Through this newsletter, we appreciate the resilience of the IIT Delhi community during these trying times and bring forward the hard work of our research teams toiling day and night to fight the pandemic.

AAIP Newsletter Team:
Office Members: Amit, Kavleen, Ayesha
Student Team: Shubham, Amal, Naman, Ayushi, Sehaj, Yashasvee
IITD fights COVID-19

IIT Delhi Researchers Develop Affordable Test for COVID-19

IIT Delhi researchers have developed a "probe-free detection assay" at the prestigious Institute's Kusuma School of Biological Sciences, which has been recently optimized and tested for sensitivity at the research laboratories of the Institute. According to the team, considering the scale of the ongoing pandemic, the development of indigenous kits is the need of the hour.

The team at IIT Delhi claims that their test can be performed at a much cheaper cost and hence will be affordable for the general public. Professor Vivekanandan Perumal, lead member of the team, said, "Using comparative sequence analysis, we have identified unique regions in COVID-19. These unique regions are not present in other human coronaviruses providing an opportunity to specifically detect COVID-19."

IIT Delhi Startup Fabiosys Innovations Develops Infection-proof Fabric

"Fabiosys Innovations", a start-up incubated at IIT-Delhi has developed an "infection-proof fabric" to be used at hospitals to prevent hospital-acquired infections (HAIs). Prof Samrat Mukhopadhyay of the Department of Textile and Fibre Engineering said, "We take rolls of cotton fabric and treat it with a set of proprietary-developed chemicals and after undergoing these processes, the fabric gains the powerful antimicrobial functionality."

The Fabiosys fabric satisfies the Indian washing standards and does not lose its functionality even after washing multiple times. This fabric is non-toxic and can be stitched into various articles such as bedsheets, the uniforms for patients, doctors and nurses and even curtains. IIT has collaborated with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences for a pilot run of the product.

IIT Delhi Prepares Alcohol Based Hand Sanitizer as per WHO Parameters

To deal with the high demand for hand sanitizers and excessive charges, the Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, has prepared an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, which has been prescribed by WHO. The formulation contains three chemicals along with Aloe Vera, and the principal component is isopropyl alcohol (around 75%). The advantage of hand sanitizers is that when soap and water are not readily available, it comes for ready use. However, it is always better to wash hands with soap and water before using hands for eating.

Prof Anil J Elias, Head, Dept. of Chemistry, said, "Alcohol rub sanitizers containing at least 70% alcohol are known to kill microorganisms on hands within 30 seconds to one minute after application." Moreover, Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi, appreciated the efforts made by J P Singh, Technical Superintendent, and Rajbir Singh, Junior Lab Assistant, Chemistry Department at IIT Delhi.
IIT Delhi Students & Alumni Start a Free Online Learning Portal

The widespread outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) has made it impossible for regular teaching and learning to take place and has reinforced the need for a proper system of e-learning in place that can be used to carry out proper learning. Thus, in order to help students and teachers with their academics, IIT Delhi students and alumni have come up with a free teaching portal. Intellify, the education initiative of Solve, started by the students and alumni of IIT Delhi along with NSS, IIT Delhi recently launched an online platform for teachers and students to facilitate learning.

To make use of the learning facilities, one needs to visit the website www.intellify.in and register. They have created an interactive system that can be used by the teachers and students to utilise precious time by systematic learning that it enables. Tools like e-learning material in the form of abundant resources and notes and online quiz creators along with a doubt solving and discussion forum for the students and teachers are some of the features that make the platform so useful.

DST Sanctions an IIT Delhi Project to Tackle Covid-19

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has announced the first set of approved projects that will work towards finding novel solutions in the fight against the COVID-19, which currently has no known vaccine or treatment. The DST’s Science and Engineering Board (SERB) selected five projects that will work on developing implementable technologies after a select expert committee assessed them. Each project will receive funds of up to Rs 25 lakh for up to a year.

The IIT-D project is for development of formulations for viral decontamination of inanimate surfaces, which will help develop material which may be used as a virus tactic and be applied to mops to disinfect the surfaces to remove any adhering viruses or bacteria. This will be led by BS Butola from the Department of Textile and Fibre Engineering.

IITD students develop app to identify individuals coming in close contact with COVID-19 patients

A team of IIT-Delhi students have developed an application to help trace individuals who come in close contact with COVID-19 positive cases. The team comprises of five students from IIT-Delhi -- Vikas Upadhyay (PhD student computer science department), Gulsan Jahagid, Pankaj Singh (Btech computer science department students), Anchal Sharma, and Arshad Nasser (PhD students, design department). The team has developed a mobile application that can identify people who have been near, that is, within two metres of an infected person. The application uses Bluetooth technology and enables tracking of the population who have been in close contact with any infected coronavirus positive cases. According to the team, the application provides precise, secure, and reliable tracking techniques. Additionally, it will help in spreading self-awareness among patients and encourage more to get tested for the infection.
List of IITD Research Proposals for COVID-19

- Research and development of personal protective equipment
- Specific targeting of COVID-19 by CRISPR/Cas13 technology
- Scalable Manufacturing of Low-Cost Face Shields as Effective Intervention against COVID-19 Transmission
- A non-Pcr based Lamp assay to Detect Covid-19
- Diagnostic - probe-free detection assay for detecting coronavirus
- Diagnostic - Sandwich ELISA assay for low cost and rapid detection of coronavirus
- Bioinformatics - Use of bioinformatic tools to design a novel peptide for blocking Coronavirus
- Therapeutic - Identifying inhibitors against the main protease of coronavirus
- Therapeutic - Virus Like Particle design as potential vaccine candidates
- Therapeutic - Monoclonal antibody fragment that binds to the ACE receptor to work against Corona
- Design and Development of easily/rapidly reproducible battery operated ventilator. Covid 19 is being categorized as Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS), in which breathing is impaired by fluid buildup in the lungs
- Integrative Therapy Based on Principles of Yoga and Ayurveda as an Adjunct Treatment to Novel Coronavirus Disease: A Randomized Clinical Trial
- A voice-based community media platform led collaborative response to support vulnerable communities for COVID-19
- Infection-proof fabric which is able to kill 99.9% of the bacteria within 2 hours by Fabiosys Innovations is a startup incubated at IIT Delhi
- Fabrication of N95 and other Face Masks at IIT Delhi
- Develop AI System based upon X-Ray/CT images for fast diagnosis and follow-up of COVID-19 patients
- Using AI/ML/data science to train a model gathering data about outdoor Temperature + Relative Humidity (Biometeorological index), Latitude/other variable information about world/Indian cities spatio-temporally and predict the spread of COVID in the coming months/years in India
- Design, fabrication and testing of an indigenous, affordable, easy to train, easy to use, minimally acceptable ICU Ventilator
IIT Delhi Benevolent Fund

IIT Delhi launched a ‘Benevolent Fund’ to receive voluntary contributions for meeting the needs of the people of the lower economic strata that depend on the campus community. As Governments across the world are working hard to contain the spreading of the COVID-19 pandemic, The IIT Delhi community has the moral responsibility to focus on its very own campus and there is an immediate need to exhibit generosity and goodwill. As of 31st March 2020, in less than two days 180 members of the small IIT Delhi campus community have raised more than Rs. 8 Lakhs already for this noble cause.

Beneficiaries include the informal service providers of the campus (including rickshaw pullers, night mess workers, presswalas, dhobis and kabari-walas), construction workers and other workers employed by contractors providing service to the institute (such as house-keeping, solid-waste management and workers in campus commercial outlets), daily-wage and contractual employees of mess under BHM, and other daily-wage and contractual group-4 level employees under security, estate and works, establishment, and research project staff under IRD. After verifying the credit of the amount to the account, an official receipt would be prepared and sent to the donor.

IIT Delhi Giving Week 2020

This year the Institute’s "Giving Week" was started on 16th March 2020 and was earlier scheduled for a week-long period till 23rd March 2020. However, keeping the hardships caused by the outbreak of COVID-19 in mind, the campaign has been undergoing extensions and is still active at the moment. It is a time when we can all come together to support the Institution, to which we owe a lot for what we are today, and make a huge and significant impact leaving a legacy to be cherished forever. As of 31st March, 2020 more than 145 alumni have contributed with the total crossing around Rs. 12.5 Lakhs. All the donations are being utilised to support the informal service providers, daily-wage and contractual employees in the campus who are severely impacted by the COVID-19 lockdown.

Giving week coincides with almost the end of the financial year for India, so that everyone can avail of the 100% tax break on their donation to IIT Delhi. The 100% tax break is also available for US donors through the IITD excellence foundation (which is also benevity compliant to get 100% contribution from your company if it is enrolled). IIT Delhi requests everyone to join with other alumni, students, faculty, and staff for this noble cause. Every donation is essential, irrespective of the magnitude, as it shows the intent of the IIT Delhi alumni community.
Faculty Award

Prof. Swades De, Electrical Engg, has been conferred with Om Prakash Bhasin Award in the field of Electronics & IT. The Award carries a citation, plaque and cash prize of Rs 1 lakh. Since 1985, the Om Prakash Bhasin Award is given to scientists and technologists - for their outstanding contributions and their applications for national development in fields of Agriculture, Biotechnology, Engineering, Electronics & IT and Medical Sciences. From 1993 to 1997 and during the first half of 1999, Prof. Swades De worked in different telecommunication companies in India as a research and development engineer. From Fall 2004 to Fall 2006 he was with the New Jersey Institute of Technology as an Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering. He has been affiliated with the Department of Electrical Engineering at Indian Institute of Technology Delhi since January 2007.

IIT Delhi celebrates International Women's Day

Initiative on Gender Equity and Sensitisation (IGES), IIT Delhi organized a series of events in the run-up to International Women's Day on 8th March 2020. On 4th March, IGES held a talk session in which Ms. Uttara Babbar, Supreme Court Lawyer, presented her views on the topic 'Gender Justice at Workplace'. Furthermore, a panel discussion was also held on the topic 'Barriers to Diversity in STEM' in which IIT Delhi students and faculty participated.

On this occasion, renowned theatre artist Ms. Maya Krishnarao performed her famous piece 'WALK'. This show was created as a response to the horrific Nirbhaya gang rape case in 2012. Since its creation, the content of Walk has changed in response to new events and the audience. Ms. Maya Krishnarao is a theatre artist known for her solo performances that have a distinctive form and style.

Stakeholders’ Workshop on Water Security and Sustainable Development

The Water Security and Sustainable Development Hub funded by UKRI GCRF is a five-year ongoing project in the Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Delhi. Prof. A.K Gosain, Prof. Dhanya C.T. and Prof. Rakesh Khosa are the faculty involved in this project. As part of this project, a Half-Day Stakeholders’ Workshop was organized on 13th March 2020 at IIT Delhi under the aegis of FITT. Around 50 participants from various organizations, including central, state, research organizations and NGOs attended the workshop.

APEDA Signs MoU with IIT Delhi to Implement Agri Export Policy

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) signed MoUs on 4th March 2020 with IIT Delhi, QCI, ICFA, SGT University and Pearl Academy to Implement Agri Export Policy. These partnerships will help farmers to develop high yielding, and better quality produce that will increase their income. APEDA signed MoU with IIT Delhi to avail benefits from scientists, researchers, and engineers of the institution. Hence, it would cooperate with the institute to develop technologies for early spoilage detection techniques of agriculture produce, cost and energy-efficient farm machinery and come up with protocols for international horticulture export.
NRDC licenses a technology on Mahua Nutrabeverage Developed by TRIFED and IIT Delhi

National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) has signed a technology licensing agreement with M/s Aadiwasi Bahuuddyashiya Sahakari Samiti Maryadit, Raipur (Chhattisgarh) for manufacturing of “Mahua Nutrabeverage,” a value-added product from mahua flower (a tree found mostly in the central and north Indian plains and forests) and pomegranate or other fruits, developed by IIT Delhi and funded by TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited). Dr S N Naik, from the Centre for Rural Development and Technology, IIT Delhi, has been working on the project.

“Mahua and Pomegranate Nutrabeverage” technology are very much useful in the tribal belt of the country, and its USP is Mahua Nutrabeverage retains part of the natural nutritional anti-oxidant and medicinal properties of Mahua flower and fruit juice. Low alcoholic content in the product works as good appetizer and excellent health tonic.

ZTE Offers Undergraduate Scholarships to IIT Delhi Students

Chinese telecom gear maker ZTE has inked a pact with IIT Delhi to offer scholarships to students. Under the ZTE Telecom India Scholarship, three new students of undergraduate course will be offered a scholarship of Rs 1 lakh per year for a duration of 4 years. The scholarship will be awarded to the needy bright students enrolled in IIT Delhi from low-income families. The MOU was signed by Yan Xiao, CEO, ZTE India and Professor Sanjeev Sanghi, dean, alumni affairs and international relations.

Startup@IITD: Advanced Technology Based Electric Performance Motorcycle

HyperX Energy Pvt. Ltd, an IIT Delhi incubated startup, is developing an Advanced Technology based Electric Performance motorcycle embedded with assistive intelligence. Besides designing and developing different components that are crucial parts of the electric vehicles, the company is also providing some components and solutions to the industries for electric vehicles. The company started to work in 2016 when the concept of electric two-wheelers was in its nascent stage. After designing and modelling the electric motorcycle, they came to IIT Delhi to develop it further. Developing smart and electric automobile technology requires infrastructure and few iterations before going to the market.

HyperX Energy aims to become the change enabler and want to be the iPhone of the Electric vehicles with optimized performance and excellent user experience. Their vehicle motorcycle may soon be launched with IIT Delhi’s designed and developed subsystems. Prof Bhim Singh mentored the team to succeed in their dream. CEO and Founder Raman Sharma says, “While incubating at IIT Delhi, I got a lot of support in product development and guidance from domain experts.”
Researchers Devise AI Tool for Reasoning About Software Performance

A research team in IIT Delhi from the computer science department have used AI and machine-learning-based techniques to create a tool that decodes the reasons behind the performance level of software at the level of source code. The researchers, Shubhankar Suman Singh (PhD student) and Prof. Smruti Ranjan Sarangi worked in collaboration with NetApp Technologies, Bangalore, that funded this project.

In less than 200 seconds the tool was able to find many reasons for the difference in performance for all kinds of open-source software, and correlate them with developers, notes or articles in the technical press. Prof Sarangi said, “Companies typically deploy an army of engineers to analyze the performance of their software and find the reasons for slowdowns, and this process can take a very long time. A large part of that can now be done with futuristic AI-based techniques.”

Point-of-Care (POC) Devices for Bedside Diagnosis of Bacteremia and Neonatal Sepsis

Septiflo is a patented technology and first-ever point-of-care device developed jointly by Prof Shalini Gupta’s group in the Dept. of Chemical Engineering at IIT Delhi and Global Medical Education & Research Foundation (GMERF) Hyderabad for detecting Gram-specific bacterial biomarkers in human plasma under 10 min (from sample collection to outcome). It combines the specificity of culture and the sensitivity of PCR and is more cost-effective than either of these two approaches. Its output is of immense value in rapid decision-making for the selection of bacterial Gram-specific narrow spectrum antibiotics, and thus, in reducing drug resistance and sepsis-related mortalities in a clinical setting.

Septiflo is now undergoing extensive clinical validation and scale-up in collaboration with healthcare centres and a few colleges, and is funded generously by BIRAC, IMPRINT and Nanomission grants.

At Least a Dozen Projects Related to COVID-19 at IIT Delhi Progressing Well, to be put out Very Soon

From low-cost ventilators and testing kits to personal protective equipment for health workers, Director IIT Delhi Prof V Ramgopal Rao has shared the institute’s work on containing the spread of the virus with the HRD Ministry, which, in turn, has forwarded it to the Health Ministry. IIT Delhi has sought the government’s assistance in facilitating tie-up with Public Sector Units to scale up production of prototypes and to mitigate difficulties faced in procuring raw material because of the lockdown.

Prof Rao said, "IIT Delhi has developed a cheap testing kit but needs help in procuring COVID positive samples to test the efficacy of its innovation. Similarly, a start-up incubated by the institute can produce one lakh N95 masks a day, but it needs the government’s help in securing permission to keep the production facility running during the lockdown."
A delegation of IITD faculty led by the Director Prof V Ramgopal Rao visited the University of Queensland, Brisbane on March 12-13. This visit was part of the UQ-IITD Joint PhD program which started in December 2018. So far 26 students have been admitted to this PhD program and the first cohort of 3 students started their 1-year stay at Brisbane in January 2020.

During this visit members of the delegation participated in the meeting of the Joint venture Board and a meeting of the Strategic Research Advisory Council (ASRAC) of the Academy. Prof Sanjeev Sanghi visited the Engineering School, gave a talk and interacted with members of the faculty. Other delegates met their research collaborators and members of the UQ advancement team.
INTERNATIONAL DELEGATIONS AT IIT DELHI

02 March 2020
Mr. Naheed Nenshi, 36th Mayor of Calgary

04 March 2020
A five member delegation led by Dr. C.C. Mushowe, Executive Director for Presidential and National Scholarships, Zimbabwe Opportunities for Zimbabwean students to study at IIT Delhi and possible methods of collaboration with IIT Delhi

06 March 2020
Swiss Delegation
An alumni interaction event was organised in the city of Melbourne in Australia on March 11, 2020. More than 12 alumni attended the event and had an interaction with Prof. Sanjeev Sanghi, Dean of Alumni Affairs and International Programmes. The meet was organised with the support of 1970 batch alumnus, Mr. Ravi Bhatia.

Further, on March 13, 2020, a much larger event was conducted to interact with the alumni in Sydney. More than 35 alumni attended this event and interacted with the IIT Delhi delegation. The delegation was headed by Director Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao and included Prof. A. K. Ganguly (Deputy Director Strategy & Planning), Prof. Sanjeev Sanghi (Dean Alumni Affairs and International Programmes), Prof. Shantanu Roy (Dean Student Affairs) and Prof. Naveen Garg (Dept. of CSE). This event was organised with support of 1977 batch alumnus, Mr. Pradeep Khanna (Btech Electrical Engg). The delegation members shared with the alumni the latest initiatives of the institute, and discussed ways to steer the IIT Delhi Endowment Fund towards its goal.

IIT Delhi in 85

In 1985, as IIT Delhi marked its 25th anniversary, Avlokan was commissioned to showcase the life on campus. The idea was conceived, designed & produced entirely by IIT Delhi students in 20 heady & fun-filled days. They describe Avlokan as a celebration of the exciting lives they led at IIT.

Avlokan was first screened on September 12 to a packed Seminar Hall on Day1 of Rendezvous '85. For a decade thereafter, it was screened every year in June at Fresher’s Orientation and formed their first look at what life would hold for them in the next four years.

At that time, it was created in the form of 363 slides threaded through by a spool of audiotape and lived in that form for the next 23 years. It has now been digitised by Veenu Pasricha (Btech, Civil Engg, batch 1986) and is available on Youtube. Here is the link for the video:

https://youtu.be/nutGfwm7Ugo
Alumni News

Online Pre-owned Car Platform Spinny Raises $43.7 M Funding

Online used car retailing platform Spinny has raised US$ 43.7 million (about Rs 315 crores) funding led by Fundamentum Partnership (FP), a growth capital fund. The series-B round also saw participation from new investors, US-based General catalyst Partners, Korea-based KB Financial Group and existing investors Accel, SAIF Partners and Alteria Capital as co-investors. Ashish Kumar, Partner, FP, will join the Spinny board.

Founded in 2015 by Niraj Singh (BTech Electrical Engg, batch 2007), Ramanshu Mahaur (BTech Computer Science, batch 2013) and Mohit Gupta, Spinny is a tech-enabled pre-owned car platform. Its online-to-offline (O2O) model allows customers to discover cars online on the website and make the final purchase offline at a Spinny Car Hub. It is currently present across four cities in India and has sold close to 10,000 cars through its platform.

Zomato Enters Fintech With Co-Branded RBL Bank Credit Card

Indian food delivery unicorn Zomato has partnered with RBL Bank to launch two co-branded credit cards, Edition Classic and Edition Card, for Zomato users. The Edition and Edition Classic cards can be used just like regular bank-issued credit cards to make payments online or offline. However, for every payment made through the credit card, users will earn Zomato credits. The Edition card also offers a global Zomato Gold membership and complimentary lounge access to all major domestic airports in India.

Founded in 2008 by Deepinder Goyal (BTech Mathematics and Computing, batch 2005) and Pankaj Chaddah (BTech Mechanical Engg, batch 2007), Zomato enabled online payments through debit cards, credit cards and net banking on its platform back in 2015. Besides this, Zomato had also launched Zomato Credits for referrals, refunds and cashback at the same time. Zomato is currently the biggest online food delivery and aggregator platform in India. Currently, the company operates in 11 countries and caters to the needs of the 48 Mn customers' Zomato serves every year.
GIVE BACK TO IIT DELHI
(March 2020)

Giving Week 2020: INR 15.7 Lakhs
IIT Delhi Benevolent Fund: INR 11.7 Lakhs
Each One Teach One: INR 7.1 Lakhs
Global Alumni Endowment Fund: INR 1 Lakh

CSE TBO Group new faculty fellowship: INR 15 Lakhs
Boss Award: INR 6 Lakhs
CS&E Research Acceleration Fund: INR 3.25 Lakhs

Prof Maithali Sharan: INR 2.75 Lakhs
Microsoft Research Lab India Pvt Ltd: INR 60,000
Miscellaneous Donations: INR 48,000
Donating back to IIT Delhi
(Foreign Currency / US$)

Donate to your Alma mater through IIT Delhi Excellence Foundation in USA and receive the Tax benefits.
Prefered payment options through -
• Tax ID # 30-00115317
• Donor Advised Funds (IITDEF is already in the system)
• Corporate matching (US corporations are used to donating to educational institutions)
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Donating back to IIT Delhi
(Indian Currency / INR ₹)

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