IIT Delhi Centre Releases Report On Analysis, Usability, Functionality Of 6 High Court Websites


The IIT Delhi report includes an analysis and suggestions for different aspects of the usability and functionality of the High Court websites of Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Madras.

The Indian Institute of Technology Delhi’s DAKSH Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Law at Technology has released a report on six High Court websites. The report includes an analysis and suggestions for different aspects of the usability and functionality of the High Court websites of Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Madras. The report, an IIT Delhi statement said, was based on a first-of-its-kind study and has been made after evaluating their UI/UX design. The report was launched by Justice S Ravindra Bhat of the Supreme Court of India on August 26.

“Key highlights of the report include several low-hanging fruits such as appropriate placement of contact and RTI based information as well as the need for and detailed analysis of navigation efficiency and aesthetics,” added the IIT Delhi statement.

The report highlights some points about the UI/UX of the High Court websites including their speed, performance on interaction design principles.

Speaking on the launch of the report, Justice S Ravindra Bhat said: “It is important we involved in court administration should realize the full potential of the court websites and one of the methods should be this kind of reports. This can lead to the involvement of a larger general public."

“Ultimately people who are getting the benefits are the users of these court websites. From a service angle we are the service providers, and they are the service recipients, and it is important to involve them and on that note this kind of report is very important. I congratulate the team for this report and wish all the best for future endeavors of IIT Delhi in collaboration with DAKSH,” the Justice added.

Professor V Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi, in his welcome address said: “At IIT Delhi we are now getting into areas at the intersection of law and technology and we have also signed an MoU with NLU Delhi on that note.”
He also addressed to Justice Bhat that “the initiatives we take ultimately need to be useful to people like you. Under your guidance and leadership, if we are able to carry out activities, which the community can make use of, we will consider our efforts fruitful.”

Professor Aneesha Sharma from the Department of Design, IIT Delhi, who was part of the panel discussion for the launch of the report said: “Any design or UI/UX of any website should be very intuitive and it should not be required to instruct the user on how to use it. We do not ask for site maps to use... We need to conduct such research and designs for improving our court and government websites.”

Professor Nomesh Bolia, Co-ordinator, DAKSH CoE, IIT Delhi said, “Court websites are more often than not complex to navigate for not only the citizens and litigants but also for legal representatives and researchers across the globe. This inspired the Daksh Centre of Excellence at IIT Delhi to conduct a study of the UI/UX of the websites of the six High Courts across India.”

**Pandemic, government officials keep water-related research in limbo at IIT Delhi**


IIT-Delhi had joined hands with UK Research and Innovation and Global Challenges Research Fund on a five-year project, costing Rs 247 crore, to develop new approaches to tackle challenges.

More than two years after IIT Delhi announced a research on water-related issues in the national capital, the project is hit by multiple roadblocks including the pandemic and alleged lack of cooperation from state government agencies.

“The project was kicked off in February 2019. We are still at the stage of finalising the phase line. However, there is a conflict of interest. As researchers, we would like to expose as many things as possible, including failures, shortages or gaps in the system. However, government officials don’t like to speak on those issues. Whenever we ask for data, they make an excuse and we don’t receive it. In this scenario, we are planning to present the raw data to the authorities and ask them if it is right or not,” said a scientist involved in the research.

IIT-Delhi had joined hands with UK Research and Innovation and Global Challenges Research Fund on a five-year project, costing Rs 247 crore, to develop new approaches to tackle challenges to water security and sustainable development.

“Since we have no data, we have thought of accessing the locations where CGRF is taking water quality. We can also install some censors at identified locations and have our own data. The pandemic affected our instrument team and they couldn’t go to the field or meet the communities within the time frame of six months. This has delayed our work,” the researcher further said.

The project has a four-level approach — water availability in upper Yamuna basin; water audit, groundwater analysis, water quality analysis and waterbodies rejuvenation; pilot area of Barapullah basin, and IIT Delhi campus.
“I am developing a scientific groundwater model for Delhi. Also, the secondary data analysis of Delhi for surface water is in process. In addition, we have installed a few sensors to monitor water quality in the IIT campus. This is a pilot study. Once succeeds, we will expand this,” said Dr. Prabhakar Shukla, another scientist.

IIT Delhi researchers develop modified cotton fabric which adsorbs air pollutants


These fabrics may be used as upholstery for controlling gaseous pollutants that cannot be filtered out using a filter media.

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi have developed a modified cotton fabric capable of adsorbing harmful air pollutants.

ZIF-8@CM Cotton and ZIF-67@CM Cotton, as they are called, are Zeolite Imidazolate Framework (ZIF)-modified functionalised fabrics which adsorb high levels of organic air pollutants like benzene, aniline, and styrene from the ambient air.

According to the research team, air pollution resulting from the rising levels of particulate matter, nitrous oxides, sulphur oxides, carbon oxides, and other toxic volatile organic compounds (VOCs) is a major concern.

A long-term exposure to even a few parts per million of these chemicals takes a toll on health and can cause asthma, and eye and throat irritations etc.

"In this study, we have shown the functionalisation of cotton fabric by ZIF MOFs (ZIF-8 and ZIF-67) using a rapid, facile, eco-friendly, and scalable approach.

The ZIF functionalised textiles possess a huge potential for applications as protective garments and in controlling indoor air pollution.

These fabrics may be used as upholstery for controlling gaseous pollutants that cannot be filtered out using a filter media.

"In particular, these can be used within closed spaces such as homes, offices, theatres, aeroplanes and other transport vehicles," said Ashwini Agrawal of the Textile and Fibre Engineering Department, IIT Delhi.

The ZIF-8 functionalised fabric was found to adsorb a maximum of 19.89 mg/g of aniline, 24.88 mg/g of benzene, and 11.16 mg/g of styrene on the weight of the fabric.

These fabrics could be easily regenerated by heating the fabrics at 120 degrees Celsius and reused without any decrease in their adsorption capacity for several cycles, the team said.

Using a technique known as in-situ growth of ZIF-8 and ZIF-67 nanocrystals on the carboxymethylated cotton fabric using a rapid water-based textile finishing approach, the
researchers at IIT Delhi have successfully developed a low-cost cotton fabric capable of adsorbing 400-600 per cent more VOCs than ordinary cotton fabrics.

Further, these fabrics are robust and can withstand even the harsh conditions of washing.

They can be used repeatedly and in designing functional filters and pollution controlling upholstery fabrics among others.

IIT Delhi research scholar Hardeep Singh, who carried out detailed experiments to develop these fabrics, said the porous materials such as activated carbon, zeolites, and Metal Organic Frameworks (MOFs) are capable of adsorbing VOCs from air.

"The MOFs can be tweaked to create textiles that have antimicrobial, biomedical, particulate matter filtering, fuel filtering, chemical warfare protecting and UV radiation absorbing properties. The ZIFs specifically are more suitable under Indian conditions," he said.

IIT Delhi Enactus Team Wins National Competition; Now To Represent India at World Cup


The Enactus team from IIT Delhi presented two projects. The IIT Delhi team will now represent India at the Enactus World Cup to be held in October 2021.

The Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) has won the Enactus India National Competition 2021. The Enactus India National Competition is an annual event providing students a platform to showcase the work they do in communities. The winning team represents the country at the World Cup. This year, over 110 Enactus college teams in India worked on over 170 social entrepreneurship projects, an official statement said.

The Enactus team from IIT Delhi presented two projects. One, Arth, that uses cow waste, or cow dung, to create innovative eco-friendly products including logs, painted lamps, clocks handmade by traditional Madhubani artists. While the logs can be substituted for traditionally used wood logs during cremations, painted diyas can be further used as manure for plants.

The IIT Delhi team’s second project - Jhabua encourages the use of biogas in communities and the business model helps provide tribal farmers with an additional source of income.

The IIT Delhi team will now represent India at the Enactus World Cup to be held in October 2021.

Over 4,000 students from more than 80 colleges across the country participated in Enactus India National Competition 2021.

Shmita Ramkumar, Vice President and Chief Program Officer, Enactus India in a statement said: "We are indebted to our students, projects, faculty advisors and mentors for their resilience and passion this past year. Because of their dedication and commitment, Enactus India was able to continue and even strengthen the social impact we create. Our students rose to the challenge and developed over 140 COVID initiatives to support India and positively impacted over 1.7 million lives this year."
IIT-Delhi seeks alumni support for vision 2030

The categories for these different contributions are jade (Rs 3 lakh), pearl (Rs 6 lakh), emerald (Rs 10 lakh), ruby (Rs 20 lakh), diamond (Rs 30 lakh), and kohinoor (Rs 61 lakh).

To mark its Diamond jubilee (60 years), IIT Delhi has launched a fundraising campaign for its alumni to contribute and realise the institute’s strategic vision for 2030. Alumni can pledge Rs 3 lakh to Rs 61 lakh over a period of five years to the campaign titled ‘Going Further, by Giving Back’.

The effort is inspired by annual fund-raising approaches of some of the leading global universities, which have raised even larger levels of alumni and philanthropic funding through their annual campaigns. Alumni can pay the chosen amount every year annually, half yearly or quarterly as desired. The names of contributors — alumni, students, staff, and friends — who have given to IIT Delhi to commemorate its 61st year — will be displayed on the donor wall at the IIT-D campus. All the contributions to IIT Delhi are eligible for income tax benefits.

Vinay Piparsania, CEO, IIT Delhi Endowment Management Foundation, says, “This is a first-of-its-kind fundraiser that we are organising for our alumni globally. There is a website (unlimiitd.iitd.ac.in/iitdelhi61) that we have specially created for such contributions. We will also reach out through mails, and other communications, spreading the word of the groups and clusters we have made.”

The categories for these different contributions are jade (Rs 3 lakh), pearl (Rs 6 lakh), emerald (Rs 10 lakh), ruby (Rs 20 lakh), diamond (Rs 30 lakh), and kohinoor (Rs 61 lakh). Piparsania says, “The contributions will be added to the endowment fund corpus and will then be used for the advancement of the institute — funding facilities, scholarships, research work, renovation and upgrade of facilities, and students’ welfare.”

Doing everything possible to get Afghan students to return to campus: IIT Delhi

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V Ramgopal Rao, director of IIT Delhi expressed on social media that the university stands with stranded Afghan students.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi’s director, V Ramgopal Rao expressed his support toward Afghan students on social media saying that the university is “doing everything possible to get the students return to the campus.”

“In this hour of crisis, IIT Delhi stands in solidarity with our students and alumni from Afghanistan. We are doing everything possible to get the students to return to the campus. Let’s give them hope. iitdelhi iitdaa #AfghanWomen #Afghanistan #iitdelhi,” Ramgopal Rao said in a social media post.

IIT Delhi in a post on Twitter said, "IIT Delhi wishes to inform the students of Afghanistan of its international PhD Fellowship Program (IPEP)." To apply students can visit the official website - international.iitd.ac.in.
The Talibans have taken control over various parts of Afghanistan and the situation is worse. Several Afghan students who were studying in Indian universities and had returned back to their country are now stranded. Stuck in Afghanistan, those students are worrying about their future. In such a case, Indian universities are lending helping hands to their students from Afghanistan and trying to have them back to their respective campuses in order to keep them safe.

Even, IIT Bombay has allowed its Afghan students to return to its Mumbai campus and join the hostels as requested by some students. These Afghan students were studying from their homeland in the online master programmes offered under scholarships by the institute.

IIT Delhi has also setup helpline numbers for Afghan students: +91-9811091942, +91-11-26591713.

**IIT-Delhi Launches Fellowship for Foreign Researchers with Annual Grant of Rs 12 Lakh**


The awardee will receive an annual grant of Rs 12 lakhs to support his/her research and the fellowship will initially be awarded for five years.

The Vipula and Mahesh Chaturvedi Foundation has made a gift of Rs 1 crore to IIT-Delhi to set up “Vipula and Mahesh Chaturvedi Distinguished Fellowship”.

This Distinguished Fellowship will be used to attract talent from outside India with expertise in a research area that aligns with the long-term strategic objectives of the Institute and the country. The awardee will receive an annual grant of Rs 12 lakhs to support his/her research and the fellowship will initially be awarded for five years.

The Foundation had earlier set up the Vipula and Mahesh Chaturvedi Chair in Policy Studies at IIT-Delhi as a way of initiating the area of public policy at the Institute. The first appointee to the Chair, Prof. Ambuj Sagar, moved to IIT Delhi from Harvard and piloted the setting up of the School of Public Policy. The school has quickly become a leading hub of intellectual activity in the country on issues at the intersection of S&T and development.

Vivek Pathak Trustee, Vipula and Mahesh Chaturvedi Foundation and Prof V Ramgopal Rao, director, IIT-Delhi recently signed an MoU to set up the fellowship. The Vipula and Mahesh Chaturvedi Foundation was set up by Prof Mahesh Chaturvedi to promote and provide avenues for education and research in the field of science, technology, and social sciences to contribute to India’s advancement at the highest levels. Prof. Chaturvedi, who retired from IIT Delhi in 1986, is a globally recognized pioneer of water resources engineering in India. He is a founding member and Fellow of the International Water Resources Association, and a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering.

While welcoming the MoU, Prof V. Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi said, “IIT Delhi continues to focus on research, which benefits the society and the industry. The Institute has in the last few years set up new academic units and programs in Materials, AI, Energy, Transportation, Electric Vehicles,
Design etc and we hope this Fellowship will help us attract top researchers from around the world and provide a fillip to these initiatives”.

On this occasion, a book titled ‘Development and Sustainability- Third World Challenge’ authored by Prof Mahesh Chaturvedi was also unveiled.

The foreword by Prof. Rao, Director, IIT Delhi reads, “The comprehensive and systematic approach in this book, will be invaluable to help readers holistically grasp the concept of sustainability and understand how it relates to the broader arc of development in the Third World. Those are, in many ways, the two major- and interconnected- challenges of the 21st century, especially for developing countries, and therefore this book is extremely timely and relevant”.  

**NHA, IIT Delhi join hands to scale high-potential healthcare innovations**


The National Health Authority (NHA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi).

The National Health Authority (NHA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi). Through this partnership, NHA will be a technical collaborator on the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)-supported SAMRIDH Healthcare Blended Financing Facility. IIT Delhi serves as the hosting entity for SAMRIDH. This initiative is implemented by a Technical Support Unit, managed by IPE Global.

SAMRIDH Healthcare Blended Financing Facility aims to catalyse market-based health solutions to improve access to affordable and quality healthcare services for low-income and vulnerable communities, particularly for Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) beneficiaries. SAMRIDH has mobilised a capital pool of $100+ million from private sector and
development funders. It leverages this fund to offer both grant and debt financing provision to healthcare enterprises and innovators.

Through this partnership, NHA and IIT Delhi will support innovative solutions to address the needs and priorities of the AB PM-JAY ecosystem. This collaboration will be crucial to support rapid scaling and absorption of health innovations across more than 23,000 PM-JAY empanelled hospitals. The innovations supported through the SAMIRDH Facility will improve the health infrastructure, build capacity of healthcare providers, and build effective COVID-19 mitigation – all in the pursuit to achieve ‘health for all’ in India.

Commenting on the collaboration, Dr R.S. Sharma, CEO, National Health Authority, said, “It is our pleasure to collaborate with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi on SAMRIDH Facility. Through this partnership we will work with diverse health sector players to scale high potential health solutions and amplify the impact of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY. I am extremely confident that in years to come, this partnership will be a key enabler in making quality healthcare services in India more accessible and affordable.”

Prof V. Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi said, “We welcome this opportunity to work with the NHA to deconstruct the key challenges in delivering healthcare services across PM-JAY empanelled health facilities, and support enterprises in addressing the gaps with indigenous innovations. SAMRIDH will provide a platform to facilitate affordable capital for scaling up of commercially viable innovations. The facility will also extend mentorship to enterprises from clinical, technology and business experts.”

Highlighting on the importance of this collaboration, Veena Reddy, Mission Director, USAID/India said: “The success of this initiative is rooted in partners that are committed to promoting the health and well-being of vulnerable populations. USAID welcomes NHA and IIT-Delhi’s collaboration on the SAMRIDH initiative to address the pandemic and future health crises. Their combined network and expertise will use high impact market-based solutions to bring healthcare services to the most vulnerable.”

**IIT-Delhi, AIIMS Researchers Jointly Create Remote Ultrasound System Using Robotics**

Researchers from IIT Delhi and AIIMS se robotics to create remote ultrasound imaging

Now, ultrasound imaging can be done remotely using a robotic arm. Researchers from AIIMS and IIT Delhi have jointly created a new system amid COVID-19.

A research collaboration between IIT Delhi and AIIMS New Delhi has made remote ultrasound a reality. The two premium institutes jointly developed Telerobotic Ultrasound System. The system allows remote ultrasound access through a robotic arm.

In the routine ultrasound setting, the doctor (Radiologist) stands in close contact with the patient for the entire scan duration. However, cross-sectional imaging is preferred instead in the current pandemic scenario with stringent social distancing requirements – a more expensive and less dynamic technique. Ultrasonography is a non-invasive, non-ionizing, cost-effective, rapid, bedside, and readily available modality with immense use in point-of-care and follow-up examinations.

The research team at IIT Delhi was led by Prof. Chetan Arora and Prof. Subir Kumar Saha, while Dr. Chandrashekhar was responsible from AIIMS. Suvayan Nandi was the lead contributor from Addverb Technologies. The other research team members include Mr Deepak Raina (PMRF Research Scholar, IIT Delhi); Dr. Krithika Rangarajan, Dr. Ayushi Agarwal, (AIIMS, New Delhi); and Hardeep Singh (Addverb).

Prof. Chetan Arora and Prof. Subir Kumar Saha from IIT Delhi said, “This requirement came to us from the faculty of AIIMS New Delhi, when the whole nation had been put on lockdown in June 2020, and the number of cases and deaths was rising rapidly. The prevailing situation impacted regular health care services, especially those involving direct physical contact with patients like ultrasound scanning. We wanted to contribute to the safety of healthcare professionals by leveraging our expertise in robotic technology.”

Dr. Chandrashekhar, AIIMS, New Delhi, “This system will promote healthcare and make our system more prepared for further pandemics. Besides its role in the pandemic, it will allow a better outreach of ultrasound imaging to remote rural areas of India. The radiologist manipulates the ultrasound probe remotely from a remote location, acquires the ultrasonographs, and then transmits them to the monitors at the doctor’s end through a Wi-Fi network. Sitting at a remote
location, the doctor can visualize all the images and assess the patient, similar to a clinical setting. The facility can also be extended for global outreach.”

Speaking about the jointly developed Telerobotic Ultrasound System, Deepak Raina said that control architecture had been developed to teleoperate the ultrasound probe attached to the robotic arm while ensuring the patient’s safety and the quality of ultrasound images.

Suvayan Nandi at Addverb said that telerobotics is an emerging area in medicine and adoption of this technology will pave the way for Addverb to contribute to the upcoming revolution of medical robotics in India.

**IIT Delhi Establishes Chairs to Promote Research in Microelectronics, Geotechnical Engineering Using Robotics**


IIT Delhi establishes Chairs to support research in microelectronics and VLSI design, geotechnical and geo-environmental engineering.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi alumnus Saurabh Mittal, a BTech in electrical engineering student, 1995 batch has endowed two Chairs to support research in the area of Microelectronics and VLSI Design as well as Geotechnical & Geoenvironmental Engineering.

The Chairs are in honour of Prof GS Visweswaran and Prof Manoj Datta at the institute. The Prof GS Visweswaran Chair aims to promote excellence and leadership in teaching, research, and development in the area of Microelectronics and VLSI Design while the Prof Manoj Datta Chair will encourage research in Geotechnical & Geoenvironmental Engineering.

Dr Visweswaran is an ex-professor in the Electrical Engineering Department at IIT Delhi from 1980 to 2015. His work includes Analog and Mixed-Signal Circuit Design, Memory Design, and Digital
Electronics. During his stint at IIT Delhi, he also served as President, Board of Student Welfare and Head, Students Counselling Service.

Prof Manoj Datta has been with the Civil Engineering Department of IIT Delhi since 1980 and is now an Emeritus Professor. He worked in geotechnical and geoenvironmental engineering and received the Lifetime Achievement Award (2017) and the Leadership award (2008) of the Delhi Chapter of Indian Geotechnical Society.

**IIT Delhi alumnus endows chairs in civil and electrical engineering**


IIT Delhi alumnus has established chairs in microelectronics and VLSI design, geotechnical and geoenvironmental engineering.

Indian Institute of Technology Delhi’s alumnus, Saurabh Mittal has endowed two chairs at the institute - G S Visweswaran chair and Manoj Datta chair in microelectronics and VLSI design and geotechnical and geo-environmental engineering, respectively.

While Visweswaran is well-known for his work in analog and mixed-signal circuit design, memory design, and digital electronics, Datta is renowned for his work in geotechnical and geo-environmental engineering, a statement from IIT Delhi said.

Saurabh Mittal is the founder and chairman of Mission Holdings, which focuses on building strong operating platforms in technology, financial services, and media. He also co-founded IndiaBulls.

**IIT Delhi establishes chairs**

While receiving the honor, Manoj Datta, civil engineering department, IIT Delhi said, “I am deeply touched and humbled by the gesture of alumnus Saurabh in establishing the Chair. More so because I never taught him in a classroom during his 4 years on the campus. All our interactions took place at the Students’ Activity Center where extracurricular activities and student festivals were held.”

“His endowment reinforces the fact that on residential campuses, such as IITs, students recognise that learnings outside the classroom are as important as within them”, he added.
Speaking about the chairs, Saurabh Mittal said: “...Manoj Dutta and Visweswaran exemplify the best of IIT Delhi in terms of dedication, excellence, and selflessness. I certainly benefited immensely from their guidance during my years, and it is my honour to be able to endow Chairs in their names to support research excellence in their specific domain.”

V Ramgopal Rao, director of IIT Delhi said: “...It’s gratifying to see our alumni recognizing their teachers by instituting Chair Professor positions to honour their commitment to the profession...I am proud that our eminent alumnus Saurabh Mittal and a few other alumni have come forward and are setting an example”.

**IFFCO Signs MoU with IIT Delhi; Aims To Promote Advanced Research in Nanotechnology**


The initiative is being considered to increase the scope for experimentation and technological developments in the field of agriculture.

In a significant development, the Nano Biotechnology Research Centre (NBRC), the research and development unit of the fertiliser cooperative Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), in Gujarat, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi for research consultancy, knowledge transfer, and collaborative projects.

"In line with Prime Minister’s vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'"

A joint statement released by the organisations, stated, "In line with Prime Minister's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Atmanirbhar Krishi', IFFCO attempts to promote highly advanced agricultural technological projects while promoting precision farming and sustainable development in the country to double the income of the farmer’s by 2022. The collaboration emphasises focused joint research by sharing laboratories of IIT Delhi and IFFCO and providing research consultancy."

**Project to facilitate advanced research in Nanotechnology**
The initiative is being considered to increase the scope for experimentation and technological developments in the field of agriculture. The move is said to facilitate advanced research in the area of Nano Technology for futuristic utilisation. IFFCO scientists and engineers will now be working with academic research faculties and scholars of IIT Delhi in addressing challenging agricultural and environmental-related problems to find an innovative solution.

**Need for sustainable development**

Highlighting the need for sustainable development, Managing Director, IFFCO, Dr. Uday Shankar Awasthi, said, "At IFFCO, we always look forward to adopting new technologies so that we can add value to the farmers at ground level. We also believe in creating sustainable innovative solutions to reduce the input cost of agriculture and farming and hence increase the income of farmers and that is the reason we were able to create World’s 1st Nano Urea Liquid at IFFCO. We are also committed to sustainable agriculture and look for opportunities to create new solutions for sustainable farming to reduce environmental pollution."

Director of IIT Delhi and Professor, V. Ramgopal Rao, embracing the initiative said, "Impetus to research and innovations will help in achieving modern agriculture system, which will be beneficial for farmers of the country. IIT Delhi is happy to collaborate with IFFCO and work together on futuristic technologies of mutual interest."

Dean, Corporate Relations, IIT Delhi, and Professor, Anurag S. Rathore, said, "It's a matter of pride that this collaboration with IIT Delhi will benefit farmers immensely. We look forward to some engaging work in the research areas like Nanotechnology and Material Science, Chemical Engineering, Agriculture Technologies, Environmental Science and Technology, Rural Development, Data Science, Nano-bio interface, and many more in due course of time."

According to the press statement, earlier, IFFCO had introduced World’s 1st Nano Urea Liquid through a proprietary technology developed at the Nano Biotechnology Research Centre of IFFCO at Kalol.

**Project to reduce input cost to farmers**

It may be noted here that a 500 ml bottle of IFFCO made Nano Urea Liquid replaces at least one bag of Regular Urea thus reducing the input cost to farmers. The new technology will also help in reducing environmental pollution while improving soil health. Nano Urea Liquid makes the crops stronger, healthy and protects them from the lodging effect. Nano Urea Liquid is found to be very useful and suitable for plant nourishment as it enhances production with a refined nutritional property.
IIT Delhi Alumni Endow ‘Indu Shrivastava & Serla Singh Chair Professor’ In Artificial Intelligence


The Chair will support research in the field of Artificial Intelligence at IIT Delhi

IIT Delhi alumni Mr Rupam Shrivastava and Mr Ajay Singh from the B.Tech class of 2003 have endowed the “Indu Shrivastava & Serla Singh Chair Professor” in Artificial Intelligence. The Chair will support research in the field of Artificial Intelligence at IIT Delhi.

Rupam and Ajay have dedicated the Chair to their remarkable mothers- Ms Indu Shrivastava and Ms Serla Singh respectively. They represent Indian mothers who have sacrificed their own education and career ambitions to support the careers of their siblings, husbands, and children. Both, Rupam and Ajay, believe that the present generation of successful Indian entrepreneurs, CEOs, executives owe their careers to their parents, especially their mothers.

Rupam’s mother, Ms Indu Shrivastava, learnt responsibility from a young age as the eldest sibling in a large family. She taught Rupam to be responsible, independent, and inspired him to develop multiple interests and expertise. She told Rupam to “keep learning so you never have to say – I can’t do this.” If it weren’t for their mothers, Ajay and Rupam wouldn’t be where they are today. Ajay’s mother Ms Serla Singh had no choice and gave up school at the age of nine due to lack of financial means and the need to support her family. She instilled in Ajay the importance of education. Ajay recalls her saying, “I want you to achieve what I couldn’t, and education is the key for that.”

Ajay and Rupam added, “This Chair is our way to honor our alma mater IIT Delhi, which laid the foundation of our careers. We hope this Chair catalyzes innovation and research in Artificial Intelligence and adds a new dimension to IIT Delhi faculty.”

Ajay and Rupam currently co-head Frontiers Capital, an investment firm with a mission to support and invest in the brightest minds working on exponential technologies to solve humanity’s greatest challenges. Frontiers Capital is focused on Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Quantum Computing, Life Sciences, Blockchain technologies and others. All these technologies will witness exponential growth
over the coming decade and will impact billions of people globally. Ajay and Rupam also run a grants program that this Chair is part of. This program supports innovators and researchers with revolutionary ideas in applied sciences related to Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Quantum Computing, Life Sciences, Blockchain and other exponential technologies.

Ajay’s career includes over 15 years of experience in venture capital and product development. Previously, Ajay was at Samsung NEXT Ventures as Head of early-stage Frontier Technology investments in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, Robotics, AR/VR, Blockchain etc. In addition, he held product management and senior operating roles at General Electric (GE) and received several awards. Ajay holds a JD (corporate law) from Northwestern University School of Law and an MBA (Finance) from Kellogg School of Management where he made the Dean’s list.

Rupam’s career spans 15 years of investing experience in the US, UK, Europe, Middle East, India, Latin America, and Africa. Previously, he was a Partner at DFJ ePlanet where he focused on disruptive technology investments in startups and public companies. He was a founding member of Vodafone’s African operations and helped launch businesses in multiple sub-Saharan countries. He was also a founding team member of Hat.exchange, a custody-less crypto exchange. He holds a double MBA from Columbia University and University of California Berkeley, an MS in Computer Science from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a B. Tech. from IIT Delhi, where he received the Presidential Silver Medal. He is also a CFA, CAIA, FRM and CMT Charterholder. IIT Delhi continues to draw a significant and growing interest by its alumni on contributing towards research advancement at the Institute in technological and social fields. Chairs endowed by alumni, philanthropic and corporate donations support the eminent Institute’s ability to attract and retain high-quality academic talent.