



NEWS CLIPS

JULY 1-31, 2020

IIT Delhi Endowment Management Foundation Gets Its First CEO

July 31, 2020 <https://www.ndtv.com/education/iit-delhi-endowment-management-foundation-gets-its-first-ceo>

IIT Delhi: A 1985-batch alumnus, Vinay Piparsania, has been appointed as the first CEO of the institute's Endowment Management Foundation.

The board of the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, or IIT Delhi, Endowment Management Fund, has appointed a 1985-batch alumnus, Vinay Piparsania, as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Foundation. This fund was launched on October 31, 2019, by the President of India Ram Nath Kovind.

An IIT Delhi statement issued said this fund created history and set an example for others in the same domain. IIT Delhi Alumni had come together to make an initial contribution of Rs 265 crores at the time of the launch. The ultimate goal of the Endowment Fund is to reach USD 1 billion over a period of time. The institute has studied and compared existing endowment systems of US Universities and other leading world institutes. The structure of this fund will act as a reference paradigm for all other leading IITs and educational institutions of India.

Based in Gurugram, India, Mr Vinay Piparsania is a Mechanical Engineer from the 1985 batch of IIT Delhi and an MBA from Tulane University, New Orleans, USA. He believes that the institute has played a key role in his success and is now looking forward to giving back in a significant way to his Alma Mater.



"Mr Piparsania, with his deep operational and strategic expertise in the international auto industry, is a much sought after consultant, advisor, speaker, panelist, and mentor/coach across various industries and institutes. He is on the advisory board of several start-ups," added the IIT statement.

The rich work experience of strategy, branding, innovation, and business development of Mr Piparsania will drive the vision of the IIT Delhi endowment fund to have a transparent structure and corporate governance model that will work towards building a relationship of trust and credibility with its alumni through better communication and periodic reporting, through a professionally managed team structure, the statement said.

Prof V Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi, while welcoming Mr Vinay Piparsania to IIT Delhi fraternity said: "IIT Delhi lays great emphasis on alumni engagement... Vinay, with his vast experience of building successful teams and project execution, will be able to nurture and strengthen alumni engagement with the institute further. I am confident, Vinay..will surely take IIT Delhi's endowment fund initiative to its fruition."

Chairman of the IIT Delhi Endowment Management Foundation Arun Duggal added: "I am delighted that Vinay is taking over as CEO of the Endowment Foundation and leading our Fundraising initiatives. The Foundation is poised to make a great contribution to the future of IIT Delhi and we expect Vinay will play a major role in it."

Mr Piparsania through his long and illustrious career brings close to 33 years of leadership experience across India, Asia Pacific, and the Middle East. He is Consulting Director - Automotive, with Counterpoint Technology Market Research, a leading Asian headquartered research firm, focused on emerging technology, and is also founder and principal of MillenStrat Advisory and Research, specialising in developing strategies, focused on millennial customers. Amongst leading global automotive brands, he has been associated with Ford Motor Company for over 18 years, directing marketing, sales, and service teams in Ford India, Philippines, Asia Pacific, and Ford's Global Business Services, added the IIT statement.

E-Xplained with IIT-Delhi Director V Ramgopal Rao | Covid-19 and Higher Education

July 30, 2020 <https://youtu.be/VtSFNin4LxU>

IIT Delhi Excellence Foundation Announces the Appointment of Sanjiv Goyal as President of the Board

July 29, 2020 https://www.einnews.com/pr_news/522820878/iit-delhi-excellence-foundation-announces-the-appointment-of-sanjiv-goyal-as-president-of-the-board

In 2018, IIT Delhi was one of the first six institutes to be awarded the Institute of Eminence status.

IIT Delhi Excellence Foundation President Sanjiv Goyal succeeds Rishi Bhargava to lead the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization into the new decade.

Ultimately, this is a significant moment in the history of our organization, and I do not take this responsibility lightly."

— Sanjiv Goyal

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, USA, July 29, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Today, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) alumni communities around the world announced the appointment of

Sanjiv Goyal as President of the Board of Directors of the IIT Delhi Excellence Foundation (IITDEF or the “Foundation”). A ceremony was held to honor the 14 years of tireless dedication and service of Rishi Bhargava, the founder of IITDEF who has served as President since the inception of the organization in 2006. Sanjiv Goyal, who joined the IITDEF board in 2020, succeeds Rishi Bhargava as the new President of the Board of Directors.

IITDEF is a nonprofit organization purposed towards serving the global IIT Delhi community, including students, faculty, alumni, and other stakeholders. Together with the IIT Delhi Alumni Association (the “Alumni Association”), the Foundation is dedicated to strengthening the links between the IIT Delhi institution and its global alumni. Charitable contributions made to the Foundation have gone on to support the education and research initiatives of IIT Delhi. Since the organization’s inception, industry leaders and alumni have come together to assist IIT Delhi in realizing its vision and place as one of the world’s leading purpose-driven research and teaching institutions. The Foundation received its status as a tax-exempt organization from the Internal Revenue Service in 2006.

“It has been a great honor to have served as President of the IITDEF Board of Directors,” said organizational founder Rishi Bhargava. “I am incredibly proud of our accomplishments over the past decade and a half. We have helped alumni across the globe through our partnership with IIT Delhi and the Alumni Association. We have built one of the most effective and cost-efficient nonprofit organizations in the world. I am confident in our future and in Sanjiv’s leadership as we continue to grow and expand our impact.”

Sanjiv Goyal brings a wealth of knowledge pertaining to nonprofit and for-profit success to the Foundation. He offers a keen sense of strategic vision that may well prove critical to the Foundation’s ability to scale and meet current growth trajectories.

Sanjiv Goyal has over 30 years of industry experience. He is an investor, serial entrepreneur, global speaker, and philanthropist. Currently, he is the Chairman of Droisys, a technology innovation company, and the Managing Partner of Adroit Global, an investment firm. He invests in innovative early-stage proprietary companies, particularly those in the technology and food industries. Sanjiv Goyal considers himself a global citizen. He strongly believes in supporting our youth and focusing his philanthropic efforts on children’s charities, such as Coral Tree Education, Ekal, Olive Crest, and many more. He also serves on the board of Pratham USA. Born in Meerut, India, Sanjiv Goyal has earned a Master’s degree in Technology from IIT Delhi.

“I am deeply honored to have been appointed as President of the IITDEF,” said Goyal. “IITDEF is uniquely qualified to help bring about IIT Delhi’s mission to foster innovation and help future generations. As we grow and mature in life, I believe that we increasingly come face-to-face with the responsibilities of serving as custodians for the next generation. Education is the only way to truly grow and inculcate harmony in society. I am here, and honored, to serve my alma mater. I look forward to leveraging our strategic network of alumni, foundations, international nonprofits, and other groups and stakeholders who, along with our Board, stand united in our shared desire to improve education and foster innovation. Ultimately, this is a significant moment in the history of our organization, and I do not take this responsibility lightly. I am deeply grateful to Rishi Bhargava for

his vision, dedication, and passion, all of which has led to the creation of one of the most impactful nonprofits.”

Sanjiv Goyal also provided, “I look forward to working closely with our inspirational founder Rishi Bhargava, our passionate Board of Directors—Sandeep Tyagi, Arogyaswami Paulraj, Rakesh Kaul, Om Sharma, and Naren Gupta—and our dedicated IIT Delhi Director, Alumni Dean, and Alumni President.”

Please make a charitable contribution today. Generous contributions in the form of donations, bequests, gifts, and grants help the Foundation achieve its mission and will directly result in additional funding for research and education initiatives, the purchase of necessary technologies to address new needs due to the COVID-19 crisis and shelter-in-place, as well as scholarships, fellowships, and endowments for IIT Delhi to support not only its current students but also an even brighter future that is still to come.

CSIR, UBA-IIT Delhi and VIBHA Sign MoU for Rural Development

July 29, 2020 <https://indiaeducationdiary.in/csir-uba-iit-delhi-and-vibha-sign-mou-for-rural-development/>



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi; Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)- IIT Delhi and Vijnana Bharti (VIBHA), New Delhi to provide the UBA access to CSIR rural technologies on non-exclusive basis as per extant CSIR guidelines for the benefit of the rural people of the country.

Towards this CSIR-UBA-VIBHA would work jointly for post COVID-19 fast track action plan to create rural livelihood opportunities. The UBA nodal centers consisting of institutes like IITs, NITs, and Agricultural Universities etc. will act as solution facilitators and as link to connect R&D institutions

and organizations like CSIR to the rural masses and development agencies, Participating Institutes, NGOs, and Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Expert guidance and technical support will be provided to grassroots entrepreneurs in terms of feasibility and sustainability in the major thematic areas: Agriculture Technologies, Food Processing Technology and Engineering, Rural Energy, Waste Management and Eco-Friendly Technologies, Biomass Utilization Technology, Environmental Biology, Extraction of Natural Products and Value Addition of Forest Products etc.

The MoU was signed on July 28, 2020 in the presence of Dr. Shekhar C. Mande, DG CSIR & Secretary DSIR Government of India; Dr. Virendra Kumar Vijay, National Coordinator, UBA and Professor, IIT Delhi; Shri Jayant Sahasrabudhe National Organising Secretary, VIBHA; Dr. Sunil. K. Khare, Dean (R&D), IIT Delhi; Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director CSIR-NISTADS, New Delhi; Prof. Vivek Kumar and Dr. Priyanka Kaushal, CRDT, IIT Delhi and Shri Praveen Ramdas (VIBHA).

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Shekhar C. Mande expressed hopes that the MoU would help in taking benefits of CSIR technologies to the far corners of the country. Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal also expressed hopes that the MoU will pave the way for effective coordination between CSIR, IIT Delhi and Vijnana Bharti (VIBHA) towards meeting the objectives of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.

Prof. Virendra Kumar Vijay described how the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan has now become a national level program since its start in 2014. He elaborated upon the reach of the UBA and talked about the large number of institutions, which have associated themselves with it in a short period of time. Sh. Sahasrabudhe also expressed his optimism about the contribution the MoU would make to the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and taking the benefits of science to the society.

Prof Sunil Kr. Khare spoke of the association between the CSIR and IIT Delhi and how the two institutions can further contribute in the development of the country through their increased cooperation.

IIT-D Director V Ramgopal Rao is guest at E-Xplained tomorrow

July 28, 2020 <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/iit-d-director-v-ramgopal-rao-is-guest-at-e-xplained-tomorrow-6526488/>

In mid-March, the Union and state governments decided to order all educational institutions to close till further notice. The shutdown has disrupted the academic calendar and plunged 3.75 crore students and 14 lakh teachers into uncertainty.



From research and instruction to graduation ceremonies, the Covid-19 pandemic is changing the face of higher education.

In mid-March, the Union and state governments decided to order all educational institutions to close till further notice. The shutdown has disrupted the academic calendar and plunged 3.75 crore students and 14 lakh teachers into uncertainty.

With no clarity on reopening, higher education institutions are now faced with difficult questions. Can online classes be as effective and accessible as face-to-face classes? Will all universities and colleges have to adopt a hybrid model of teaching in future? How should a teacher grade and evaluate students in a pandemic? How big a hit would campus placements take this year?

The Indian Express has invited IIT-Delhi Director Professor V Ramgopal Rao to answer some of these critical questions about the future of higher education as it is being reshaped by the pandemic.

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Apart from heading a globally ranked institution, Rao was the chairperson of the committee tasked by the government to draft a common minimum strategy for reopening the 23 IITs. He was also a member of the panel based on whose advice the HRD Ministry rescheduled major entrance tests like NEET, JEE (Main) and JEE (Advanced). IIT-Delhi is also the organising institute for JEE (Advanced) this year.

Rao will be the Expert Guest at the latest edition of E-Xplained, the unique series of explanatory conversations that The Indian Express hosts from time to time. Expert Guests at E-Xplained sessions since the lockdown began have included Kerala's Health Minister K K Shailaja, Public Health

Foundation of India president Dr K Srinath Reddy, industrialist Dr Naushad Forbes, and capital markets expert Nilesh Shah.

TRIFED signs MoU with IIT Delhi under Govt's Flagship 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan'

July 26, 2020 <https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/education/trifed-signs-mou-with-iit-delhi-under-govts-unnat-bharat-abhiyan.html>

TRIFED under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on Saturday entered into a partnership with IIT Delhi under the HRD Ministry's flagship 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan'.

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on Saturday entered into a partnership with IIT Delhi under the HRD Ministry's flagship 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan' (UBA) to increase livelihood opportunities and income generation for tribal communities. In order to strengthen the partnership, a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between TRIFED, IIT Delhi and Vijnana Bharati, a swadeshi science movement, said a release from Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

The UBA joins higher education institutions with villages for the economic and social betterment of rural communities. Under TRIFED's 'Van Dhan' programme, Tribal entrepreneurs will be able to access the expertise of the entire network of more than 2,600 academic and research institutions under the UBA, the release said.

Along with IIT Delhi, which is also the National Coordinating Institute (NCI) for the UBA, TRIFED visualises in promoting tribal livelihoods and income-generating programmes.

"It is important to ensure round the year income-earning opportunities for tribals by engaging them in a variety of economic activities ranging from agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, medicinal and aromatic plants etc, going beyond minor forest produces (MFPs)," managing director of TRIFED, Pravir Krishna, said.

"The synergies with institutions of national importance like IIT Delhi will be crucial in our mission to serve the tribal cause, as we can leverage the huge network of academic and research institutions across the country under the 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan'," he added.

The tribal forest dwellers engaged in Minor Forest Produces will get exposure to newer processing technologies, Innovation, product, mentorship, handholding and transformational digital systems, under the IIT Delhi partnership and Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. The MoU will further open gates for the best of brains in the country to attend to the problems of sustainable tribal livelihoods, the release said.

The IIT Delhi-TRIFED partnership will also help from the expertise and experience of Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA), the statement said. VIBHA will plan and reach out to various stakeholders for convergence with the focus to strengthen the 'Van Dhan Yojana' through its local chapters. It will also help in

gathering and passing critical information on needs and possible intervention to TRIFED, UBA and tribal communities, it said.

Furthermore, TRIFED is implementing the 'Van Dhan Yojana', a programme for value addition, branding and marketing of MFPs by establishing Van Dhan Kendras of around 300 tribal members each across the country to facilitate the creation of sustainable livelihoods for the forest-based tribal gatherers.

IIT-Delhi starts research to develop home-based testing kit

July 25, 2020 <https://newstodaynet.com/index.php/2020/07/25/iit-delhi-starts-research-to-develop-home-based-testing-kit/>

Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi has said that it was starting research to develop a home-based Covid-19 testing kit that will identify if there are antibodies in the blood sample.

The institute said that it has signed an MoU with Wells Fargo, which would financially support its initiative to develop a home-based Covid-19 testing kit.

Recently, in a breakthrough research, Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) and University of Nairobi researchers have used metamaterials to improve detection of defects in large structures by guided wave ultrasound.

The results of this collaborative work have been recently published in the international reputed peer-reviewed journal AIP Advances.

The paper has been co-authored by Prof Prabhu Rajagopal, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT-M and his collaborators at the University of Nairobi—Dr Michael Gatari and Mr John Birir, a PhD student they jointly guide as part of a 'Joint Degree Programme.

IIT Delhi to Develop Home-Based COVID-19 Testing Kit

July 24, 2020 <https://www.ndtv.com/education/iit-delhi-develop-home-based-covid-19-testing-kit>

The test results can help fight COVID-19 in many ways including identifying individuals with antibodies who can donate their blood as part of an experimental treatment of infected patients.

The Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, or IIT Delhi, has tied up and signed an agreement with Wells Fargo and United Way of Bengaluru to develop a "peptide-based" ELISA test for the detection of COVID-19 antibodies. ELISA, short for serological enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, determines whether a person possesses antibodies for COVID-19 in the blood. The test results can help fight COVID-19 in many ways including identifying individuals with antibodies who can donate their blood as part of an experimental treatment of infected patients.

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The Principal Investigator of the project, Dr Anurag S Rathore, Dean, Corporate Relations and Professor, Chemical Engineering Department, IIT Delhi in a statement said: "Testing for COVID-19 continues to be a bottleneck at present. Options that are available in the market offer limited

accessibility and affordability. This project- a collaboration between IIT Delhi and National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune - has the potential of making a meaningful difference to this situation by enabling affordable, home-based testing.”

Wells Fargo will fund the project while UWBe will facilitate its implementation.

The Dean further added: “We are thankful to Wells Fargo, our Corporate CSR Partner, and United Way of Bengaluru, our CSR NGO Partner for their support. This collaboration highlights IIT Delhi's strength in healthcare.”

“This research aims at developing a peptide-based, ELISA-based diagnostic, serological assay against COVID-19. We also aim to create an economical, commercial process for manufacturing the antigens used in ELISA and home-based diagnostic kits to offer an effective, quick, robust and affordable diagnostic solution for the COVID-19 outbreak,” Prof Rathore added.

ELISA-based Diagnostic Assay

This research will utilise the microplate-based enzyme immune-assay technique. The choice of antigen will be a peptide that has been identified computationally. Structural analysis of the available complex is performed to design a novel peptide that has a complementary property with spike protein of COVID-19. A set of peptides will be designed using a combination approach to test their binding. From the sequences of the variable regions of the Heavy and Light chain including the novel designed peptide, cloning of the mAb fragment (CV-Fab) will be performed. CV-Fab will be produced from which ELISA based testing kits will be created.

Professor V Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi, said: “We are happy to be associated with Wells Fargo and United Way of Bengaluru. This collaboration will have immediate impact, allowing us to accelerate time-critical research to develop solutions. This funding for the project on COVID-19 detection research shall help the nation combat these difficult times.”

He further stated, “This current ELISA based test kit will further add to the capabilities of the nation. IIT Delhi incubated start-ups have also supplied over a million PPEs to the nation in just the last few weeks.”

‘Rainwater can’t flow out as drains choked’: Gosain

July 24, 2020 <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/rainwater-can-t-flow-out-as-drains-choked-ak-gosain-prof-of-civil-engineering-iit-delhi/story-w9pSSsXhSr3jnFzXhJISZK.html>

Gosain said stormwater drains need to be cleaned at least biannually for free flowing of rainwater.



Commuter make way through a water-logged road, at Ring Road, in New Delhi.

Delhi is losing its capacity to handle monsoons, even when it is rain-deficient. This is mainly because Delhi has a drainage master plan from 1976 that does not factor in the construction boom in recent years. **AK Gosain**, professor of civil engineering at IIT Delhi, who submitted a drainage master plan to Delhi government in 2017, tells **Jayashree Nandi** that Delhi can see a calamity anytime. **Edited excerpts:**

Why does it flood in Delhi even after a few short spells of rain?

First, paved area in Delhi is on the increase. The run-off from paved area is far higher than natural areas. For example, for one unit of rain, a paved area will generate 95% of run-off compared to 50% for a natural area. With a rise in paved area, we are seeing a rise in the volume of water that needs to drain. Second, in Delhi we get rain for four months; the drains are supposed to be dry for the rest of the year.

But no drain is ever dry. They carry sewage instead. Third, stormwater drains need to be cleaned at least biannually or rainwater cannot flow freely.

Ten houses collapsed near ITO after heavy rain on Saturday. Was the rain that bad?

The drain was choked. It should have been de-silted. Water level kept going up, eventually washing away houses. We need to check if they were authorised. And why were they constructed on a drain?

There are also some locations like Minto Bridge which get flooded every time.

Yes there are many locations like that, which are in a depression. These cannot drain naturally. The water has to be pumped out immediately.

What happened to the Drainage Master Plan your team submitted to the Delhi government?

We have completed our job and its up to the government. The plan captures all the issues with flooding and drainage I have mentioned.

There are constructions on the Yamuna flood zone or 'O' zone. Does that affect the city's capacity to handle rain?

If the floodplains are constricted, then the level at which water will pass through will be higher. So when there is a big flood, embankments will breach and there will be calamity. Also, if the water level in the river is high, all the drains flowing into it will be surcharged and there will be backflow.

A CamScanner alternative “DocStack”: Developed by the students of IIT-Delhi

July 23, 2020 <https://technosports.co.in/2020/07/23/a-camscanner-alternative-docstack-developed-by-the-students-of-iit-delhi/>

You all aware of the 59 Chinese app ban in India that is imposed at the end of June. The sad thing is CamScanner is also in the list, though it had data security issues but was one of the most officially used applications. It not only could scan any documents perfectly but also save that in various formats. Besides all kinds of share options were also there. To fulfill this loss, students of IIT-Delhi come up with their alternative app named DocStack.

It's good for scanning documents and organizing them. As per the developers, “It not only lets users create high-quality scans on the go, but the universal search feature lets you find them easily when you need them the most”. Currently, it is available only for iOS platform but the developers are working on the Android version and hoping to launch that soon.

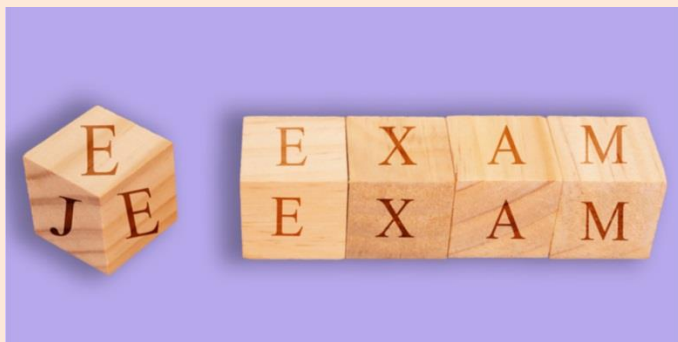


Apart from scanning any document, through DocStack, you can also directly import files or images from your device's files app. Cloud storing and sharing via AirDrop facility are also available in the application.

The developers revealed that this app is not developed using Flutter, they used XCode that makes the port from iOS to Android handy. DocStack is now available on the app store and it's totally free. If you are an iOS user make sure to try it once.

Expect a slight delay in JEE Main 2021 January exam dates: Ramgopal Rao, director, IITD

July 17, 2020 <https://news.careers360.com/expect-slight-delay-in-jee-main-2021-january-exam-dates-prof-ramgopal-rao-director-iitd>



IIT Delhi director Ramgopal Rao said that students can expect a slight delay in the exam dates of JEE Main January 2021. Attributing the cause to the COVID pandemic this year and subsequent disruption of life in general, he said that JEE Main 2021 may be conducted a month later.

Answering to a question in a chat with Careers360 on whether JEE Main 2021 January exam will be held as scheduled, Rao said, "This is difficult to predict but looking at things, I feel it may be pushed back by a month. The reason is that JEE Main 2020 admissions will be after the exam in September and they may take a month or so. There may not be enough time to plan for another exam on this level so immediately. So, I think it may be delayed by a month or so."

JEE Main is held in 233 test cities of India and 9 test cities abroad. It is a computer based test held in multiple sessions for admissions to B.Tech, B.Arch and B.Plan courses as well as intergrated engineering courses in the NITs, IIITs, GFTIs and many states as well. The entrance exam is also a screening test for JEE Advanced which is held for admissions to the 23 IITs.

Ramesh Pokhriyal launches world's most affordable COVID-19 diagnostic kit developed by IIT Delhi

July 16, 2020 <https://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/India/20200716/3593087.html>

Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal on Wednesday virtually launched the world's most affordable RT-PCR based COVID-19 diagnostic kit "Corosure" developed by IIT Delhi, and approved by the ICMR and DCGI.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that "Corosure"-- COVID-19 Diagnostic Kit developed by IIT Delhi is a step towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a self-reliant India, read a release.

He said that the country requires cheap and reliable testing which can help to control the pandemic.

"The Corosure Kit has been developed indigenously and is much cheaper than other kits. Our Prime Minister has always been encouraging the youth of the country to come forward and ensure a

healthier India especially in the times of COVID 19 pandemic with their innovative research. The kit has received ICMR approval with the highest score and DCGI approved with a very high sensitivity and specificity," Pokhriyal said.

He said that the affordable detection kit will help the country amid the ongoing crisis.

Pokhriyal stated that "Corosure", the probe-free diagnostic kit has been manufactured by Delhi NCR-based Newtech Medical Devices.

The minister appreciated that a leading educational institution under MHRD and a private company have joined hands during this epidemic in the interest of the nation.

Pokhriyal informed that the diagnostic kit developed by IIT Delhi, which will be now available for use by the authorised testing labs with this launch, will significantly bring down the cost of COVID-19 RT-PCR testing.

"The base price of the RT-PCR assay is Rs 399. Even after adding the RNA isolation and laboratory charges, the cost per test will be considerably cheaper compared to currently available kits in the market," the release said.

The minister said that IIT Delhi has given license to 10 companies to manufacture COVID-19 diagnostic kit using the technology developed by its researchers.

MoS for HRD Sanjay Dhotre, Secretary, Higher Education, Amit Khare and senior officials of the Ministry were present during the launch.

IIT-Delhi develops device to disinfect N-95 masks in 90 minutes

July 11, 2020 <https://www.newindianexpress.com/good-news/2020/jul/11/iit-delhi-develops-device-to-disinfect-n-95-masks-in-90-minutes-2168233.html>

According to the IIT, the device can kill up to 99.99 per cent of bacteria and virus in the mask.



Officials of Chakra Innovation with Chakr DeCoV device.

The IIT-Delhi has developed an ozone-based decontamination device to reduce bio-medical waste and enable safe re-use of N-95 face masks. The device, called Chakr DeCoV, will help re-use a mask up to 10 times. It was launched on Friday via a video-conference by Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Ashwini Kumar Choubey.

The mechanism was developed by an IIT start-up — Chakra Innovation — which has been approved by the Indian Medical Council of Research-National Institute of Virology (ICMR-NIV). According to the IIT, the device can kill up to 99.99 per cent of bacteria and virus in the mask. According to its makers, the device can decontaminate an N-95 mask in 90 minutes, following which it can be re-used 10 times.



The officials said ozone is a strong oxidizing agent that destroys viruses by diffusing through the protein coat, resulting in damage to the viral RNA (ribonucleic acid) hence destroying the virus. “Proper dosage and exposure of Ozone can result in inactivation of SARS CoV-2 and a 99.9999% reduction in bacterial load, after which an N-95 mask can be re-used for up to 10 times without any impact on the filtration efficiency,” said Tushar Batham, vice-president engineering, under whom the device has been developed.

“Chakr DeCoV is built with an innovative ozone-based decontamination mechanism, which ensures effective decontamination with high reliability and safety, as needed in a hospital environment,” said Kushagra Srivastava, CEO, Chakra Innovation. Prof V Ramgopal Rao, director of the IIT-D, said: “The institution is committed to addressing the Covid-19 problem through its technological prowess. When it comes to serving the hospitals and our medical professionals, there is a need for providing high quality PPE kits and at the same time, ensure their possible re-use and a safe disposal.”

AIIMS doctor, IIT-Delhi launch Copal 19 app to track plasma donors

July 8, 2020 <https://tech.hindustantimes.com/tech/news/aiims-doctor-iit-delhi-launch-copal-19-app-to-track-plasma-donors-71594223650902.html>

As of now, the app has been launched to work internally at AIIMS and it has on-boarded 70 plasma donors.



The Copal-19 app is expected to be available on the Google Play Store in a week or two for wider usage.

Students from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi in collaboration with a doctor from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) have launched an app to connect the Covid-19 patients in Delhi with the willing plasma donors in the city.

The app called Copal-19 is the brainchild of Kaashika Prajaapat, who is a fourth year Computer Science and Engineering undergraduate at IIT-D, Tanay Aggarwal who is an engineering student at Maharaja Surajmal Institute Of Technology, Tushar Chaudhary, who is a student at IIT-D and Dr Abhinav Singh Verma from AIIMS, New Delhi.

Together, the engineering students and Dr Verma have created a mobile app that tracks Covid-19 patients in hospitals in real time along with their blood groups. It also tracks the patients who have recovered from the disease and have the potential of becoming plasma donors after 28 days.

“The app helps to connect those patients who need plasma therapy with the potential donors, well in time for the treatment to begin. We coordinated with Dr Verma and developed the app digitally! So, this was majorly a remote project,” Chaudhary told Hindustan Times.

The team behind the Copal-19 app also told Hindustan Times that it took them nearly a week to go from ideation to prototyping. As of now, the app has been launched to work internally at AIIMS and it has on-boarded 70 plasma donors who have recovered from Covid-19. The team is now planning to make this app available for use across the country. It is expected to be available on the Google Play Store in a week or two for wider usage.

NIT-Tiruchi signs MoU with IIT, Delhi

July 7, 2020 <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Tiruchirapalli/nit-tiruchi-signs-mou-with-iit-delhi/article32014250.ece>

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, and National Institute of Technology, Tiruchi, (NIT-T) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration on academic activities.

The MoU will facilitate direct admission of NIT-T’s B.Tech students to IIT Delhi’s Ph.D. programme, foster academic and research collaboration in areas of mutual interest and lead to exchange of

faculty and students. The MoU was signed by V. Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi, and Mini Shaji Thomas, Director, NIT-T.

“The key feature of the MoU is the opportunity for bright undergraduate students to get direct Ph.D. admission at IIT-Delhi. We are very positive that the MoU will encourage academic partnership and fruitful research collaboration between NIT-T and IIT-D. The NIT-T is looking forward for joint research projects and faculty exchange programmes,’ Ms. Mini Shaji Thomas said. Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi , termed it a good opportunity for the faculty and students of both the institutes to collaborate in the research and development.

Under the MoU, meritorious B.Tech students of NIT-T will be provided an opportunity to carry out part of their studies, including project work at IIT Delhi and then they will be offered direct admission to Ph.D. without the need to qualify in GATE or any other national level examination. NITT students with a CGPA of 8.00 at the end of their 6th semester will be eligible to apply for a project in summer and complete their fourth year (7 th and 8 th semesters) at IIT Delhi. The students need to submit their transcript, academic records and achievements and documentary evidence of any research or internship experience along with their application. The students are expected to demonstrate sufficient merit in coursework and research during their 7th and 8th semesters of the B.Tech to continue to join the Ph.D. programme.

After the successful completion of their fourth year, they would be considered for an early admission to the Ph.D. programme at IIT Delhi. The requirement of GATE is waived off since they will enter IIT Delhi with a minimum CGPA of 8.00. It is envisaged that this scheme will also help NITT B.Tech students to enhance their chances for qualifying for the PMRF fellowship for Ph.D. at IIT Delhi.

During their stay as visiting students, IIT Delhi will not be charging any academic fees, since they will be paying their regular academic fees at NIT-T. They, being B.Tech degree students, will also be provided either on-campus or off-campus paid hostel accommodation by IIT Delhi for one-year.

The MoU also provides for B.Tech, dual degree M.Tech students, research scholars and faculty. The special exchange students will be permitted to take courses on credit/audit, as well as participate in research activities/internships and project works. The selection and nomination of students will be open throughout the academic year. The faculty of NIT-T can also apply for suitable post-doctoral positions or any other opportunities available at IIT Delhi.

The faculty from both the institutes will also collaborate in joint submission of research project proposals, supervision of exchange students and joint research in disciplines of mutual interest, a NIT-T press release said.

IIT placements affected by pandemic? IIT Delhi makes a new record with 1100 offers, Madras bags 924 this year

July 06, 2020 <https://www.timesnownews.com/education/article/iit-placements-affected-by-pandemic-iit-delhi-makes-a-new-record-with-1100-offers-madras-bags-924-this-year/617105>

IIT Delhi has received an all-time high of 1100 offers this year. This is an increment of 4 per cent in the previous years' offers- Check out how the pandemic outbreak has affected the IIT Placements this year

Despite the pandemic Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Delhi has bagged 1100 placement offers this year. The institute has broken its own previous year's records and the offer letters have increased this year despite the slowdown the economy is facing due to pandemic outbreak in the country.

Several companies have also pulled back their offers after which the count rested at 1100. This included the pre-placement offers made to the institute's students. The head of the office of career services, OCS also informed that the placements this year are 4 per cent more than previous years. Approximately 85.6% UG and PG students have received the offer letters. In the second phase of placements, 960 offers were given to students.

Other IITs where placement drives were held but did not bear such good results were IIT Gandhinagar. This is a new IIT whose placement started in October 2019 and received about 142 offers until March 2020. After this during the pandemic this IT has received almost 17-18 offers as informed by Abhay Raj Singh Gautam, Career Development Services IITGn head. Compared to previous years this year the offers are low.

At IIT Madras almost 24 jobs offers have been withdrawn till date due to pandemic. This year Institute bagged 924 job offers including 241 for UG students, 221 for dual degree and 336 for PG students. The placement cell of the institute is reaching out to its alumni to provide more opportunities to the students as informed by the TPO, IIT Madras, CS Shankar Ram.

IIT Delhi start-up develops mask 'Kawach'

July 6, 2020 <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2020/state-editions/iit-delhi-start-up-develops-mask---kawach-.html>

ETEX, a start-up from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D) and National Educational Enrichment in Villages (NEEV) has jointly collaborated for the distribution of face mask 'Kawach' for the underprivileged section of the society to protect them against Covid-19 in Gurugram.

During the event around 900 Kawach masks were distributed among the employees of the irrigation department and their families, police personnel, journalists and social workers.

Highlighting the speciality of these masks Dr Shiv Singh Rawat, IIT Delhi alumni and Superintending Engineer Irrigation Department Haryana Government said that the mask conforms to the standards prescribed by WHO and GOI Labs SITRA and are also compliant with ASTM Standards as per the experts from Dept of Textile Engineering and Fiber Engineering IIT Delhi.

"There are multilayered masks with N95 knit adjustable with ear loop filtration efficiency made with ultra soft fibrous material and are washable too," he said.

"Kawach mask is a multi-layer textile innovation for optimum protection at an affordable rate Rs 45 only and it is washable and reusable for at least 10 times. This could be a game changing solution for

COVID-19 crisis for protecting a massive population of our country in the most economical and effective way,” Rawat added.

Rawat also shared his future strategy and said it is a proud movement for the Irrigation department along with IIT Delhi which is helping people during this epidemic with these self made masks which will help people to fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

“We have just started such activities and getting inputs from different sections of the society and such distribution events will be conducted in near further as well,” he added.

Meanwhile, the death toll due to COVID-19 in Gurugram has reached 100 with one more death, health officials said on Sunday.

Gurugram, which has the highest number of coronavirus deaths among other districts in Haryana, also reported 120 fresh cases. The district has 5,949 patients and 4,828 of them have recuperated from their illness.

Gurugram now has 1,021 active cases and 814 of them are in home isolation, officials added.