IIT Delhi Professor Wins Janaki Ammal-National Women Bioscientist Award


The faculty member of Indian Institute of Delhi Prof. Neetu Singh has been awarded with the Janaki Ammal-National Women Bioscientist Award 2020-21 under the ‘Young category’.

The faculty member of Indian Institute of Delhi Prof. Neetu Singh has been awarded with the Janaki Ammal-National Women Bioscientist Award 2020-21 under the ‘Young category’. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 Lakh, a citation, gold medal and a research grant of Rs 5 Lakhs per annum for a period of 5 years. She had been recognised for her work in the healthcare sector.

Dr Singh has been awarded for her “research contributions towards new imperatives in developing nano based platform technologies for healthcare applications”. The award was presented on the 35th Foundation Day of Department of Biotechnology (DBT) formed under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The Janaki Ammal - National Women Bioscientist Award is awarded under two categories-Senior and Young by the DBT. It is given to recognise the contribution of senior and young women scientists in the country who are working in biology and biotechnology areas.

The young category award is given to women scientists below 45 years of age who have contributed significantly towards unraveling challenges in various areas of biosciences and biotechnology.

The senior category award recognizes lifetime contributions of scientists who have made significant contributions in their research fields. The award for senior category carries a cash prize of Rs 5 Lakh along with citation and a gold medal.

IIT-Delhi launches certificate programme in digital marketing


The shortlisted candidates' list will be announced within March 15, and the academic programme will commence on March 28.
The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has launched a certificate programme in digital marketing. The programme will be for six months and classes will be conducted online twice a week on Saturday and Sunday. The course fee is Rs 50,000. The 18 modules programme will cover topics on digital marketing, traditional marketing versus digital marketing, website planning and development, email marketing, advertising, Google Analytics, Facebook advertising, Linkedin marketing. The lectures will be delivered online.

The candidates with a Bachelor’s degree can apply for the certificate programme, the final-year students may also apply.

The candidates will also be awarded certificates. A minimum of 50 per cent marks required and a minimum attendance of 60 per cent in both lectures and tutorials needed. For course details, candidates can check here.

The application process will be closed on March 10, and candidates can mail their downloaded application form to iitd@eruditus.com. The shortlisted candidates’ list will be announced within March 15, and the academic programme will commence on March 28.

**Worst indoor air quality in schools, colleges: IIT Delhi survey**


Overall, concentration of both PM 10 and PM 2.5 was two-and-half times higher than the permissible limit set by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for ambient air quality.

The survey was undertaken by the Centre of Excellence for Research on Clean Air (CERCA), IIT-Delhi; Society for Indoor Environment (SIE); and Kaiterra, an air quality instrument company.
A survey of indoor air quality in 37 buildings of the city, conducted by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, has revealed that schools and colleges have the highest concentration of PM 2.5 and PM 10 compared to other buildings such as offices, restaurants and malls. Overall, concentration of both PM 10 and PM 2.5 was two-and-half times higher than the permissible limit set by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for ambient air quality. The survey also revealed that schools have the worst I/O (indoor/outdoor) ratio of all surveyed buildings, meaning it had more indoor sources of pollution as compared to outdoors. A total of six schools and six colleges were surveyed.

It was undertaken by the Centre of Excellence for Research on Clean Air (CERCA), IIT-Delhi; Society for Indoor Environment (SIE); and Kaiterra, an air quality instrument company.

Researchers noted that use of chalk could be a major factor. “Use of chalkboards are the primary sources for consistent high concentration of PM 10 and PM 2.5. There is re-suspension of chalk dust with the change in furniture patterns and regular writing/dusting,” Professor Arun Sharma, Director SIE, said during an online event Friday.

The study also noted that in all buildings, pollutant concentration rose at night. They attributed this to poor ventilation after closing of doors and windows.

Project MAQUID (Monitoring of Air Quality in Urban Indoors in Delhi) was conducted in schools, colleges, hospitals, shopping malls, restaurants, offices and one cinema hall during the peak pollution period from October 15, 2019, to January 30, 2020. Except in the cinema where permission was not granted for monitoring more than four hours, 24-hour monitoring was conducted in most buildings.

“The indoor air pollutants studied include PM 10, PM 2.5, TVOC (total volatile organic compounds) along with comfort parameters (temperature, relative humidity and CO2 concentrations)…,” IIT said in a statement. The researchers said “the concentration of particulate matter (both PM 10 and PM2.5) are recorded 2-5 times higher than permissible limits” and “10-15 times higher than the WHO 24-hour average limits”.

“Educational institutes (schools and colleges) top the list for high PM concentration… TVOC levels are also recorded high, with highest in hospitals and restaurants due to rampant use of chemical cleaning agents, floor cleaners and cooking oils,” Professor Sharma said. “CO2 levels are also recorded high in hospitals, colleges, offices as well as in restaurants due to higher occupancy and inadequate ventilation,” he said.

Professor Sagnik Dey from CERCA said there was “a pressing need to develop Indoor Air Quality standards in India”. Among the recommendations was that in closed public spaces, it should be mandatory to display indoor air quality.

Meanwhile, halfway through the event, held on Zoom, it was disrupted by somebody by the name of ‘Ramone’ who repeatedly tried to draw obscene images on the presentation. The
person also spouted abusive words in an automated, robotic voice. The presentation was stopped for a few moments and the person was removed, after which it continued without interruption. The meeting was only open to those with the meeting code and password.

**IIT Delhi Inaugurates Endowment Centre and Foundation Office**

*February 19, 2021* [https://indiaeducationdiary.in/iit-delhi-inaugurates-endowment-centre-and-foundation-office/](https://indiaeducationdiary.in/iit-delhi-inaugurates-endowment-centre-and-foundation-office/)

Having announced launching IIT Delhi’s Endowment Fund on October 2019, the Institute today opened its doors to its new Endowment Centre and Management Foundation Office at a special ceremony presided over by Prof V Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi and Chairman of the IIT Delhi Endowment Management Foundation; and Prof Naveen Garg, Dean, Alumni Affairs and International Programmes.

Strategically located at the Institute’s iconic main administrative building on IIT Delhi campus, the Endowment Centre provides a distinct showcase of how contributions of its distinguished alumni are supporting the advancement and realisation of the Institute’s aspirations for the future. The new facility includes a welcoming lounge space, offering alumni and their families a comfortable environment for discussions, and state of the art meeting rooms to facilitate strategic collaborations of advancement and development projects at the Institute.

Addressing global alumni on the occasion via live streaming of the event, Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao, Director IIT Delhi announced, “We are very pleased to inaugurate today a new office complex for Endowment Centre and Foundation Office, demonstrating the collaborative commitment between the Institute and our alumni. This will further strengthen the Institute’s bond with alumni and provide meaningful ways for IIT Delhi to secure its aspirations for the future.”

Mr Arun Duggal, Chairman, IIT Delhi Endowment Management Foundation, and a Distinguished Alumnus of IIT Delhi shared, “The new Endowment Centre and Foundation office was especially conceptualised to provide an environment where visiting alumni and their families could envision and experience how their support will tangibly contribute to the development efforts of alumni, students and faculty. Within this smart modern, collaborative facility, the advancement team will integrate and leverage our academic, industry and community connections in really innovative and high-quality ways.”

Prof. Naveen Garg, Dean, Alumni Affairs and International Programmes added, “We look forward to our global Alumni’s support towards achieving the Vision of IIT Delhi by 2030. The new Endowment Centre and Foundation Office will be a key facilitator towards creating outreach opportunities, organising reunions, and designing online platform for enhancing alumni engagements.”

Mr. Vinay Piparsania, the first alum CEO of the IIT Delhi Endowment Foundation enthused, “It’s been quite a journey so far! I now look forward to our advancement teams building further on our alumni and institute relationships under one roof. At this new smart facility, we will also be having student volunteers on board to help us with organizing alumni engagements and fundraising campaigns, bringing in a high level of enthusiastic energy when there is a lot of work to be done!”

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While proposing a vote of thanks, Mr. Vinay Piparsania acknowledged the support of the Institutes Infrastructure and administration teams, and the generosity of several IIT Delhi Alumni who provided expert consultation and services in the designing and installation of integrated communications, IT and access solutions to ensure timely readiness of the digitally enabled Endowment Centre and Foundation Office.

Yoga reduced Covid stress: IIT-D study

The study was carried out on 668 adults between April 26 and June 8 last year. The participants were grouped as yoga practitioners, other spiritual practitioners and non-practitioners.

Professor Rahul Garg said yoga should be included in the higher education curriculum.

Yoga practitioners had “lower stress, anxiety and depression” during the lockdown imposed due to the Covid-19 outbreak last year as compared to non-practitioners, an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi study has found.

The study, titled ‘Yoga an effective strategy for self-management of stress-related problems and wellbeing during Covid-19 lockdown: A cross-sectional study’, has been published in the journal ‘Plos One’. It was carried out by a team of scientists from the National Resource Centre for Value Education in Engineering (NRCVEE) at IIT-D.

The research team included Dr Pooja Sahni, NRCVEE; Nitesh, NRCVEE; Dr Kamlesh Singh, associate professor at Humanities and Social Sciences Department in IIT-Delhi; and Prof Rahul Garg, head at NRCVEE.

The study was carried out on 668 adults between April 26 and June 8 last year. The participants were grouped as yoga practitioners, other spiritual practitioners and non-practitioners. Yoga practitioners were broken down into the sub-categories of long-term, mid-term and beginners.

“Long-term practitioners reported higher personal control and lower illness concern in contracting Covid-19 than the mid-term or beginner groups. 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,” IIT-D said in a statement.
The study found that long-term practitioners had “highest peace of mind, lowest depression and anxiety, with no significant difference in the mid-term and the beginner group”.

Professor Rahul Garg said yoga should be included in the higher education curriculum.

**IIT-Delhi inaugurates centre to strengthen bond with alumni**

In an attempt to strengthen its bond with its alumni, IIT-Delhi on Thursday inaugurated an Endowment Centre and Management Foundation Office at its main administrative building.

The centre provides a distinct showcase of how the contributions of alumni are supporting the advancement and realisation of the institute’s aspirations for the future.

Addressing global alumni on the occasion via live streaming of the event, IIT-D Director V. Ramgopal Rao said the office demonstrates the collaborative commitment between the institute and the alumni and hoped that it would further strengthen the institute’s bond with alumni.

IIT-D chairman of Endowment Management Foundation, Arun Duggal, said: “Within this smart modern, collaborative facility, advancement team will leverage our academic, industry and community connections in innovative ways.”

**New wine in old bottle: Vintage rides go green**

For Chaitanya Shashwat, finding an ideal mechanic and spare parts for his 1936 Austin 10 vintage car was a task well near impossible. He was ecstatic to learn of the electronic retrofitting carried out on a 1948 Beetle last November at IIT-Delhi's Centre of Excellence for Research on Clean Air (CERCA). “It is difficult these days to find mechanics who can take care of such cars,” smiled Shashwat. “I want to use the vintage car, so converting it into an electric vehicle is beneficial because these old cars create a lot of pollution. This option is not only good for the environment, but also increases the life of the vintage car.” The car has been with the family since 1980 when Shashwat’s father purchased it. After converting it into an electric vehicle, he hopes to keep it with him for several more years.
CERCA project coordinator Hemant Kaushal believes that if the government incentivised retrofitting into electric vehicles, then there would be mass consumption of the eco-friendly cars. “If someone has the chassis and body of the car in good shape, then instead of scrapping the vehicle after 15 years of use, one can get it retrofitted as an EV and continue using it. This will be beneficial for the environment because it prevents scrap build-up,” said Kaushal.

He added that the whole process of retrofitting and converting cars into EVs could lead to the rise of an industry in India that would also generate employment. “This can also be a way to supplement our EV policy and add to India’s EV numbers,” he reasoned.

Jawaad Khan, who collaborated with IIT-Delhi’s CERCA to retrofit a Beetle in November last year, said that petrol cars could be modified to run on electricity after completing their permitted 15 years because such cars then created no vehicular pollution.

Since Khan’s Tadpole Projects collaborated with CERCA for the Beetle car, there have been a number of requests from people for getting their cars retrofitted with electric engines. Kaushal said, “The institute has received 10-15 such requests. CERCA has forwarded their requests to Jawaad Khan’s company which then takes it forward.” The requests have been not only for vintage models, but also for contemporary cars such as Swift Dzire, WagonR and a 1984 Mercedes.

Last week, CERCA got the car as part of an event of the Indian Postal Services during which the government agency launched a special postal cover on vintage cars of Delhi.

Kaushal said that a retrofit cost over Rs4 lakh, a large portion of the cost going into the installation of the electric battery. “However, when we begin to build electric vehicle batteries in India, then the price of retrofitting will go down,” said Kaushal.

**Higher studies and the marginalised | Ph.D. entry in IITs tougher for students from marginalised communities**


Despite official policy, OBC, SC and ST applicants less likely to gain admission as compared to those from General Categories
Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe applicants are half as likely to get selected for a Ph.D. programme at leading IITs in the country as aspirants from the General Category (GC) are.

Data collated from a series of RTI applications, including from The Hindu, on the number of applicants versus the number of those admitted to Ph.D. programmes in the five older IITs has indicated that the acceptance rate is skewed against students from the SC, ST, and Other Backward Classes (OBC) communities.

The acceptance rate, which refers to the number of students selected for every 100 students who applied, stood at 4% for students from historically privileged castes (General Category). It falls to 2.7% for OBC students and further down to just 2.16% for SCs and 2.2% for STs.

Policy ignored

This finding comes against the backdrop of the Education Ministry’s data submitted to Parliament last year showing the failure of the IITs to fill Ph.D. seats as per reservation.

It showed that of the total admissions made by all IITs from 2015 to 2019, only 2.1% went to STs and 9.1% to SCs. The government’s reservation policy mandates allocation of 7.5% seats for students from the STs and 15% from SCs.

Similarly, 23.2% seats went to applicants from the OBCs against the 27% mandated by reservation. Remaining 65.6%, or roughly two-thirds of all the seats, went to GC applicants.

The IITs have often cited the lack of applicants from the marginalised communities for the situation. However, the RTI data reveals quite the opposite.
Five-year period

The RTI query data covered 3,279 Ph.D. admissions made from among 95,445 applicants in the five-year period from 2015 to 2019 in the four popular departments of civil (CE), electrical (EE), computer science (CSE), and mechanical (ME) engineering departments in the IITs of Madras, Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur, and Kharagpur.

These five IITs accounted for nearly 60% of all Ph.D. admissions made by all 23 IITs. Within these five IITs, the four departments included in the analysis accounted for roughly 25% of all the admissions made in around 80 different departments offering Ph.D.s.

The trend of acceptance rate being significantly higher for GC students is more pronounced in the Delhi, Madras, Bombay and Kanpur IITs. Though the skewed acceptance rate was observed in IIT Kharagpur also, it did marginally better.

In absolute numbers, only 238 of the 11,019 SC applicants and 40 of the 1,809 ST applicants got selected, according to the RTI data.

The disparity is more visible when the proportion of each category of applicants was compared with their proportion among those who gained admission.

The percentage of GC students among those admitted was always higher than their percentage among those applied. However, the converse was true for OBC, SC and ST candidates. Their percentages among those admitted was always lower than their respective percentages among applicants.

For instance, in IIT Delhi, while 63.3% of all applicants were from GC, they accounted for 76.3% among those admitted. In contrast, the percentage of OBC, SC and ST candidates dropped from 22.9%, 11.9% and 1.9% in the application stage to 17%, 6% and 0.7%, respectively, in the admission stage.

Few of the specific instances where the skewed admission rate was striking included the January 2019 admission cycle in EEE in IIT Delhi. Of the 195 SC applicants, only three were selected (acceptance rate of 1.5%) while none were selected from the 30 ST applicants. In contrast, 50 students were selected from the 1,071 GC applicants (4.7%).

In the July 2016 admission cycle in EEE in IIT Kanpur, 29 candidates were selected from 396 GC applicants (7.3%) while not a single one of the 46 SC applicants made it.

Bucking the trend

Interestingly, data from IIT Guwahati painted a different picture, countering the explanations for the disparity in other IITs.

According to data on 456 admissions and 13,033 applicants provided by IIT Guwahati, the acceptance rates for students from marginalised communities were roughly similar or even higher than GC students.
While the acceptance rate for GC candidates was 3.3%, it was 4% for OBCs, 3.4% for SCs, and 4.9% for STs.

While IIT Guwahati also failed to fulfil the reservation-mandated allocation of seats, it was the only major IIT that came closest to the desired numbers. The percentage of OBC, SC and ST candidates among those admitted were respectively 21%, 12.3% and 5.5%.

‘Selection bias’

Responding to the data, Professor and Chair in the Department of Anthropology at Harvard University Ajantha Subramanian said it was far more likely that the failure to fill the reserved seats was due to selection bias.

Professor Subramanian, who has written on the workings of upper caste privileges in the IITs in her book The Caste of Merit, told The Hindu, “There has been long-standing opposition among IIT administrators and faculty to reservations, which they see as a form of unjust government intervention in their meritocratic institutions.”

Arguing that the data showed the pyramidal structure of Indian education in which exclusion increased as one moved through advancing degrees, Professor Subramanian said the argument of “merit” was often used as an alibi for continuing social exclusion.

“A truly just admissions policy must directly address the vastly different circumstances from which students come so that so-called ‘merit’ is recognised as the by-product of unfair structural advantages and not simply as innate talent,” she said.

The recent report of an Education Ministry-constituted committee, which included administrators from a few IITs, has faced criticism for recommending the abolition of reservation in faculty recruitment.

Sukhdeo Thorat, Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and former Chairman of University Grants Commission, who previously headed a committee to look into caste-based discrimination at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, said the data highlighted the need for a further detailed study on the issue.

He stressed the need for increased transparency in the admission process and the presence of OBC, SC and ST members on the selection panels.

ChintaBar, a student collective in IIT Madras, has said the acceptance rate must ideally be higher for students from reserved categories with different cut-off marks for them.

Pointing out that the number of applicants from reserved categories was many times higher than the reserved seats, it urged the IITs to follow reservation in letter and spirit.

The Hindu reached out to the six IITs for their comment. IIT Delhi and IIT Kharagpur did not respond to repeated queries.

The other IITs ruled out the possibility of any bias in the selection process, and said the admissions were conducted in a fair manner. Confirming that the reservation policies were followed in all seats
funded by the Education Ministry and different cut-off marks were followed for reserved category students, they said efforts were being made to fill seats as per reservation.

IIT Guwahati did not directly answer a question on reasons for the acceptance rate being uniform. The institute, however, said it was working towards admission policies to ensure all seats under reserved categories were filled.

**IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Delhi, TERI to combat pollution in Delhi**

**Synopsis**
The Delhi government will now work with IIT-Delhi, IIT-Kanpur and TERI to identify the sources of pollution in Delhi in real-time. On Tuesday, the three leading institutions made a presentation to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal about the technology that has been developed in this regard.

IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Delhi and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) have developed this technology after conducting research to ascertain the sources of pollution in real time.

In any place affected by pollution, the factors responsible can be identified and how much of it is contributed by vehicles, dust and smoke from factories. Based on real-time information, the Delhi government will be able to take action to control it.

A super site and mobile site will be installed at a location to detect the source of pollution occurring in real time. These machines will be put on trial under a pilot project and it will be analyzed how they collect information about the sources of pollution. The Delhi government will then assess it and take action.

Kejriwal said, "If we come to know the sources of pollution on a real-time basis, it will help us to take immediate action. Now it will be proposed in the Cabinet and after getting approval, this technology will be implemented. The Delhi government will be the rst state government in the country to provide a real-time technology to detect the sources of pollution."
After the presentation Kejriwal said, "IIT-Delhi, IIT-Kanpur and TERI have developed techniques for real-time source detection. We will work with them to implement this in Delhi. The Delhi government is attacking pollution in different ways. For this purpose, electric vehicle policy has also been introduced. Now Delhi government will be able to identify the sources of pollution in real time with the help of technology, so that steps can be taken accordingly."

Kejriwal directed the officials concerned to start the process of adopting this technology.

After approval from the Cabinet, work to implement this technology will be started under the leadership of Professor Mukesh Sharma of IIT-Kanpur.

**Indian Navy and IIT Delhi enters into an MoU to carry on the research in underwater domain of Naval Electronic Systems**


Furthering the relationship between Indian Navy and IIT Delhi on research in underwater domain of Naval Electronic Systems, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed. The relationship dates back to 1970s and key technologies for Navy in the field of underwater electronics have been developed by the Centre for Applied Research in Electronics (CARE) at IIT Delhi since then. The research carried out at IIT Delhi has played an important role in the technological advances made by the Indian Navy. In line with Prime Minister Modi’s vision of ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’, Indian Navy endeavours on development of major technology driven projects through IIT Delhi.
IIT Delhi Uses Water to Generate Hydrogen Fuel at Low Cost

HIGHLIGHTS

The IIT Delhi team has successfully split water via a method known as the Sulphur-Iodine (SI) thermochemical hydrogen cycle, to manufacture low-cost, renewable hydrogen fuel for industrial consumption, as part of its research.

Emissions can be mitigated by hydrogen gas, a viable option as a sustainable replacement for fossil fuels.

A pilot plant has been developed by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Delhi) research group, to produce hydrogen fuel from water at a low cost. Prof Sreedevi Upadhyayula, Prof Ashok N Bhaskarwar and Prof Anupam Shukla of the Department of Chemical Engineering, and Prof Saswata Bhattacharya of the Department of Physics, were in charge of the project.

The project was funded by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Energy Centre (OEC).

The IIT Delhi team has successfully split water via a method known as the Sulphur-Iodine (SI) thermochemical hydrogen cycle, to manufacture low-cost, renewable hydrogen fuel for industrial consumption, as part of its research. Emissions can be mitigated by hydrogen gas, a viable option as a sustainable replacement for fossil fuels.

The design of an effective catalyst for the energy-intensive and corrosive step of sulphuric acid conversion to sulphur dioxide and oxygen, was one of the key challenges faced by the IIT Delhi researchers. The in-house catalyst follows these conditions and is now patented; the Institute is designing and demonstrating a method based on them.
NDTV quoted the project supervisor, Prof Sreedevi Upadhyayula, Department of Chemical Engineering, as saying, “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.”

Further, her team has demonstrated the entire integrated closed loop pilot plant at IIT Delhi. “We have employed a combined state-of-the-art experimental and theoretical approach to design an efficient and cost-effective heterogeneous catalyst (for the Sulphuric acid decomposition step of S-I cycle for hydrogen production) functional under high temperature, corrosive conditions while also being cost-effective,” she reportedly said.

This is a great achievement in the field of search for alternative fuels.

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

*February 3, 2021*  
IIT Delhi, an Institution of Eminence, and African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) signed an MoU on Wednesday 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.

The cooperation between IIT Delhi and AARDO will be in the following main areas: Technological Interventions, Bio-energy, Biomass, Biogas, Ecological Sanitation, Food Quality & Safety, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Housing, Food Processing & Valueaddition, Water & Waste Management, towards Development, Diffusion, Transfer and Adoption of Innovative/Appropriate Technologies, etc. IIT Delhi’s Centre for Rural Development and Technology (CRDT), an outreach centre of the Institute to address challenges faced by rural communities and to improve their quality of life, will play the key role in making the collaboration with AARDO successful. The CRDT has made significant contributions by developing and transferring technologies in areas including algal bio-energy, biomass technologies, biogas technologies, ecological sanitation, food quality and safety, sustainable agriculture, sustainable housing, valueadded food products, water and waste management etc.

Welcoming the MoU with IIT Delhi, His Excellency, Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh, Secretary General, AARDO said, “Most AARDO member countries would immensely benefit from the synergy foreseen with the merger of both IIT Delhi and AARDO networks by leveraging on
technological solutions developed by India’s eminent specialists and appropriate interventions to transform rural areas in Africa & Asia and hence, assisting them in achieving inclusive growth, UNSDGs and AU 2063.”

Prof V Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi said, “IIT Delhi puts strong emphasis on investing in research areas of social and national importance such as Rural Development. This collaboration would facilitate the diffusion of high end technologies to strengthen the rural communities. Goal is to connect our student, faculty and startup communities with problems in the rural areas in African nations so that win-win partnerships can be developed between all the stakeholders. Center for Rural Development and Technologies (CRDT) at IIT Delhi is expected to take a lead in this collaboration.”

Prof. Anushree Malik, Head, CRDT said, “I am sure the collaboration with AARDO, initiated by CRDT and Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), will widen our network in the African-Asian region and provide us a unique platform for consultation and dissemination of appropriate technologies”

Under the MoU, IIT Delhi and AARDO have also agreed to,
• Organize international, regional and On-The-Spot (OTS)/in-country training programmes / workshops to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Member countries in sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development.
• Joint Implementation of Tech-based Development Pilot Projects by utilizing each other’s human, technical and financial resources, subject to modalities, towards achieving common goals.
• Conducting research and action research studies of specific or common interest.
• Exchange of experts for sharing knowledge, expertise and experiences.
• Exchange of Scholars/Students/Volunteers to assist in adoption of technology solutions.
• Exchange programmes and internships for students with universities and institutes in the Member countries.

IIT Delhi Establishes New Chair for Advanced Teaching, Research In Physics

IIT Delhi alumni Deepak Goyal (Electrical Engineering, 1991) and Alok Goyal (Computer Science, 1992) have endowed the chair established in the name of their father, Prof Ishwar Chandra Goyal, also a former IIT Delhi faculty.
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has established "Prof Ishwar Chandra Goyal Chair" in the Department of Physics, for advanced training and research in the field.

The institute alumni Deepak Goyal (Electrical Engineering, 1991) and Alok Goyal (Computer Science, 1992) have endowed the chair established in the name of their father, Prof Ishwar Chandra Goyal, also a former IIT Delhi faculty.

Speaking of their decision to support the chair, they said, "IIT Delhi has played a seminal role in shaping our lives - we owe not only our education to the institute, but also our childhood. We feel privileged to support the establishment of this chair in the memory of our father, Prof Ishwar Chandra Goyal, who has been the best teacher for us, and contribute to advance teaching and research in Physics at IIT Delhi".

Mr Deepak Goyal is Managing Director and Senior Partner at Boston Consulting Group (BCG), based out of New York. Mr Alok Goyal was previously a Partner with Helion Venture Partners.

Prof Ratnamala Chatterjee, HoD, Physics, IIT Delhi said, "On behalf of the Physics Department, I congratulate and thank Deepak and Alok for their support in establishing a Chair in the name of Prof Ishwar Chandra Goyal. Prof Goyal, a renowned and esteemed colleague in our department, was very well known as an outstanding and an extremely conscientious teacher."

“It is a matter of great pride and pleasure that Deepak and Alok have also honored their alma mater by showing such a giving spirit," Prof Chatterjee added.

Speaking of IIT Delhi Alumni’s contribution to the growth of the institute, Prof Naveen Garg, Dean, Alumni Affairs and International Programmes, IIT Delhi, said, "I am excited and grateful that so many of our alums are coming forward to support the establishment of chairs and contribute to research and teaching at the institute. I have known Deepak and Alok since we were students at IIT Delhi and I have been taught by their father, Prof Ishwar Chandra Goyal. This is indeed a great way of honoring his memory."