.Tech. (Honours) from Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur (2004) and a B.E. from M.B.M. Engineering College, Jodhpur (1999). An early career stint as a Research Engineer in the IC Design Group of CSIR-Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute, Pilani, gave him a strong foundation in VLSI design, application specific processors and embedded systems, which continues to inform his current work on efficient, hardware-aware machine learning. Associated with the ICFAI Group since July 2004, Dr. Saini has risen steadily through the roles of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Associate Dean, and Professor and Dean, and has served as Professor and Director of IcfaiTech since June 2024. In this capacity he chairs the Board of Studies of IcfaiTech and serves on the Board of Management and the Academic Council of the University, leading the establishment of academic infrastructure, industry partnerships and Centres of Excellence. He teaches undergraduate and postgraduate courses in machine learning, deep learning, computer vision, digital system design, VLSI design and embedded systems, supervises B.Tech. and M.Tech. projects in these areas, and has led the adoption of outcome-based education at IcfaiTech, alongside organising regular faculty development programmes on pedagogy and emerging technologies. His research portfolio spans machine learning and deep learning, computer vision and facial expression analysis, affective computing and automated pain assessment, multimodal signal processing across facial, physiological and EEG data, Internet of Things and edge intelligence, and VLSI design and application-specific instruction-set processors. Recent publications include a low complexity machine learning pipeline for epileptic seizure recognition via filtered EEG signals and spectral entropy features (2026) and a reinforcement-learning approach to the autonomous optimisation of unattended wireless sensor

networks (2025), building on a broader body of work in weather forecasting, big-data filtering for IoT, biomedical AI and quantum cognition. This research is complemented by four Indian patent filings — covering secure healthcare data governance, real-time big-data ingestion for cloud analytics, an IoT-based high-resolution 3D ultrasound imaging device (granted), and a collision-prevention device for hill areas — and by the supervision of two completed doctorates, with two further scholars currently under his guidance. Beyond teaching and research, Dr. Saini is an active contributor to professional and institutional life. He serves as Associate Editor of the IAES International Journal of Robotics and Automation, reviews for several international journals including IJECE, IJEECS and TELKOMNIKA, and has served as General Chair of two international conferences held in 2025 — ICCIDC in Bali, Indonesia, and CISCom in Melaka, Malaysia. He has coordinated Memoranda of Understanding on behalf of the University with organisations including C-DAC, EC-Council, Red Hat Academy, AWS Academy, ICT Academy, NASSCOM FutureSkills Prime and MongoDB, and represents the University at national forums on artificial intelligence, employability and higher education policy — most recently as a panellist at the Rajasthan Education Summit 2026 and a delegate at the Vice Chancellors' Conclave on Universal Human Values, New Delhi. Education Degree Institution Year Ph.D. National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra 2020, Machine Learning (Automated Facial Pain Expression Analysis) M.Tech. (Honours) Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur 2004 B.E. M.B.M. Engineering College, Jodhpur 1999 Selected Recognition Winner, X-ITE Pain Challenge 2025, University of Ulm and ACII 2025, Canberra, for "Multimodal Approach for Assessment of Pain Intensity Levels Using the X-ITE Pain Database". Project selected for the IEEE Computer Society Seventh Annual International Design Competition, Washington, D.C., 2006. Research and laboratory donations from Xilinx Inc. and Altera Inc., USA