



# AAIP

ALUMNI AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY DELHI



**Quikr** **NUTANIX**<sup>TM</sup>  
*Aasaan hai badalna*

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ALUMNI  
NEWSLETTER

FROM THE  
PEN OF

# NAVEEN GARG

- DEAN, AAIP



Dear Alums,

Welcome to the new look alumni Newsletter of IIT Delhi. Beginning with this issue, we plan to have a feature story with every newsletter and our first feature is on the unicorns founded by IITD alums. We hope you enjoy reading it and do send us suggestions on other feature stories you would like us to do.

As the new Dean of Alumni affairs and International Programmes at IITD, my top priority would be to strength existing relationships with our alums and to forge new ones. We will be working diligently to increase our outreach and communications and we solicit your support in this endeavour. The Lifelong email id for IITD alumni is a step in this direction and I invite you to apply for one if you have not already done so by visiting <https://alumni.iitd.ac.in>.

The ongoing pandemic has brought with it a new normal and forced us to question many accepted notions. This is especially true for universities which have traditionally relied on close student teacher contact to impart knowledge and skills. AT IITD our colleagues have been experimenting with new modes of teaching and learning while making sure than no student feels left behind. Our ongoing semester, which usually ends by mid-May is delayed by a couple of months and we expect to welcome the class of 2020 into the alumni fold by mid-July. My congratulations and warm wishes to all our graduating students and their friends and families!

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy and I hope we all come out of this crisis as wiser people into a world that is a better place for all living beings.

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## CREATIVE TEAM AT WORK

Sehaj Virk  
Tushita Sharma

Ayushi Garg  
Ritu Chaudhary

Satwik Pandey

Special Thanks to *Ashish Gupta*



# FOREWORD

*Alumni Affairs and International Programmes Newsletter*



## *Unicorns from IIT Delhi*

Unicorns. These mythical creatures might never have imagined they would trot into the modern-day startup lexicon as demigods - for they are companies that are valued at over 1 billion US Dollars! Helmed by superstar founders, their journey is celebrated profoundly by the media. For many founders, achieving unicorn status is a mere fantasy. In fact, less than two per cent of startups will achieve a billion-dollar valuation.

In this fierce tug-of-war, India has emerged as the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world and we are proud that IIT Delhi graduates are in the lead. Our country is home to several unicorn companies ranging from e-commerce giants like Flipkart to cab aggregators like Ola. IIT Delhi alumni have made their presence felt as founders in nearly half of these startups and propelled our institute as the frontrunner in the unicorn race in our country. To highlight the brilliant start-up culture at IIT Delhi, the upcoming newsletters will be focusing on some of the prominent startups from our institute, which had earned their right to be called a unicorn by the end of 2019. It will then be followed by the news buzz from the institute. In this process, we have reached out to our prestigious alumni-base to collect its opinions and give this newsletter a unique flavour. Hope you enjoy reading this as much as the team enjoyed creating it.

## IN THIS ISSUE

*Policy Bazaar*

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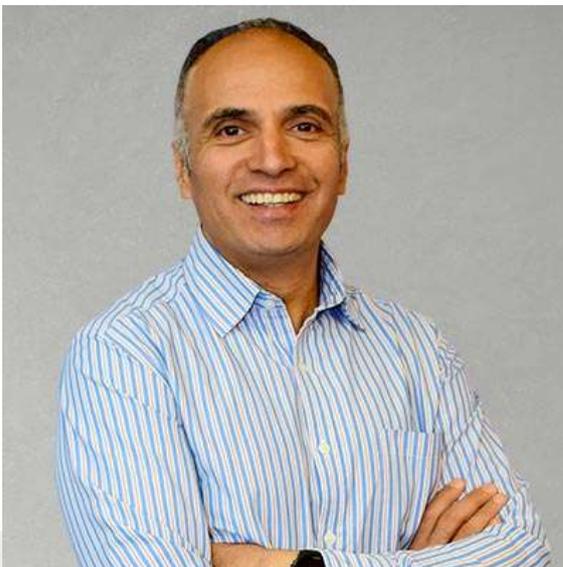
*Alumni News*

*IITD News*



## About the Company

Policybazaar is the largest Indian insurance aggregator and a global financial technology startup. The company was founded in June 2008 by Yashish Dahiya, Alok Bansal, and Avaneesh Nirjar. It joined the coveted unicorn club in 2018 and is valued at over US\$1.65 billion. It provides a digital platform - website and app - where users compare financial services from major insurance companies. It enables consumers to compare and analyze financial products such as medical, term life, travel or motor insurance, low prices ULIPS, and other investment products. The company's revenues grew by 85% in 2018-19. It gets more than 100 million visitors annually and facilitates over 5,00,000 transactions a month.



## About the Founder

Yashish Dahiya has a Bachelor's in Technology from IIT Delhi (Batch of 1994), a PGP degree from IIM Ahmedabad, and an MBA from INSEAD. He is presently the CEO of PolicyBazaar. He also started PaisaBazaar.com (100% subsidiary of Policybazaar), an online financial marketplace for investment and lending products in 2014. Yashish has launched Docprime, a doctor-on-call model with sights set on transforming the healthcare industry. Yashish likes to spend his spare time outdoors, he represented India in Masters Swimming World Championship, and he is the fifth-fastest Ironman from India across all ages.

## What was your inspiration behind the startup?

In the insurance sector, the big problem was that of perception. The insurance industry is a distribution led business that calls for an enormous amount of sales push. Insurance suffered from lack of consumer engagement, apathy and was mostly viewed as a devil that could be tackled some time in the future. Therefore, it was a challenge getting everyone to start thinking about the 'customer first', and educating the customer to start thinking about what was important to him, like Health and Term insurance. I would say 'Life Insurance', but that term in India is usually used for blended investment products that also provide a bit of insurance. So, pure life insurance products in India are forced to adopt the word 'term' insurance. That in a way captures the irony of the insurance business in the country.

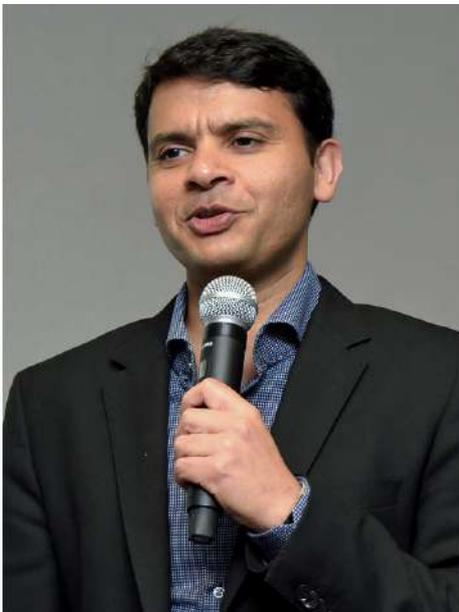
## Can you tell us how your time at IITD gave you insights about your future?

It was a bit too early for that. We were just out of school and had a memorable and enjoyable time with sports and social activities. Honestly, I was not thinking too much about the career ahead or sought to gather insights. The hard work I put in and the friendships I forged at IIT did stand me in good stead all along.



## About the Company

Nutanix, Inc. is a cloud computing company that sells hyper-converged infrastructure (HCI) software, cloud services (such as Desktop as a service, Disaster Recovery as a service, and cloud monitoring), and software-defined storage. Nutanix was founded on September 23, 2009, by Dheeraj Pandey, Mohit Aron (CSE Batch of 1995), and Ajeet Singh. Mohit Aron left the company in early 2013 to start Cohesity, another unicorn. The company reached a \$1 billion valuation by 2013, and in 2014 after another round of financing, it was valued at almost \$ 2 billion. It has acquired several smaller companies now and is backed by Lightspeed Venture Partners, Khosla Ventures, and Blumberg Capital



## About the Founder

Mohit Aron earned his Bachelor of Science in computer science from IIT Delhi in 1995 and continued his studies at Rice University, where he received a Ph.D. in computer science with a focus on distributed systems. He is currently the co-founder and CEO of Cohesity, which delivers the industry's first hyper-converged secondary storage for backup, test/dev, file services, and analytic datasets. He is known as the father of hyper-converged infrastructure and has also received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT) in 2019.

**You visited IIT Delhi a couple of times last year. Can you tell your most nostalgic moment? And what were the things you realized didn't change over time?**

Visiting our old classrooms in the Main building, and the classrooms in Block 6 was quite nostalgic. Also going to Nilgiri hostel and stopping by the rooms where I stayed brought back some old memories.

There are some new buildings (e.g., the new Lecture hall), but by and large, the IITD campus is pretty much the same as what it was in 1995 when I graduated with a B.Tech."

**Mohit Aron believes...\***

"Life is not just about accumulating stuff that life gives to you. It's also a lot about giving back. For me personally, that is both monetarily and also with one's time. So with that in mind, I try to give back in multiple ways."

\*From an interview by Yitzi Weiner on Medium.com



## About the Company

Cohesity provides hyper-converged platform that eliminates the complexity and operational inefficiencies of traditional data protection and recovery solutions by unifying end-to-end data protection and recovery infrastructure – including target storage, backup, replication, disaster recovery, and cloud tiering. Cohesity was founded in 2013 at San Jose, USA to simplify data infrastructure. The company reached the unicorn status in 2018 after funding by SoftBank Vision Fund. It has now reached \$2.5 billion valuation and looking to capture a bigger market.



While still in stealth mode, it closed a Series A funding round of \$15M.

The company launched publicly in June 2015, introducing a platform designed to consolidate and manage secondary data. In October, Cohesity announced the public launch of its data management products, DataPlatform and DataProtect. As part of coming out of stealth mode, the company announced a Series B funding round of \$55M, bringing its total at that point to \$70M

Recently, Cohesity launched its online MarketPlace to sell applications that run on its DataPlatform. In May, the company made its first acquisition by buying Imanis Data, a provider of NoSQL data protection software. In July, the company announced it would be recognizing revenue predominantly from software, transitioning away from recognizing hardware revenue from the sale of backup appliances

## What drove you to move from Nutanix to launch Cohesity? What were the lessons you learnt from Nutanix and helped you avoid pitfalls in the future?

Nutanix operated with ‘primary data’ – which is the data we touch in our production use cases. The bulk of the data (about 80%), an enterprise customer deals with is ‘secondary data’ – everything that sits outside of production. E.g., backups, analytics, test & development etc. You can roughly think of the primary data as the tip of an iceberg while the secondary data is the part of the iceberg that’s below the surface of the water.

I left Nutanix to start Cohesity that’ll disrupt the area of Data Management – which starts by addressing issues in the secondary data space. Some of the lessons I learnt from Nutanix were:

- (1) Hire the best founding team possible
- (2) Hire great leaders
- (3) Gather all the requirements before starting to architect the system
- (4) Don’t take shortcuts in building the technology – they’ll hurt you later.



## About the Company

Quikr, India's leading cross-category platform that is used by over 30 million unique users a month. It is present in 1200 cities in India and operates several large classifieds businesses across C2C, Cars, Education, Homes, Jobs and Services. Quikr is accessible across mobile apps, mobile sites as well as the desktop, and allows consumers as well as small businesses to sell, buy, rent and find things across its multiple categories with great ease. Its investors include Tiger Global Management, Kinnevik, Warburg Pincus and many more.



## About the Founder

Pranay Chulet grew up in Rajasthan, graduated in Chemical Engineering from IIT Delhi and earned his MBA degree from IIM Calcutta with a Gold Medal in 1996. After his education, he moved to New York to join Mitchell Madison Group, a strategy consulting firm that advised clients in the media and finance industries. Within two years, he launched a startup focused on helping small businesses convert online leads into paying customers, which later merged with Walker Digital. His work at Walker Digital earned him a US patent in the area of matchmaking between buyers and sellers. In 2007-2008, Pranay discovered the power of online classifieds and the impact it had on revenues of the newspaper publishing houses at the time. Sensing the enormous potential in India, Pranay moved back to start the country's first home-grown online classifieds platform: Quikr with Jiby Thomas. He is also an avid follower of films and likes them to the extent that he learnt film making at the New York Film Academy.

## Could you provide an insight into some of your greatest achievements after becoming the CEO of Quikr?

To me, building Quikr into our country's first homegrown online classifieds platform is the single most important achievement that birthed many other game-changing innovations. Be it the launch of many industry firsts like our missed call service, Chat in-app feature, Maximum Selling Price (MSP), or QuikrScanner to check the health of the phone, we always followed our instinct to innovate and bridge the gap between aspirations & affordability for Indian consumers.

With the launch of Quikr Doorstep, we also became India's first and only platform to bring the convenience of e-commerce to pre-owned goods by facilitating price negotiations, payment, pick-up, and delivery across the country. We witnessed the real power of the platform when we took another bold step and became the first horizontal classifieds platform to have chosen the verticalization path. We expanded our footprint in C2C, Services, Cars, Homes, and Jobs, thereby building categories that have strong growth potential through these verticals.

Our most recent association with Centre for Environment Education (CEE) to spread awareness on the environmental benefits associated with reusing goods could not have been better timed especially given the unprecedented situation.

# Flipkart



## About the Company

Flipkart is an Indian e-commerce company based in Bangalore, Karnataka, India. The company initially focused on book sales, before expanding into other product categories such as consumer electronics, fashion, home essentials & groceries, and lifestyle products. Flipkart is significantly dominant in the sale of apparel (a position that was bolstered by its acquisition of Myntra) and was described as being "neck and neck" with Amazon in the sale of electronics and mobile phones. Flipkart also owns PhonePe, a mobile payments service based on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). In August 2018, Walmart acquired a 77% controlling stake in Flipkart for US\$16 billion, valuing it at \$20 billion. After this acquisition, the company exited the Unicorn Club.



## About the Founders

Flipkart was launched by Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal in October 2007. Both grew up in Chandigarh and later studied at IIT Delhi (CSE, Batch of 2005). After working in different companies for a year they both ended up at Amazon and that is when the idea was born to establish their own company. Their hard work and persistence soon led to 50 million customers buying everything, from mobile phones to jewellery, through Flipkart every day. In April 2016, both were named to Time magazine's list of The 100 Most Influential People. Last year, Mr. Binny Bansal was awarded the IIT Delhi Distinguished Alumni Award. They are managing their own startups now.

## What would you do differently if you could do it all over again?

You don't need to reinvent the wheel to be an entrepreneur.

If I were to do something differently all over again, it would be spending time finding the right people who have already solved similar problems, which I thought were unique to Flipkart.

Instead of slowly and painfully solving all the problems by myself, I would have looked at learning from others and utilising my time judiciously.

## Having built an outstanding career so far, what advice would you want to give to the students currently hoping to achieve what you have?

My advice would be to stay focussed and not let failures or challenges bog you down.

Learn from your mistakes and keep an open mind to adapt quickly. Keep inspiring yourself, create new experiences for yourself and be persistent about achieving your end goal.

-Binny Bansal

# ALUMNI NEWS

## INDIFI LAUNCHES "PRAGATI" & PARTNERS WITH TIE-DELHI

Indifi Technologies, a digital lending platform for small and medium businesses has launched a collaborative resource centre, "Pragati", to help around 20 million micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) deal with aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic. It has inked several deals that will provide plug-and-play solutions to the problems of MSMEs. Users will have to input some basic details about their business on the free platform.



Indifi Technologies was founded by IIT Delhi alumnus Alok Mittal (Computer science batch of 1994) in 2015. The company announced a partnership with TiE-Delhi NCR to support its customers in providing growth capital. It aims to expand its portfolio to include startups with a recurring revenue stream and is providing them with a growth capital worth Rs 10 lakh to Rs 2 crore. It will leverage this tie-up to deliver its revenue-based financing to startups looking to expand their business and enrich their service offerings by adding more verticals to their existing models.

## CREDGENICS LAUNCHES A DEBT RESOLUTION PLATFORM & RAISES FUNDING

Credgenics, a Delhi based start-up founded by eminent lawyers Rishabh Goel (BTech EP, 2016), Anand Agrawal (Dual Degree CS, 2017), and Mayank Khara, has raised USD 300,000 of funding from Titan Capital. The fund was backed by SnapDeal Founders Kunal Bahl and Rohit Bansal (IITD Alumni). The investment round also witnessed participation from many other seasoned investors, like Rajesh Razdan, Founder of mCarbon, Ajay Garg, MD, Equirus Capital etc. The startup has earmarked the proceeds from funding to scale its operations in all metro cities of India, streamline, strengthen its R&D on product development, and also to acquire new clients.

Recently Credgenics has also unveiled a debt resolution platform that combines the power of artificial intelligence with data science to optimise and standardise the debt collection activities. The platform is an end-to-end SaaS-based collection management tool that delivers customised strategies and recommends optimal legal routes to facilitate faster resolution of stressed assets which helps creditors efficiently improve their NPA, geographic reach and customer on-boarding.



## VEHANT TECHNOLOGIES BEATS COVID-19 BLUES WITH AI-POWERED PRODUCTS

Vehant Technologies, a start-up incubated by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi in 2005, has sensed an opportunity in the 'colossal crisis' of the Covid pandemic. It was founded by Anoop G Prabhu (Integrated BTech + MTech Batch of 2002) and Kapil Bardeja (MBA Class of 2003). They have developed a solution for AI-based automated temperature monitoring. It combines a thermal camera and a visual camera. The dual system called the Febri eye is meant for face mask detection. The company also offers 'Black Body', a constant temperature source that ensures accuracy in temperature readings of up to 0.3°Celsius (+/-). The device helps maintain a stable thermodynamic ambience and the camera calibrates the readings. Besides automated cameras, It has also rolled out the Covid Analytics suite which is a pure software moduling product that detects social distancing and face mask. It has applications in industries, government buildings, etc.



# ALUMNI NEWS

## RAJIV LAROIA WINS THE IEEE ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL MEDAL

The 2020 IEEE Alexander Graham Bell Medal sponsored by Nokia Bell Labs was presented to Rajiv Laroia (B.Tech. Electrical Engineering 1985 Batch) recently for his contributions to cellular wireless data systems. The medal is given for exceptional contributions to communications, networking sciences, and engineering. He developed Flash-OFDM which is integral in transitioning cellular voice access systems to the wireless data access systems that have mobilized our access to the Internet via smartphones, tablets, and wireless modems. The different aspects of Flash-OFDM, plus many other concepts developed by Laroia and his teams, helped form the basis for the LTE and 4G systems that are powering today's mobile broadband communications.



In 2007 he received the IIT Delhi Distinguished Alumni Award .An IEEE Fellow and recipient of the 2018 Eduard Rhein Technology Award, Laroia is the founder and chief technology officer of The Light Company, Far Hills, USA.

## EDUBRISK STARTS VIRTUAL CLASSROOM PROGRAM

EduBrisk Knowledge Solutions, founded by Saiju Aravind (Masters Applied Mechanics / Naval Construction 1995 Batch) launched their revolutionary educational program 'Classroom to Virtual Classroom within the next 24 hours' that enables schools and freelance teachers to go live within 24 hours. The firm has invested in high-quality human resources to start this education program in India and has on-boarded 30 schools till now. For the program, they have tied -up with multiple third party video-conference tools based on school's preference. It first downloads the data provided by the school and then conducts a School Teacher Empowerment Program (STEP) for all teachers to familiarize them with the processes and methodologies of EduBrisk. The link for the Virtual Classes can be shared by the Class Teacher to their students. The Virtual Classroom Feature allows tracking usage of teachers and students, and test reports of students class-wise and individually. Students can also interact with the teacher LIVE using the chat feature and can access a recorded version of the interaction at the end of the session.



## LEMON TREE HOTELS LAUNCH "REST ASSURED" PROGRAM

Lemon Tree Hotels, an award-winning Indian hotel chain, founded by Patu Keswani (BTech Electrical Engineering, 1981) in 2002 has been making headlines recently because of their soaring share prices and a newly launched hygiene initiative. After low quarterly profit results due to COVID, the government's decision to allow hotels to operate from June 8, saw its share price jump by 5%. The hotel chain is hoping to raise ₹150 crore through a rights issue to deal with the current situation.

The company has also launched a program named "Rest Assured" to showcase its commitment to creating an environment focused on health, hygiene, safety, and well-being, in partnership with Diversey. As part of the initiative, the company has executed a new set of house rules to be followed by guests, visitors, and team members within each property to maximize safety and hygiene. The rules focus on adherence to social distancing norms, use of clinically approved PPEs, regular temperature checks, innovative and rigorous sanitary methods, and adoption of digital solutions wherever possible.



# ALUMNI NEWS

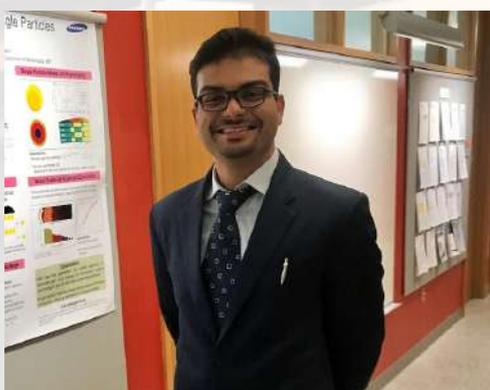
## DR INDU BHUSHAN TO RECEIVE GLOBAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



**D**r Indu Bhushan, an alumnus of IIT BHU and IIT Delhi where he completed his Bachelors and Masters respectively, has recently been selected by the John Hopkins University for the Global Achievement Award. The award is bestowed to recognize the exceptional contributions of alumni of the university who have great professional or humanitarian achievements. He spent his time at John Hopkins University completing his Doctorate in Health Economics and a Master of Health Sciences.

Currently he is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB – PMJAY) and the National Health Authority (NHA), Government of India.

Bhushan is a bureaucrat-turned-economist with a career spanning 35 years across a multitude of sectors. He served for nine years in the IAS prior to leaving government service.



## ANKUR GARG HONOURED BY HARVARD

**I**T Delhi alumnus and Indian Administrative Service officer, Ankur Garg (B.Tech. Electrical and Electronics Engineering, 2002) received the Raymond Vernon Award on graduating from Harvard University in May 2020 in on Public Administration in International Development.



The honor was bestowed upon him for his dedication to international development, good citizenship, academic excellence and strong potential to contribute to the field. Ankur was congratulated by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu for being an “inspiration” to many young officers. He has held a record for being India’s youngest civil service entrance exam topper in 2002. He was also in the spotlight last year when he scored 171/170 in macroeconomics at Harvard. To him, the award adds value beyond recognizing his academic performance.

## IIT DELHI ALUMNUS SHINES AMONG MIT PHD STUDENTS FOR HIS ALL ROUND PERFORMANCE

**S**upratim Das, an B.Tech. and M.Tech. graduate in Chemical Engineering, 2016 Batch from IIT Delhi, has recently been recognized and praised by MIT for outstanding all-round contribution to student life by a PhD student. Das and his collaborators, in their doctoral research have been able to understand the microscopic changes that degrade a lithium-ion battery’s electrodes over its lifetime, and presently are trying to investigate the best way to charge a Li-ion battery without damaging it. This will aid battery manufacturers to substantially reduce battery health diagnostics costs before it is incorporated into a device, and make batteries safer for consumers.

Das represented his branch on the Graduate Student Advisory Board. He also launched a community service initiative within the department to mentor school children and volunteer at nonprofits in Cambridge once a week. The institute is proud of his achievements.

Source - <http://news.mit.edu/2020/lighting-way-better-battery-technology-supratim-das-0601>

## MICROSOFT BACKS IIT DELHI FOR COVID-19 SOLUTIONS

Microsoft India has offered financial and technical support in the form of resource and infrastructure, to two Covid-19 solutions developed by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi.

One of them pertains to ICMR approved probe-free real-time PCR-based COVID-19 detection assay developed at the Kusuma School of Biological Sciences, IIT Delhi. This probe-free technology will be more affordable and easily scalable.

The other project is a collaboration between IIT Delhi and National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, and aims to develop an ELISA based diagnostic serological assay against COVID-19. If successful, it will 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 to the COVID-19 outbreak. The grant from Microsoft will help in commercialisation and research of different assays.



## IIT DELHI JOIN HANDS WITH NIT-W FOR ACADEMIC COLLABORATION

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi and National Institute of Technology (NIT) Warangal have signed an MoU for collaboration on academic and research activities. On the academic front, the MoU will offer meritorious B.Tech. students of NIT Warangal, an opportunity to carry out part of their studies including project work at IIT Delhi. NITW students who have 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 4th year at IIT Delhi at no extra charges. They will then be considered for direct admission to the Ph.D. programmes at IIT Delhi, without appearing for GATE or any other national level examination. The MoU also proposes the exchange of B.Tech, M.Tech. students and research scholars of the two premier institutions for courses, research activities, internships, and project work. On the research front, faculty from both the institutions will collaborate in joint research in disciplines of mutual interest.



## NANOSAFE LAUNCHES REUSABLE ANTIMICROBIAL MASK

As the country struggles to meet the demand for masks and other healthcare supplies, an IIT Delhi start-up, Nanosafe Solutions Pvt Ltd. has developed an antimicrobial and washable mask. The mask can be washed up to 50 times and provides a cost-effective alternative to the other masks available. The product is named "NSafe" and the team of researchers behind its development is headed by Dr. Anasuya Roy, an alumna of IIT Delhi who is the founder and CEO of the company and Prof. Mangala Joshi from the

Department of Textile Engineering. NSafe mask has 99.2% bacterial filtration efficiency (at 3 microns) and complies with ASTM standards of breathability and splash resistance. The mask is extremely comfortable and breathable. Elastic band in the chin region and wire in the nose region provides adequate fit of the mask to the wearer. NSafe mask is a premium product that is available at MRP of Rs. 299 (Pack of 2) and Rs. 589 (Pack of 4) on online order. The company has launched other products now under Acquire category.

## IIT DELHI DEVELOPS PPE COVERALLS

Two teams at IIT have created Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). One of them, led by researchers at the Department of Textile and Fibre Engineering has resulted in the development of a PPE coverall, which integrates bodysuit and shoe cover, for use by those involved in the treatment of coronavirus-infected patients. The team behind developing an advanced version of PPE coverall is SM Ishtiaque, professor emeritus from textile department and his student, Biswa Ranjan Das who is working in DRDO, Kanpur. The researchers have collaborated with G. D. International certified company to produce them.

The second product 'Flex Protect' is developed by Uflex, one of India's largest multinational flexible packaging company in collaboration with Centre for Bio Medical Engineering, IIT Delhi. The protective coverall is made from a combination of Non-Woven Polypropylene Fabric and further impregnated with Anti-Microbial PP Coating through a special process to increase the breathability. Prof. Harpal Singh, Head of the centre, was involved in the project.



Left:  
Manufactured  
by G.D  
International



Right:  
Manufactured  
by Uflex

## IIT DELHI PARTNERS WITH PNBHFL

In an effort to combat coronavirus spread, PNB Housing Finance Ltd (PNBHFL) and Indian Institute of Technology Delhi have signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The MoU will support critical research and development of a unique prototype material to be used in manufacturing affordable, sustainable, and reusable personal protective equipment, surgical gowns and masks. PNBHFL will fund the Department of Textile and Fibre Engineering, IIT Delhi using its corporate social responsibility funds for fast-tracked R&D of high-quality PPE material. The prototype will be tested at government-accredited labs.

The knit construction for the mask will be optimised for a secure 3D-fit around the face with a layer of melt-blown, non-woven material in between ensuring efficient filtration and barrier protection with good breathability. For the gown, the fabric and lamination process can be engineered in achieving a stretchable, non-permeable gown adhering to international standards. Under this joint initiative, IIT Delhi start-up ETEX will be working to develop and deliver smart textile solutions for healthcare. KAWACH, a product of ETEX, has already been launched to provide a cost-effective mask.



## IIT DELHI GETS A NEW WEBSITE

A brand new website of the Institute was launched in the month of May. The website has been designed by the CSC team of the Institute led by Mr. K. Narayanan. The new website can be viewed on [iitd.ac.in](http://iitd.ac.in). Prof. V.Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi has shared a tweet in this regard: "Keeping with the changing times and keeping pace with the technology, IIT Delhi launched a brand new website today for the institute. Visit us at <http://iitd.ac.in>. Thanks to the CSC team led by Mr. K. Narayanan for this great effort."

## IIT DELHI TO FOCUS ON AATMNIIRBHAR BHARAT

In the present global scenario, the country is experiencing an unprecedented need to build a self-reliant India or an Aatmniirbhar Bharat. IIT Delhi, with its numerous initiatives to mitigate the many risks of the COVID-19 disease appears well poised to lead such efforts. The institute is already amongst the top 10 global institutes producing the most Unicorn founders. It ranks first in the country in terms of the number of startups and total funds raised by startups. The institute has invested over Rs 350 Cr in the last few years to solve grand challenges by leveraging high-tech research facilities. The upcoming Research & Innovation Park on the campus will enhance research translation and joint R&D with industry and support >100 startups at a time.

Prof Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi stated that: "Our goal at IIT Delhi is to produce more job providers rather than job seekers. Every second student at IIT Delhi is now dreaming of becoming an entrepreneur." IIT Delhi's unique support programs towards innovation and entrepreneurship are laying the foundation for a giant leap into the future.

**#UnlimIITD**  
Putting knowledge into practice

IIT Delhi is amongst top 10 global institutes producing Unicorn founders.  
IIT Delhi ranks first in the Country in terms of number of startups & total funds raised by startups.

Structured initiatives at IIT Delhi to strengthen the translational research / start-up eco-system on the campus and contribute to a self-reliant India.

- Problem First Approach**
  - Solving Grand Challenges by leveraging high-tech research facilities. Over Rs 350 Cr invested in the last few years.
- Collaborations**
  - National & International programs, support to national missions & engagement with over 200 industries in last 4 years.
- Multidisciplinary R&D and Impact**
  - Research budget up by 300% in last 4 years. Yearly over 150 patents filed & over 2000 research articles published. Over 150 projects funded under FIRP/IFIRP.
- Immersion Programs**
  - Faculty and Students are encouraged to spend time in villages, industries, hospitals etc. to get exposure to real world situations.
- Support to Student Innovations**
  - Student Startup Action Plan, Discover & Learn 1-2-3-4, Platform for Harnessing Deep-technologies (PHD) incubator.
- Inter-Institutional Partnerships**
  - Over 80 projects initiated in the last two years with AIIMS, NCTU, IIT, IISc, agricultural institutes, IIT institutions etc.
- Faculty Ventures**
  - Enabling faculty start-ups through funding & 2yr leave under Faculty Innovation & Research-driven Entrepreneurship (FIRE).
- Alumni Support**
  - Contribution towards funding & mentorship for entrepreneurship & other programs.

Creativity happens when "unlike" minds come together.  
The Institute is actively finding solutions to societal challenges like COVID-19.  
Come, join hands with us, and be a part of this success story.

## IIT DELHI PERFORMS WELL IN ENGINEERING CATEGORY OF NIRF & QS RANKINGS 2020

IIT Delhi has secured the second rank in the engineering category in NIRF India Rankings 2020, announced by Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank. IIT Delhi has also bagged place among the top three educational institutes across the country in the overall category. The institute is proud to be the highest-scoring institute in parameters such as research, professional practice, outreach, and inclusivity among the top three institutes in the engineering category.

### नेशनल इंस्टिट्यूशनल रैंकिंग फ्रेमवर्क लिस्ट 2020



रैंक 1 IIT मद्रास

रैंक 2 IISc बेंगलुरु

रैंक 3 IIT दिल्ली

IIT Delhi ranked 3rd this year in the QS India Universities rankings. It has risen one rank up to being number 2 from last year in the country amongst the engineering category. In QS World Rankings 2020-21, IIT Delhi is placed at 193rd Rank. In the Engineering & Technology (Subject wise) Ranking, the institute rose to 47th rank.

Prof Rao, Director IIT Delhi has written in a social media post, "IIT Delhi is known in India, and thanks to Hon'ble HRM's personal efforts people are beginning to realize that we are indeed working for the society and doing well. But international reputation needs an altogether different strategy. We need a global campaign like what the country has done with "Incredible India" for tourism". IIT Delhi has done quite well in Global citations per faculty. The Global median is 37 citations per faculty and currently the institute stands at 116. He also believes that the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) should have an international outlook.

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN UN-WFP AND IIT DELHI

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and IIT Delhi have joined forces to strengthen and enhance the Government's food safety net by innovating and developing various solutions through operational research and advanced analytics. Mr. Bishow Parajuli, Country Director of World Food Programme India, was there at the signing.



The objective of this partnership is to develop practical solutions that support long term strategic planning of procurement, storage, and movement of food grains by agencies such as the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and also create cost-effective supply chain networks for distribution of these food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) at the state level. Both IIT-Delhi and WFP will work with the state and central governments and analyse operational data such as current stocks, projected yields, and consumption figures. Through this research they will identify the challenges and provide solutions which aim to ensure a constant supply of food grains in a cost-effective and administratively efficient manner.

## SONA COMSTAR TIES UP WITH IIT DELHI TO FUND START-UPS

IIT Delhi's FITT, India's foremost technology transfer organisation, has signed a multi-year agreement with automotive major Sona Comstar to support innovative startups. Under the agreement, selected startups in the area of e-mobility will receive mentorship and funds up to Rs. 80 lakh with an option to retain its IP (Intellectual Property). This is a first of its kind industry support programme in this area. The partnership is an opportunity for innovation, design, and development of indigenous technologies, according to Dr. Anil Wali, Managing Director of Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FIIT), IIT Delhi. "IIT Delhi wants to engage with the industry to strengthen startup programmes in academia as this is a good way to quickly bring new technologies to market", Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi said about this partnership.

## IIT DELHI COVID TESTING KITS TO HIT THE MARKETS SOON

Genei Laboratories, a Bengaluru-based biotech company, was the first company to get the non-exclusive licence from IIT-Delhi to manufacture and commercialise the latter's low-cost, real-time PCR diagnostic assay kit for Covid-19. Notably, IIT-Delhi is the first academic institute in India to get ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) approval for the indigenously developed kit. While standard RT-PCR kits in the market are probe-based, this design does away with probes completely and detects Covid-19-specific RNA sequences in samples. As a result, the cost of testing is reduced to a fraction. The kits are being manufactured in a facility at the Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ) in Visakhapatnam and are expected to be rolled out soon.

New Delhi-based New Tech Medical Devices will offer the kit named 'CoroSure' at about Rs 400 a piece and is ready with the kits to sell them. IIT-Delhi has also transferred the technology to seven more companies – JITM Skills, Wrig Nanosystems, Medipol Pharmaceutical, Meril Diagnostic, Pontika Aerotech, Bio-Med and TCM. They were given the licence with a price rider so that companies do not hike once commercialised.



Left: Genei Laboratories Kit  
Right: New Tech Medical Devices Kit

# IIT Delhi Fights CoViD

## Safe Hostels

The hostels are an integral part of the student experience at IITD and so we are especially focussed on making our hostels CoViD safe before welcoming students back to campus. We are installing pedal operated and sensor activated taps and sanitizing units and buying PPE kits, temperature scanners, ULV foggers for use in the hostels.

## Benevolent Fund

Many people who serve the IITD community have been hit-hard by this pandemic. The benevolent fund launched a couple of months ago has done a yeoman's service in providing support to such people and to help them tide over these difficult times.

## Supporting Online Learning

Teaching in the forthcoming semester will have to be mostly online because of the pandemic. We have planned for this possibility, but we face the challenge of providing "last mile connectivity" to our students from economically weaker sections as well as students living in remote areas with poor internet connectivity.

We need your help to combat this crisis and continue to provide our students a rich learning and living experience and to support the less fortunate members of our community. We have launched a donation campaign IITDfightsCoViD and hope to raise 5 Crore Rupees from alumni, corporates and philanthropists. We hope you will contribute generously to this campaign and share this message with fellow alums.

For bank account details, go to  
<https://iitd.almaconnect.com/donations/iit-delhi-fights-covid-1>

# HAVE A MOMENT?

*As mentioned in the Dean's message, we have changed our newsletter pattern and design. With a new set of students part of the AAIP team, we felt it presented the perfect opportunity to redesign our newsletter. We want our newsletter to provide our audience with something they can't get from other channels. To achieve this, the team explored different creative ideas to give a fresh feel. Each of our subsequent editions will revolve around a particular theme with the aim of incorporating content from thought leaders & influencers around the world, who once studied at our very own institute. We hope you enjoyed our first edition which focused on "Unicorns of IIT Delhi". We are constantly looking for inputs to improve the next editions and understand your expectations from us. We would be very grateful if you could spare a few minutes to fill the following feedback form.*

[IITD.INFO/NEWSLETTER\\_FEEDBACK](https://iitd.info/newsletter-feedback)

AAIP OFFICE TEAM AT WORK

Ayesha Kutay

Jyoti Kala

Amit Kumar