



Quarterly
NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021 ISSUE



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI



WORD FROM THE **Director**

Dear friends and well-wishers of IIT Delhi,

I am happy to present the May 2021 Issue of the Institute Newsletter to you.

The current issue will give you a glimpse of the academic achievements, collaborations, research, innovations and alumni affairs.

Your comments and suggestions are welcome to make the next issue of the newsletter more interactive.

Warm regards,
V. Ramgopal Rao
Director, IIT Delhi

News & Events



IIT Delhi Reduces its Carbon Footprint by More than 50%

At the stroke of midnight of April 1, 2021, IIT Delhi achieved another milestone by becoming the first Central Government Funded Technical Institute to reduce its carbon footprint by more than 50%. This was made possible by the virtue of the bilateral power purchase contract made by IIT Delhi with a hydro power generator in the state of Himachal Pradesh for 2 MW. Buying 2 MW of power exclusively from 'green' generator is equivalent to off-setting about 14000 tonnes of CO2 emissions annually. The Institute already has 2.7 MWp (Megawatts-peak) of rooftop solar PV installation. With the addition of 2 MW of hydro power in the kitty, IIT Delhi's power purchase portfolio has 4.7 MW of green power as against contract demand of around 8.5 MW with the local utility that essentially serves academic and hostel areas.



IIT Delhi to Establish State-of-the-Art Atmospheric Observatory on its Campus in Sonipat; Groundbreaking Ceremony Held

The Centre for Atmospheric Sciences (CAS), IIT Delhi held a groundbreaking ceremony for a state-of-the-art Atmospheric Observatory at the Sonipat campus of the Institute in March. The chief guest on this occasion, Dr. Madhavan Nair Rajeevan, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences performed the groundbreaking ceremony through video conferencing. This first of its kind observatory in the heart of the Indo-Gangetic belt will enable researchers to make new discoveries and help find sustainable solutions to some of the country's pressing problems such as severe air pollution, erratic monsoon and extreme weather events associated with climate change.



MG Motor India Extends Its Relationship With IIT Delhi

MG Motor India has joined hands with IIT Delhi's Centre for Automotive Research and Tribology (CART) for ground-breaking research in the field of electric and autonomous vehicles. The partnership through FITT, IIT Delhi aims at furthering MG's focus on CASE mobility (Connected - Autonomous - Shared - Electric); through enabling supporting research for deployment of electric and autonomous vehicles in the urban landscape in India. The carmaker has also donated its ZS EV vehicle to the Institute, which is a center for innovation globally and ranks among the top institutes for technology across the world, for conducting the research.



Alignment and Awareness Event for Publicity of DSIR-PRISM Inaugurated

Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan virtually inaugurated Alignment and Awareness Event for Publicity of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research- Promoting Innovations in Individuals, Startups and MSMEs (DSIR-PRISM) scheme at IIT Delhi in March. PRISM is aimed at transforming an individual innovator into a successful technopreneur by promoting, supporting, and funding implementable and commercially viable innovations created for the society. Under the initiative, an innovator of Indian nationality - student, professional and common citizen - is provided technical, strategic, and financial assistance by DSIR-PRISM for idea development, prototype development and pilot scaling, and patenting. The programme is implemented across various sectors from energy to healthcare to waste management and others.



IIT Delhi, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem Partner to Support Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Research

IIT Delhi and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel (HUJI) have partnered to support collaborative and interdisciplinary education and research initiatives. Student exchange is another key partnership priority, which will help students get benefitted from the academic and entrepreneurial environments of the two institutions. Prof. Oron Shagrir, Vice President for International Affairs, HUJI said, "The Hebrew University is delighted to partner with IIT Delhi. This agreement will bring about opportunities for joint research and exchange of students and ideas with one of India's leading research institutions. It is part of the University's strategy to expand our collaborations with India."



Special Cover, Post mark Released to Commemorate Successful Launch of First Classic Retrofit Electric Vehicle Developed by CERCA, IIT Delhi

The release of the Special Cover and postmark, done in the presence of Mr Pradipta Kumar Bisoi, Secretary & Chairman, Postal Services Board, Department of Posts; Prof V Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi and other dignitaries, conveyed a powerful message to preserve the history of automobiles, which are symbolic of the economic, technology and industrial evolution and are universally recognised as a big part of the cultural heritage and history of the country.



Ashoka University and IIT Delhi Ink MoU to Establish Collaborative Research Platform

Ashoka University and IIT Delhi entered into an agreement in March to establish "Ashoka University-IITD Collaborative Research Platform". The platform will undertake joint activities on academic research and human resource development. Both the institutions will contribute matching funds to support collaborative and interdisciplinary education and research initiatives through a joint call for proposals.



IIT Delhi, African-Asian Rural Development Organization Sign MoU for Agricultural and Rural Development

IIT Delhi and African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) signed an MoU in February to cooperate and collaborate with each other for agricultural and rural development by addressing the challenges through technological interventions and capacity enhancement. The collaboration aims to strengthen the rural communities, farmers, executives, functionaries and policy makers of the member countries in Africa and Asia. The MoU was signed by His Excellency, Dr Manoj Nardeosingh, Secretary General, AARDO and Prof. V Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi.



Indian Navy, IIT Delhi Sign MoU to Promote Collaborative and Cooperative Research

Furthering the relationship with the Indian Navy on research in underwater domain of Naval Electronic Systems, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in February. The relationship dates back to 1970s and key technologies in the field of underwater electronics have been developed by the Centre for Applied Research in Electronics (CARE) at IIT Delhi since then. In line with the Prime Minister's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', IIT Delhi would be focussing on development of major technology driven projects for the Indian Navy. The MoU will promote collaborative and cooperative research and facilitate exchange of ideas, development of new knowledge & technology, and enhance high quality research.

Research & Innovation



Clean Fuel Hydrogen Generated from Water at Low-cost; Researchers Demonstrates Successful Pilot-Plant

An IIT Delhi research group under the supervision of Prof. Sreedevi Upadhyayula, Prof. Ashok N. Bhaskarwar and Prof. Anupam Shukla from the Chemical Engineering Department and Prof. Saswata Bhattacharya, Physics have taken up research for clean fuel production at low cost. The researchers in collaboration with the ONGC Energy Centre, India have successfully splitted water by a process known as Sulphur-Iodine (SI) thermochemical hydrogen cycle to generate low-cost, clean hydrogen fuel for industrial consumption. Hydrogen gas, a viable choice as a renewable substitute for fossil fuels, can help mitigate emissions. Prof. Upadhyayula said, "There is an imminent need to switch over to renewable energy sources such as water. The thermo-chemical hydrogen cycle for splitting water offers a practical means of generating hydrogen as a fuel and also oxygen as a by-product. Hence, it can be considered favorably for the commercial production of hydrogen on a large scale, in the near future." One of the challenges in the low-cost conversion taken-up by the IIT Delhi researchers in this work, was to design a suitable catalyst for the energy intensive, corrosive step of sulphuric acid conversion to sulphur-dioxide and oxygen. The in-house catalyst developed by them meets these criteria and is now patented.

More details: <https://home.iitd.ac.in/news-hydrogen-fuel.php>



Yoga Practitioners had Lower Stress, Anxiety and Depression During COVID-19 Lockdown: IIT Delhi study

Yoga practitioners had lower stress, anxiety and depression, higher wellbeing and a higher peace of mind during 4-10 weeks of lockdown due to COVID-19 outbreak in 2020 as compared to the non-practitioners, a study has shown. The study titled 'Yoga an effective strategy for self-management of stress-related problems and wellbeing during COVID-19 lockdown: A cross-sectional study' was published in PLOS ONE, a highly reputed journal. The researchers from the National Resource Centre for Value Education in Engineering (NRCVEE), an academic centre at IIT Delhi, carried out the study on a total of 668 adults during the lockdown. Yoga practitioners were examined based on the duration of practice as long-term, mid-term and beginners. The long term practitioners reported higher personal control and lower illness concern in contracting COVID-19 than the mid-term or beginner group. The long-term and mid-term practitioners also reported perceiving lower emotional impact of COVID-19 and lower risk in contracting COVID-19 than the beginners. The research team includes Dr. Pooja Sahni, NRCVEE; Mr Nitesh, NRCVEE, Dr. Kamlesh Singh, Professor at Humanities and Social Sciences Department, IIT Delhi and Prof. Rahul Garg, Head, NRCVEE.

More details: <https://home.iitd.ac.in/news-yoga.php>



IIT Delhi Researchers Develop Zero-Emission Technology to Manage and Recycle E-Waste to Wealth

E-waste contains several toxic materials such as lead, cadmium, chromium, brominated flame retardants, or polychlorinated biphenyls. Therefore, unregulated accumulation, landfilling, or inappropriate recycling processes poses a severe threat to human health and the environment. On the contrary, e-waste can also be considered an "Urban Mine" for metal recovery and energy production. Led by Prof. K.K. Pant, his research group in the Catalytic Reaction Engineering Laboratory at Chemical Engineering Department, IIT Delhi, has developed a sustainable technology to tackle the menace of e-waste. The adopted methodology is a three-step process: (i) Pyrolysis of e-waste (ii) Separation of metal fraction, and (iii) Recovery of individual metals. The developed technology will cater to the need of "Smart Cities," "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan," and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiatives of the Indian government via waste to wealth generation in decentralized units. The technology has also been patented and published in internationally reputed journals such as the Journal of Cleaner Production, Journal of Hazardous Materials, Waste Management and the Journal of Environmental Chemical Engineering.

More details: <https://home.iitd.ac.in/news-e-waste.php>



Study on Indoor Air Quality Finds PM Concentration Higher Than Permissible Limits

In order to find out the quality of air that people breathe indoors in different buildings spaces and to generate public awareness about the importance of indoor environment, Centre of Excellence for Research on Clean Air (CERCA), IIT Delhi; Society for Indoor Environment (SIE), and Kaiterra, an air quality instrument company, conducted a baseline survey on the state of indoor air quality in various buildings across Delhi such as schools, colleges, hospitals, restaurants, residential buildings and cinemas in 2020. The Project MAQUID (Monitoring of Air Quality in Urban Indoors in Delhi) found: a) The concentration of particulate matter (both PM10 and PM2.5) are recorded 2-5 times higher than the permissible limits set by CPCB for ambient air quality for all the monitored buildings. b) The educational institutes (schools and colleges) top the list for high PM concentration.

More details: <https://home.iitd.ac.in/news-indoor-air-quality.php>



Startup Geliose Mobility Launches 'HOPE', an Affordable Electric Scooter

Geliose Mobility, an IIT Delhi incubated startup, has launched 'HOPE', an electric scooter. With running cost around 20 Paise/km, HOPE is a perfect fit for cost effective delivery and local commute. The vehicle falls under exemption category with a top speed of 25 km/hr and does not require driving license or registration for driving on the road. HOPE comes with a portable charger and a portable Li-ion battery that can be charged through a normal socket found at every home eliminating the requirement of charger in your parking place. Battery can be fully charged in four hours with nominal current. Mr. Aditya Tiwari, Founder & CEO, Geliose Mobility said, "According to their commute requirements, customers have two different battery capacity options to choose from, with range of 50 and 75 km in ideal conditions. The vehicle is integrated with battery management system, data monitoring system and pedal assist unit developed in-house. It is IOT enabled for data analytics and fleet management applications. These state-of-the-art features place HOPE in the category of smart and connected vehicles of the future."

More details: <https://home.iitd.ac.in/news-escooter.php>



IIT Delhi Develops Environmentally Friendly, Easily Scalable, Smart and Modular Electric Vehicle Charger

IIT Delhi researchers at the Smart Grid Lab of the Department of Electrical Engineering have developed a truly modular, scalable, and environmentally friendly Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station with in-built solar photovoltaic interface capability. The 20 kW Smart EV charging station is an outcome of the 'Demonstration of Grid Supportive EV Charger and Charging Infrastructure at LT Level (D-EVCI)' project funded by the DST. It is a multi-functional charger of 20 kW, with the capability of charging a wide range of EVs like cars, three-wheelers and two-wheelers. PI of the project, Prof. Sukumar Mishra (Electrical Engineering Dept., IIT Delhi) said, "The scalable multi-functional charger caters to the emerging EV charging needs of both today's and tomorrow's electric vehicles. There has been a demand from both the automobile industry and EV charger operators for ease of scalability in their charging units. The built-in modularity of the developed charging platform allows charge operators to scale-up basis requirements with minimal expenses. We also have a solar interface, which works in tandem with the electrical grid for energy sharing."

More details: <https://home.iitd.ac.in/news-ev.php>

Industrial Research and Development

Sponsored Projects & Consultancy Jobs Undertaken Through IRD Unit Between January-March 2021

- 84 Sponsored projects with a total sanctioned value of Rs 36.88 crores
- 93 Consultancy jobs with a total sanctioned value of Rs 06.38 crores

High Value Sponsored Projects (with Sanctioned Value Rs. 50 Lakhs and Above) Undertaken Between January-March 2021



- Development of Dental Implants for Advanced and Critical Applications - Sponsored by NMITLI, PPD, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) (Sanctioned Fund: Rs 343.49 Lakhs)
- Establishment of Centre of Excellence in the area of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology at IIT Delhi, with the theme as Development of Genome to Hit (Dhanvantari) pipeline: Genome => Gene=> Protein=> Drug - Sponsored by DBT (Sanctioned Fund: Rs 214.19 Lakhs)
- CSC Sponsored Design and Innovation Lab at the Dept. of Design - Sponsored by CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd., New Delhi (Sanctioned Fund: Rs 185.83 Lakhs)
- Development of Indigenous Simulation Model for Design and Validation of Traction Power Supply System (ISIMTRAC) - Sponsored by High-Speed Railways Innovation Center (HSRIC) Trust India (Sanctioned Fund: Rs 143.99 Lakhs)
- SELECTAR: Selection for antimicrobial resistance by antimicrobial production waste - Sponsored by DBT (Sanctioned Fund: Rs 89.85 Lakhs)
- Isoform Specific Functions of AKT Kinase in Neuronal Insulin-Signaling and insulin-resistant Diabetes - Sponsored by DBT (Sanctioned Fund- Rs 76.50 Lakhs)
- Mechanistic and reactor-scale studies on elucidating the effect of gas composition on the performance of novel non-PGM catalysts for NOx storage and reduction - Sponsored by SERB (Sanctioned Fund: Rs 73.41 Lakhs)
- Advanced Single-Photon Detector and Establishment of Single Photon Detection Based Quantum Standard for QUEST - Sponsored by DST (Sanctioned Fund: Rs 70.45 Lakhs)
- Testing Lateralization and Sex Differences in Cognitive and Affective Processing - Sponsored by DST (Sanctioned Fund: Rs 64.67 Lakhs)
- Removing Contaminants from Drinking Water Using Rational Design of Transition Metal Catalysts - Sponsored by DST (Sanctioned Fund: Rs 55.43 Lakhs)
- Large Area Microbolometer Uncooled Focal Plane Arrays for Thermal Imaging - Sponsored by International Bilateral Cooperation Division, DST (Sanctioned Fund: Rs 54.80 Lakhs)
- Different Energy Vector Integration for Storage of Energy (DEVISE) - Sponsored by DST (Sanctioned Fund: Rs 51.77 Lakhs)
- Respharm: Resolving the Fate and Studying the Impact of Pharmaceutical Wastes on the Environment and Local Community of a Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Hub - Sponsored by DBT (Sanctioned Fund: Rs 50.62 Lakhs)
- Pilot Study for Assessment of Reducing Air Pollution in Urban Areas by Using Air Cleaning System (Smog Tower) - Sponsored by Delhi Pollution Control Committee (Sanctioned Fund: Rs 50.29 Lakhs)

IRD Research Schemes

A) Review of ongoing NII-IITD, ICAR-IITD, Clemson University-IITD, & NCTU-IITD Multi-Institutional Faculty Interdisciplinary Research Project (MFIRP) projects

During the review, it was observed that despite COVID-19 pandemic, the teams had strived hard to develop good research leads, published papers, and submitted joint project proposals to external funding agencies. Some groups have early success in getting significant funds from external agencies, based on the leads of MFIRP.



B) IRD Students Research Scheme of Call-2020

In this period (i) Five Students Discover and Learn (1-2-3-4) projects i.e. Online, Wide-range, Low-cost Sensor for Biomass Concentration; Control and Data Acquisition for Cold Atom Quantum Technology, Managing safety at construction sites using digital technology, Development of an application for semantic tagging of video sequences for stochastic modeling of reactive systems and Digitization in Healthcare; and (ii) Four projects i.e. Blockchain implementation of Health Electronic Records (HER), Spirited AI, Development of energy-efficient permanent magnets and Switched reluctance motors for two-wheeler electronic vehicles (EVs) under Student Start-up Action Scheme were funded.

C) Faculty Interdisciplinary Research Project (FIRP) Outcome

The FIRP scheme has succeeded in good research outcomes and getting dividends as significant external funding based on the leads attained in 56 projects of the first two FIRP Calls.

- Total expenditure by IRD on 37 Projects - ~Rs. 5.46 cr
- Funds generated through External agency supported projects (Joint) - ~Rs. 34.25 cr
- Published Journal Research Publications (Joint) - 34
- Journal Research Publication under review/preparation (Joint) - 43
- List of Patents filed (Joint) - 11
- Technology Transferred (Joint) - 3
- Projects Approved/Ongoing Submitted to External Agency (Joint) - 20
- Projects Under-review/Awaited Submitted to External Agency (Joint) - 21

Intellectual Property Rights

Total 46 Intellectual Property Right petitions (IPRs) were filed between December 2020 - March 2021.

IRD Monthly Webinar Series

The IRD Unit has been inviting senior programme officers from various funding agencies for interactions with the faculty members for exposing various schemes and programmes of the agencies, operational issues vis-a-vis expectations from the PI.

- i) Schemes and Programmes of the DBT by Dr. Arun Kumar Rawat, Former Advisor, DBT
- ii) Schemes and Programmes of the IGSTC by Mr. R Madhan, Director, IGSTC
- iii) Schemes and Programmes of the DST by Dr. Anita Agarwal, Scientist-F, DST

[For details of the Covid-19 research at IIT Delhi, pls visit- https://home.iitd.ac.in/covid19-response.php](https://home.iitd.ac.in/covid19-response.php)

Faculty Awards & Recognition

Awarded National Science Chair (Mode-1) by Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Department of Science and Technology, GoI



**Prof. Seyed E. Hasnain,
Honorary Professor**

Biochemical Engineering and
Biotechnology Dept., IIT Delhi



Prof. Bhim Singh

Electrical Engineering Dept.,
IIT Delhi

Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2021



Prof. Reetika Khara

Humanities & Social Sciences
Dept., IIT Delhi

DBT-Biotech Product Process Development and
Commercialisation Award 2019-20



Prof. Deepti Gupta

Textile & Fibre Engineering
Dept., IIT Delhi

Joined as an editorial board member of the
journal "Transportation Geotechnics" for
three years



Prof. Jagdish T. Shahu

Civil Engineering Dept., IIT
Delhi

Janaki Ammal-National Women Bioscientist
Award 2020-21 (Young category)



Prof. Neetu Singh

Centre for Biomedical
Engineering, IIT Delhi

Elected a Fellow of the Indian Society of
Earthquake Technology



Prof. Vasant Matsagar

Civil Engineering Dept., IIT
Delhi

Joined the Editorial Board as an Associate and
Area Editor in "Operations Management Re-
search" published by Springer



Prof. Surya Prakash Singh

Management Studies Dept.,
IIT Delhi

Appointed as editor of the Elsevier Journal -
Physics Letters A



Prof. Amita Das

Physics Dept., IIT Delhi

Selected to receive 2021 Best Discussion Award
by the Journal of Hydrologic Engineering, Amer-
ican Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), USA



Prof. A. K. Keshari

Civil Engineering Dept., IIT
Delhi

Corporate Relations

Some of the important collaborations carried out by the Corporate Relations Office, IIT Delhi:

- Dholera Industrial City Development Limited (DICDL) entered into an agreement with Corporate Relations and funded three research projects to the tune of INR 2.3 cr. These projects are related to: Road Pavement lead by Prof. B. Manna, Geothermal by Prof. Tanusree Chakraborty and Piezoelectric Energy Harvesting by Prof. Suresh Bhalla from the Civil Engineering department.
- IIT Delhi has a thriving PHD startup incubator program on techno entrepreneurship to provide a viable support mechanism that can attract interested early-stage career scientists/ engineers who are interested in an innovation-driven entrepreneurial journey. The program envisions successful deep science/ technology start-ups, involving technically qualified professionals (preferably doctorates), to enable a robust ecosystem to catalyze robust tech ventures. The present proposal by FITT, IIT Delhi aims to be a flagship support program for nurturing high technology startups in the country. As part of the IIT Delhi ecosystem, Corporate Relations has been instrumental in initiating successful Industry-Academia collaborations and we leveraged its network, branding, and goodwill for promoting PHD Startup incubator program in March 2021.
- Springer Nature has extended its support in setting up an office of Accessible Education. The main objective of the office is to ensure equal opportunities in all aspects to every student with disability (SwD) on the campus. The office will be providing various resources and appropriate services to the students. Springer has agreed to contribute INR 7 Lakhs to start with, under their CSR initiative.
- As a part of their CSR activities, Micron Technology India has provided funding to one of the IIT Delhi projects on Covid-19. Led by Prof. Jayadeva, Electrical Engineering Dept., the project uses AI techniques for detection of Covid-19 through X-Ray and CT Scan images. An amount of INR 22 lakhs was received in the month of January 2021, and has paved way for embarking on a longer term collaboration between the two entities.

Continuing their strong relationships with IIT Delhi, following organisations contributed CSR funds for various research projects:

- Global Vectra Helocorp Ltd - INR 18.58 Lakhs towards environmental related activities, to support economically weak students, skill development and business incubators.
- Hitech - INR 22 Lakhs towards chair position.
- Agilent - INR 50 Lakhs towards COE Pharmaceutical Technology.
- Resil Chemicals - INR 18 Lakhs towards SMITA research lab to develop sustainable and innovative solutions for the society.
- Cookson India Pvt Limited - INR 5.5 Lakhs for scholarship to meritorious students.
- Northern Benevolent Fund - Contributed INR 1 cr as CSR grant for research projects.



Alumni Affairs & International Programmes

Event

Having announced launching IIT Delhi's Endowment Fund in October 2019, the Institute opened its doors to its new Endowment Centre and Management Foundation office in February this year. The special ceremony was presided over by Prof V Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi; Mr Arun Duggal, Chairman, IIT Delhi Endowment Foundation and Prof Naveen Garg, Dean, Alumni Affairs & International Programmes. Strategically located at the Institute's iconic main administrative building, the Endowment Centre provides a distinct showcase of how the contributions of its distinguished alumni are supporting the advancement and realisation of the Institute's aspirations for the future.



Chairs/ Award

Prof. Ishwar Chandra Goyal Chair in Physics

IIT Delhi alumni Mr. Deepak Goyal (Electrical Engineering, 1991) and Mr. Alok Goyal (Computer Science, 1992) have endowed Prof. Ishwar Chandra Goyal Chair in Physics. Speaking of their decision to support the chair, they said, "We feel privileged to support the establishment of this chair in the memory of our father, Prof. Ishwar Chandra Goyal (a former IIT Delhi faculty), who has been the best teacher for us, and contribute to advance teaching and research in Physics at IIT Delhi".

Ramchandran Jaikumar Chair for Decision Sciences

IIT Delhi alumnus Dr Manas Fuloria (B.Tech. in Manufacturing Science and Engineering 1993 & PhD Mechanical Engineering 2004) has endowed "Ramchandran Jaikumar Chair for Decision Sciences" at IIT Delhi. The chair has been set up in the honour of Dr. Ramchandran Jaikumar, who was an India-born, US-based decision scientist and the Daewoo Professor of Business Administration at the Harvard Business School.

Prof Ajoy K. Ghatak Chair for photonics

IIT Delhi alumnus, Dr Ramadas Pillai (M.Tech in Applied Optics 1983), President Nuphoton Technologies, has endowed "Prof Ajoy K. Ghatak Chair" for photonics at IIT Delhi. While accepting the honour, Prof Ghatak said, "This extraordinary news is truly overwhelming, and I am filled with extreme gratitude towards Dr Pillai for his amazing generosity and to IIT Delhi for honouring me with this wonderful gift."

Prof D S Varma Award

1985 batch IIT Delhi alumna, Ms Poonam Varma has endowed "Prof D S Varma Award" in the honour and memory of her father Prof D S Varma (faculty in Textile Department, IIT Delhi). The award will be given every year to a female student with highest CGPA amongst all the graduating B.Tech. & Dual Degree students (across all disciplines) in that year.

Donation Campaign

A fundraising campaign 'Giving March' was launched in March 2021 by the Alumni Affairs office to encourage IIT Delhi alumni living across the globe to reaffirm their pledge to support their alma mater. The money raised from this campaign will be added to the IIT Delhi Endowment Fund launched in October 2019 with an ambitious target.

Student-led virtual engagement between Newcastle University and IIT Delhi

Newcastle University, UK and IIT Delhi held a joint student-led virtual event in March focusing on sustainability challenges in the UK and India. As a pilot, six students from IIT Delhi and six from Newcastle University, studying courses related to sustainability and the environment, got together to share their thoughts, and make comparisons of an environmental challenge and its management in India and the UK. While a group of IIT Delhi students gave a presentation on the UK's River Tyne, the Newcastle students chose India's Yamuna river. The other students tackled the challenges presented by air pollution and waste management in India and the UK.

To thank the students for their engagement, the university made a small donation to the student-nominated, sustainability-theme local charities in the UK and India. The charities chosen by the students were:

UK - The Tyne River Trust, Northumberland Wildlife Trust, Weee Charity UK (recycles computers for charity)

India - Chintan Environmental Research Action Group (chintan-india.org); Two groups opted for SAAHAS (saahas.org)

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