IITD News

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD 2019

Dr. Mohit Aron
Founder Cohesity & Co-founder Nutanix
B.Tech 1995 (CSE)
Outstanding contributions made in Entrepreneurship

Prof. Srinivasan Keshav
University of Waterloo
B.Tech 1986 (CSE)
Outstanding contributions made in Teaching and Research

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD 2019

Mr. Binny Bansal
Co-founder Flipkart
B.Tech 2005 (CSE)
Outstanding contributions made in Entrepreneurship

Mr. Arun Duggal
Chairman ICRA, MCF Ltd, IARC
B.Tech 1967 (Mechanical Enng.)
Significant efforts and contributions made towards the development and progress of the Institute

Mr. Amarjit Singh Bakshi
MD Central Park, Bakshi group
B.Tech 1967 (Civil Enng.)
Significant efforts and contributions made towards the development and progress of the Institute
Prof. Manik Varma, Principal Researcher, Microsoft Research India and Adjunct Professor of Computer Science Department, IIT Delhi, is awarded Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar (SSB) Prize this year. Prof. Verma specializes in machine learning and artificial intelligence with special focus on computational advertising and astronomy. He is named among 12 scientists who bagged this year’s SSB prize. It is very rare for a scientist working for private research labs to be recognized by the coveted science prize and this clearly indicates the growing importance of private sector in research and development in the country.
Third edition of Industry Day was organized on September 21, 2019. Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog, was called upon as the Chief Guest. Industry Day aims to promote the power of Industry-Academia collaboration, encourage ideas for cogent partnerships and showcase the cutting edge research which is being carried out by the IIT Delhi researchers.

The five themes for Industry Day 2019 were:
1) Clean Energy for Sustainable Economy and Environment
2) Sustainable Medical Technologies
3) Emerging Nano and Advanced Materials
4) Sustainable Environment
5) Make in India

Numerous research based products were showcased during the Industry Day. Moreover, it also allowed spot placements for PhD students by facilitating meetings between students and industries. A session on women in science was also conducted which discussed the need for gender parity in various science disciplines along with other things. The event also highlighted the role of the two newly formed Centres of Excellence dedicated to the cause of sustainability which includes Centre for Automotive Research and Tribology (CART) and ‘Waste to Wealth Technologies’

Speaking about the Industry Day 2019, Prof. V Ramagopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi, said, “To become an economic powerhouse, we as a nation, should work on our challenges and build on our strengths.” Industry Day 2019 also witnessed discussions and deliberations by illustrious speakers like Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS; Mr. M.S. Unnikrishnan, MD & CEO, Thermax Ltd.; Mr. R.V. Jasra, Sr. V.P., R&D, Reliance Industries, Ajit Manocha, President & CEO, SEMI and many more thought leaders.

IIT Delhi Endowment Fund Song

IIT Delhi has launched a theme song for its Endowment Fund. The song is sung by Mr. Vikram Gupta (BTech Chemical Engg., Batch 1993), who runs a Venture Capital fund management company. The video features alumni, faculty and students of IIT Delhi. The theme song can be viewed on You tube plateform with the following URL- https://youtu.be/pdcy4fbLwuc
Visit of Prof. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the UN General Assembly

President, United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Prof. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande and his team of delegates from Nigeria visited IIT Delhi on September 02 2019. Prof. Bande was elected the President of the upcoming 74th session of the Assembly to succeed Maria Fernanda Espinosa in September 2019. Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi started the meeting started with a welcome note. Prof Sanjeev Sanghi, Dean AAIP gave an introduction of IIT Delhi in which he spoke about the recently opened ‘School of Public Policy’ and the new initiatives of IIT Delhi to increase international students and scholars. The meeting was also attended by the Director, Dean(s), various faculty, staff members and students.

Prof. Bande addressed Director, Dean(s), various faculty, staff members and students about the Sustainable Development Goals which were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action ‘to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030’. He emphasized the importance and need of the hour is inclusiveness, zero hunger, eradication of poverty and controlling climate change.

There was an extensive discussion about IIT Delhi’s initiative IPFP, how it is working on increasing foreign student participation. Through this programme, all international students admitted to PG programmes in IIT Delhi, will pay fees on par with Indian Ph.D. students. Under IPFP, 500 Ph.D. fellowships will be provided to international students over the next 5 years. Prof Bande appreciated the efforts made by IIT Delhi and its role in making an impact not just at the national level but all over the globe. This was followed by questions where students and faculty were curious alike to know about his vision on education, poverty, climate, and steps currently being taken by the United Nations. This meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Dean AAIP Prof Sanjeev Sanghi.
Launch of Ph.D fellowship programmes at IITs for ASEAN countries

Indian fellowship program for ASEAN students was launched with a purpose to increase ‘cultural diversity’. This program is a joint initiative of the Human Resource Development and the Ministry of External Affairs. IIT Delhi has been designated by MHRD as the coordinating IIT for the fellowship programme. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Minister of Human Resource Development Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', formally launched the Fellowship Programme on September 16. The program will provide up to 1000 integrated PhD fellowships for ASEAN students in IITs for PHD fellowships. The first batch of the ASEAN students will be admitted in January 2020. MHRD will provide scholarships to ASEAN students at par with Indian PhD scholars, along with a yearly research grant, as applicable. IITs will make a small provision to cover the living expenses of selected students from their budgetary resources.

Princeton University Signs Two MOUs with IIT Delhi and ReNew Power

Governor Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy witnessed the signing of two MOUs with Princeton University to help promote the development of renewable energy, bringing us closer to a sustainable future.”Sustainability and fostering the transition away from fossil fuel-based energy and toward renewable sources is a future which all of us are committed to, and a future the actions taken today will help create,” said Governor Murphy. The MOUs are both first steps for Princeton’s Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment to explore deeper relationships around research. The first MOU, with the IIT Delhi Centre of Excellence and ReNew Power – India’s largest independent producer of renewable energy, signals a process to develop future research collaborations. The second MOU sets the stage for an agreement that would offer the opportunity for two Andlinger-affiliated students to participate in ReNew Power’s Global Green Scholars Program.


IIT Delhi hosts NRAS conference, emphasises on rural policy revamp

The Network of Rural and Agrarian Studies (NRAS) organized a conference, titled ‘Beyond Productivity and Populism: Reimagining India’s Agricultural and Rural Policies’ at IIT Delhi through September 26th to 28th September, 2019. NRAS is an all-India network of scholars, researchers, activists, and farmers, which attempts to articulate an alternative vision for rural India. The primary objective of this policy conference was to bring together different perspectives and pathways of making rural India a democratic and liveable space. One of the key messages of the conference was rural policies need to be re-imagined with environmental sustainability at the core. These sessions observed active participation of farmers to have an open exchange among participants.
IIT Delhi and JNU sign MoU for joint research ventures

IIT Delhi signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Jawaharlal Nehru University for cooperation in research, education, and technology developments. The administration and faculty from both the institutes aim to establish joint ventures laying special emphasis on disaster research and conduct a comprehensive study on the North-Eastern regions of the country. Under this MoU, IIT Delhi and JNU agreed to start student exchange programme for PG and PhD students. IIT Delhi and JNU will support jointly-supervised PhD students through the School of Interdisciplinary Research (SIRe) at IIT Delhi. Speaking about the MoU, Prof V. Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi said, “IIT Delhi is consciously working on inter-institutional partnerships to take forward its research agenda and achieve excellence in what we do. JNU has excellent strengths in certain disciplines while IIT Delhi has its strengths in others. By having these two leading institutions come together, we believe, it will be a win-win for both and will enable us to take up pressing problems affecting the society.”

IIT Delhi launches FIRE

IIT Delhi launched the Faculty Innovation and Research Driven Entrepreneurships (FIRE) scheme on 20th September 2019 under which faculty members will be given one year paid and two years of unpaid leave to work on their start-up idea. Besides the three years of leave, all research facilities would also be made available to the teachers to help them realise their ideas and conduct valuable research. IIT Delhi Director, Prof V Ramgopal Rao, stated that the FIRE scheme will help focus on deep technologies with initial funding of Rs 50 Lakh per start-up idea by the institution. The director also stated that IIT Delhi will encourage faculty members to apply for the funding from the industry itself and eventually, the startups will work as a bridge between the industry and academia.
IITD startup Clensta develops pigeon repellent spray

Clensta, a start-up incubated by IIT Delhi, developed a repellent spray against the diseases caused due to the droppings of pigeons. The novel formulation exhibits an effective antimicrobial activity against widely known disease-causing bacteria and fungi found in the excretion of pigeons. Dr Puneet Gupta and Dr Ankita Arora, Project head- R&D, ensured that their product is devoid of any harmful chemicals. The product is eco-friendly and contains natural plant-based biodegradable ingredients. The pigeon repellent spray targets a huge commercial market such as railways stations, monuments, statues, offices, hotels, shopping complexes, religious places, etc.

IIT-Delhi helps CIOs get insights into managing finance

Enterprise IT leaders’ body, CIOs of India, partnered with IIT-Delhi to conduct a certificate course on finance for tech leaders. A four-day course, organised over two weekends – September 14-15 and September 21-22, was delivered by top professors in the F&A streams at IIT-Delhi’s Department of Management Studies and involved rigorous learning on various relevant aspects of finance and budgeting. Prof Shveta Singh, Prof P.K. Jain and Prof Surendra S. Yadav, course coordinators of this CEP (Continuing Education Program), from IIT Delhi, provided insights into the subject.

Madhya Pradesh govt signs pact with IIT Delhi on drinking water project

Madhya Pradesh government signed an agreement with IIT Delhi for technical and research related cooperation for drinking water project in the state. A senior official said the Jal Nigam (water department) has discussed the modalities of sharing technology on improving sustainable sources, network design optimisation and land water conservation with IIT Delhi. "Details have also been discussed on sharing of research and knowledge on better implementation of drinking water schemes," says Sanjay Kumar Shukla, Principal Secretary of the Madhya Pradesh Public Relations Department. In the initial stage, the agreement has been signed for a period of two years. "The department's effort is to have a long-term agreement so that information and research could be shared and its benefits are transferred to people through implementing agencies," Shukla added.
"Prof. Anshul Kumar" Chair

A Chair in the name of "Prof. Anshul Kumar" has been established by multiple donors with an endowment fund of Rs. 1 Crore. The establishment of the Chair is expected to-

1. Promote excellence and leadership in teaching, research and development in the field of Computer Architecture and/or Electronic Design Automation.
2. To facilitate wider and deeper interaction between the industry in general (and the Donor, in particular) and IITD faculty and students in general (and the incumbent appointed against the Chair, in particular).

"Dr. Rita Duggal" Chair

A Chair in the name of "Dr. Rita Duggal" has been established by Mr. Arun Duggal with donation of Rs. 15 Lakh. The establishment of the Chair is expected to-

1. Promote excellence and leadership among women faculty member in teaching, research and development in the fields of Science, Engineering, management, Humanities or Social Sciences.
2. To facilitate wider and deeper interaction between the industry in general (and the Donor, in particular) and IITD faculty and students in general (and the incumbent appointed against the Chair, in particular).

Batch 1983 Merit Award

A Merit Award has been created under the 1983 Pearl reunion endowment fund by the alumni of 1983 batch. The Merit Award will be given to approximately 25 students every year for their performance in the previous academic year. As of now Corpus fund of Rs. 76 lakh has been donated for the period of 10 years by the alumni. The objective of this Award is to promote meritocracy in undergraduate students of IITD, who belong to lower income group.

Batch 1984 Scholarship

A Scholarship has been created by 1984 batch alumni with a Corpus fund of Rs. 64.35 Lakh. The scholarship will be given to 18-30 students every year for the financial under-privileged under graduate students of IIT Delhi. The aim of the scholarship is to help students meet annual tuition and living expenses during the academic year.
Technology to reuse water after checking pathogens

Prof Arun Kumar, department of Civil Engineering, IIT Delhi, is leading a team of researchers on a project titled, “Exploring reuse feasibility of wastewater with regards to pathogens using a quantitative microbial risk assessment”. Funded by the Science and Engineering Research Board of DST—the project is being executed in collaboration with Patrick Gurian of the Department of Civil Architectural and Environmental Engineering, Drexel University. The project aims to address the various knowledge gaps like the occurrence of pathogens in the wastewater effluent, surface water contamination with effluent and municipal sludge which might be used during reuse activities as irrigation water and/or as fertilizer-amendment material. It also aims to detect the fate and transport of pathogens in the soil after re-use of wastewater effluent and sludge in agriculture activity under Indian context.

Plant based protein rich ‘mock meat’

A research team led by Prof Kavya Dashora, Assistant Professor, Center for Rural Development and Technology, IIT Delhi, is working towards developing plant-based meat as an alternative to high protein food. Prof Kavya has been working on the project for 6 months. The team launched its plant-based protein product on 21st September on the occasion of IIT Delhi Industry Day 2019. The project was funded by Four Pursuits Ventures, and the team now aims to develop a few variants of the mock egg through a non-soy raw material which are similar in taste, texture and nutrient profile with actual egg. The meat analogues which have textured proteins not only replicate the flavour and texture but they also have the nutritional content similar to that of actual meat.

IIT Delhi successfully produces diesel from single-use plastic

A research team of IIT Delhi’s Chemical Engineering department after tremendous efforts successfully produced diesel from single-use plastics. Currently, the team is able to produce 750 ml of diesel from 1 kg non-biodegradable garbage. This scientifically produced diesel will cost around Rs. 45 as opposed to the current price of diesel of Rs 65 per litre. The research team under the guidance of Professor K.K. Pant and S N Naik, including Uma Trivedi, will be trying to produce petrol with the same process.

New ride sharing algorithm promises better deal for riders and drivers

Researchers at the IIT Delhi developed an algorithm that can guide taxi drivers to take a route where they can find more riders for sharing. Led by Prof Amitabha Bagchi, the team comprising of Chak Fai Yuen, Abhishek Pratap Singh, Sagar Goyal and Prof Sayan Ranu, believe this algorithm can make shared rides more profitable for drivers and reduce waiting time for riders as well. The new algorithm is more efficient in searching compatibility between ride-orders. Called ‘Share’ (Sharing with History-Aware Route Recommendations), it finds routes beyond shortest paths and recommends a route that is close in length to the shortest path and offers a higher chance of finding a compatible ride-sharer.
INTERNATIONAL DELEGATIONS VISITED IIT DELHI

A. 10 member’s delegation from Hungarian Universities: 2nd September 2019
B. 80 member’s delegation from UKIERI: 3rd September 2019.
C. 13 Students from Royal University of Bhutan: 4th September 2019
D. 8 members delegation form National Formosa University, Taiwan: 5th September 2019.
E. 7 member’s delegation from Royal Thai Embassy: 5th Sep 2019
F. 3 member’s delegation from University of Sheffield: 9th Sep 2019

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G. 32 member’s delegation from Danish ATV Think Tank: 16th Sep 2019.
H. 4 member delegation from French Institution: 20th Sep 2019.
I. 3 member delegation from Education New Zealand: 23th 2019.
K. 20 students from Victorian young leaders to India: 24th Sep 2019.
L. 6 member delegation from University of Leeds: 24th Sep 2019.
Professor K. Seshagiri Rao was a professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at IIT Delhi. He obtained his M.Sc (Andhra Univ), M.tech (IIT Kanpur) and PhD (IIT Delhi) in 1978, 1980 and 1984 respectively. Prof Rao joined the institute as a Lecturer in 1986. He then became Assistant Professor in 1990, Associate Professor in 1997 and Professor in 2005 and professor (HAG) in 2013. His research over the last 38 years has been on engineering behaviour of the rock mass, the stability of slopes, underground structures, nuclear waste repositories and seismic microzonation of megacities.

An established teacher, researcher, prolific writer and active consultant, Dr Rao has supervised over 190 M.tech and PhD theses and has published 390 technical papers in national and international journals and conferences. He has also carried out 350 professional consultancies in the area of soil and rock mechanics and engineering. Prof Rao has designed and developed the Polyaxial testing facility and another large scale direct shear testing facility for mine dump management is being developed in Ranchi under his technical guidance. He also has collaborative research with several universities such as the Colorado School of Mines. Prof Rao also provided solutions for many projects executed by the Delhi Metro, NTPC, Energy Infratech, Reliance and several others.

Prof Rao held several key positions such as Fellow of Indian Geotechnical Society, Honorary Secretary of the IGS, Dean (infrastructure) at IIT Delhi, Vice-chairman (JEE), Chairman (GATE) and several others. For his overall contributions, he was conferred with the “Lifetime Achievement Award” in 2016. Prof Rao superannuated on 30th September 2019.
B2B unicorn Udaan raises $373.5 million, valuation soars to $2.3 billion

Udaan, the fastest Indian startup to achieve the coveted unicorn status, has raised $373.5 million from new and existing investors in an ongoing Series D round. The business-to-business (B2B) online marketplace has raised the funds from Altimeter Capital, GGV Capital and Hillhouse Capital, besides existing investors DST Global and Lightspeed Venture Partners. The company, co-founded by Amod Malviya, Sujeet Kumar (B.Tech Civil Engineering 2003 Batch) and Vaibhav Gupta, is an online marketplace that facilitates buying and selling of fashion products, groceries and electronics among manufacturers, brands and retailers. The company also offers other services such as credit financing and logistics to connect manufacturers with retailers. Udaan’s logistics service, Udaan Express, delivers 65% of the company’s orders. With stupendous growth over the last three years, Udaan is now clocking an annualized gross merchandise value of around $2 billion.

Purplle In Talks With Goldman Sachs To Raise $42Mn In Series C Funding

Founded in 2011 by Manish Taneja (Dual Degree Electrical Engineering 2007 Batch) and Rahul Dash, Purplle is an ecommerce platform that offers beauty products, appliances and cosmetics. It also runs its own private label called StayQuirky. The company is reportedly in talks to raise around $42 Mn (INR 300 Cr) in Series C funding round led by Goldman Sachs. The company’s existing investors, Blume Ventures, IvyCap Ventures and investment arm of JSW Group, called JSW Ventures, will also be investing in this funding round.

Signzy and Primechain Technologies Partner for AI-led Smart Banking Solutions

India’s leading RegTech startup Signzy has partnered with globally leading Blockchain startup, Primechain Technologies, to co-develop Artificial Intelligence-led smart banking solutions for banks and financial institutions. The solution will integrate AI and Blockchain technologies to automate and fully-digitize back-office operations, widely considered to be the most complicated process for banks to manage and digitize. It will allow banks to achieve unprecedented efficiencies in operations and simultaneously deliver a superior customer experience across a range of products: loans, insurance and retail banking services. Signzy was founded by Ankit Ratan (B.Tech in Textile Technology 2011 Batch), Ankur Pandey, Arpit Ratan.
Investments Platform Groww Raises $21.3 Mn in Series B From Ribbit Capital

Groww was launched in April 2017 by Lalit Keshre, Harsh Jain (B.Tech Electrical Engineering 2004 Batch), Neeraj Singh and Ishan Bansal. The platform makes investing in mutual funds easier for first-time investors through mobile apps and a web platform. It has raised $21.3 Mn in Series B funding round led by fintech-focussed investment firm Ribbit Capital. The startup aims to utilise this funding to expand its workforce by hiring across functions of engineering product and growth teams. The company also plans on using this investment to enhance tech capabilities and build super scalable infrastructure for investing.

Fitso Raises $1.5 Mn in Funding from SRI Capital, Pankaj Chaddah, Ashish Gupta and more

India’s leading full-stack sports facilities provider, Fitso raised $1.5 million in pre-series A funding from a group of investors including SRI Capital, Sprout Capital, IPV Capital, Pankaj Chaddah (Co-founder, Zomato), Ashish Gupta (Co-founder, Helion Venture Partners). With this fundraise, Fitso will increase the numbers of indoor all-weather swimming pools. It will invest in expansion, good talent and technology to boost the operations. In 2015, Saurabh Aggarwal (BTech Chemical Engineering 2011 Batch) teamed up with his friends and IIT batchmates Naman Sharma (BTech in Textile Technology 2011 Batch) and Rahool Sureka (Btech Textile Engineering 2011 Batch) to launch Fitso.
SAVE THE DATE

1. Convocation
   November 02, 2019

2. SILVER JUBILEE REUNION (1995 BATCH)
   December 20-22 2019

3. ALUMNI DAY: THE HOMECOMING
   December 22 2019

4. PEARL REUNION (1985 BATCH)
   December 27-29 2019

5. RUBY REUNION (1979 BATCH)
   February 01-02 2020
How to give back to IITD

Your contributions will be entitled to usual Tax benefits as mentioned –
1. 100% in India under section 80G of Income Tax Act
2. Applicable deduction in USA under section 501(c)(3) Organization through IIT Delhi Excellence Foundation

Various mode of payments are mentioned as following –

1. Donating in Indian Currency –
   a. NEFT / Wire Transfer –
      Account Name : DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IIT DELHI ACCOUNT
      Account Number : 34105945646
      Bank Name : State Bank Of India
      Branch Name : IIT, Hauz Khas, New Delhi -110016
      IFS Code : SBIN0001077
      SWIFT Code : SBININBB547
      IIT Delhi PAN No. : AAATI0393L
   b. Cheque / Draft –Payable to : DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IIT DELHI ACCOUNT
      Mailing Address: Room No. AD212, (Alumni Affairs and International Programmes), Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Hauz Khas, New Delhi, INDIA.
      Phone: +91- 11-26591713
      Email: deanaaip@admin.iitd.ac.in

2. Donating in Foreign Currency (US$) through IIT Delhi Excellence Foundation –
   Tax ID # 30-00115317
   Donor Advised Funds (IITDEF is already in the system)
   Corporate matching (US corporations are used to donating to educational institutions)
   a. NEFT / Wire Transfer –
      Bank Name : JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
      Account Number : 000000758529510
      For Account : IIT DELHI EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION INC
      Branch Address : 383 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10017
      ABA # - 021000021
   b. Cheque / Draft –
      Payable to: IIT Delhi Excellence Foundation
      Mailing address: IIT Delhi Excellence Foundation
      C/o Amit Kumar
      1070 Coleman Avenue,
      Menlo Park, CA, 94025
      Phone: +91-11-26591713
      Email : deanaaip@admin.iitd.ac.in, iitdef@amitk.me
   c.Donating in Foreign Currency through Direct Wire transfer to IIT Delhi Account (No Tax benefits) :
      Account Name : IITD CHARITABLE GIFT FUND
      Account Number : 10773569063
      Bank Name : State Bank Of India
      Branch Name : IIT, Hauz Khas, New Delhi - 110016
      IFS Code : SBIN0001077
      SWIFT Code : SBININBB547
      MICR Code : 110002156

Payment options: http://alumni.iitd.ac.in/payment_options.html

Donate: https://iitd.almaconnect.com/donations

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