IIT Delhi has witnessed a robust growth in the last few months. The academic landscape was dotted with stimulating lectures from experts, a boost in infrastructure health and a vibrant research and development platform. The newsletter gives you a small glimpse of the major activities while encapsulating the new initiatives taken up on the various areas.
Welcome to all of you for the launch of our first IIT Delhi Newsletter. This is an effort from us to connect with you. IIT Delhi is a large family with over 500 faculty, close to 9000 students, 700 staff members and around 50,000 alumni. So there is so much happening and so much to share.

We are on a major expansion drive at IIT Delhi, both in terms of civil infrastructure, new academic programmes and faculty/staff recruitment. Construction work is expected to begin in the next few months for two new engineering blocks, a girls hostel, a boys hostel, a faculty housing complex, a science park and a new sports complex. We are also in the process of integrating two extension campuses located in Sonipat and Jhajjar in Haryana, adding over 100 acres to our R&D needs. Senate has already approved a new School for Interdisciplinary Research (SIR) and a new Department of Design, which are expected to start operations very soon. Proposals for initiating two new academic programmes are also in an advanced stage of discussion. We are significantly enhancing our R&D facilities available in the Central Research Facility (CRF) as well as the Nano-fabrication Research Facility (NRF) with a funding of over Rs 80 Crores (US$14 Million) this year. We hope to recruit over 100 postdoctoral fellows to assist us in our teaching and research needs. Major administrative reforms have been undertaken recently by drafting new recruitment and promotion policies for staff, which are expected to streamline the administrative processes.

A delegation from IIT Delhi will be visiting a few leading US universities in the second half of June this year with the goal to recruit faculty and connect with our alumni. If you are interested in helping us with this visit or looking for a faculty position at IIT Delhi, please get in touch with us. We wish to speak with you.

The three words that will guide our future vision are Expansion, Excellence and Inclusion. While Expansion and Excellence are easy to comprehend, the Inclusion part becomes important to us at this stage. We wish to have our students, faculty and staff interact with the society at large and look for solutions to the societal problems. We wish to be known as an institute whose research has made a positive difference to the society. As always, we depend on you - our friends and well wishers, to support us in our endeavors.
An Institute Lecture was organized by **Prof. Naveen Garg** on October 18, 2016. It was also an occasion to publicly felicitate Prof. Garg for getting the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award for Outstanding Contributions to Mathematical Sciences in India.

**Prof. Joel Butler** of Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, USA gave an Institute Lecture on “Looking beyond the Standard Model of Particle Physics with the CMS Detector” on November 11, 2016.

An Institute Lecture was held on February 22, 2017 on “Recent Developments in Climate and Environment Science and Global Policy” by **Lord Professor Julian Hunt**, from the Department of Earth Science, UCL, Trinity College, and the House of Lords (UK).

The institute celebrated the Foundation Day on February 27, 2017. **Ms. Sunita Narain**, Director General, Centre for Science and Environment gave a stimulating talk on Environment’s development challenge in a climate-risked and insecure world: the role of engineers and scientists.

The National Science Day was celebrated on February 28, 2017. Three speakers including **Prof. M. Balakrishnan**, Professor of Computer Science & Engineering and Deputy Director, IIT Delhi, **Prof. U. Singh**, Professor & Head, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, AIIMS and **Mr. V.R. Mehta**, Executive President, Bhagwan Mahaveer Vikalp Sahayata Samiti enlightened the audience on Science and Technology for the Specially Abled Persons.
During the Alumni Day, 2016, the Director launched the new Alumni Portal of the Institute. It provides facility to the Alumni to network, connect and search other Alumni by way of batch, location profession etc. It also allows them to post Job offerings for the Alumni. The Institute has been conducting Donation campaigns on the portal and a number of Alumni have come forward to contribute through the portal. The portal provides online contribution facility by way of wire transfer, International Credit/Debit cards etc.

Mr. John F. Kerry, Secretary of States US interacted with the IITD students on August 31, 2016

Golden Jubilee Reunion for the 1st batch IITD, 1966 was celebrated on December 17, 2016. The Silver Jubilee-1992 batch was held December 22-23, 2016.

The Canadian Minister of Innovation Science & Economic Development, Mr. Navdeep S Bains visited IIT Delhi on Nov 7, 2016. He addressed the students on the subject How diversity leads to an innovative economy & prosperity.
Pearl Reunion of 1980 and 1981 batches was held on March 5, 2017. During the day long programme, the Alumni interacted with the Director, other senior management and student representatives of the Institute.

An Interaction between Brian Acton, Co-Founder, WhatsApp and the students of IIT Delhi was held on February 24, 2017 in the Seminar Hall. For more details on the programme please visit [http://www.iitd.ac.in/content/brian-acton-whatsapp-cofounder-iit-delhi](http://www.iitd.ac.in/content/brian-acton-whatsapp-cofounder-iit-delhi)

A ceremony was held in the Board Room to flag off the team of IIT Delhi Alumni as they embarked upon an ambitious expedition to Sagarmatha (Mount Everest). The Director handed over the flag of the Institute to them and conveyed his best wishes.

The Institute’s annual Alumni Day was celebrated on December 18, 2016.

Know our Alumni

Mr. Jyoti Bansal is a Silicon Valley leader, product visionary and entrepreneur. He founded AppDynamics in 2008 with the vision of Application Intelligence to help modern enterprises go through digital transformation. Mr. Jyoti received his B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering from IIT Delhi and is the lead inventor of 20 plus US patents. Recently, Cisco Systems Inc agreed to buy his company AppDynamics for $3.7 billion. Jyoti wishes to fund startups in Silicon Valley and in India. Read his full interview at [http://www.iitd.ac.in/content/jyoti-bansal-new-unicorn-iit-delhi](http://www.iitd.ac.in/content/jyoti-bansal-new-unicorn-iit-delhi)
Delegations from the following Universities / Organizations visited the Institute and had broad ranging discussions to increase the footprint of international students on the campus and have multi-disciplinary collaborations.

a. A two-member delegation from Mines Nantes, France visited the Institute on February 21, 2017.

b. A delegation from Drexel University, Philadelphia, United States visited the Institute on February 21, 2017.

c. A three-member delegation from Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, visited the Institute on February 22, 2017.

d. A two-member delegation including H.E. Mr. Koji Omi, Founder and Chairman of the Science and Technology in Society (STS) Form and former Finance Minister of Japan visited the Institute on February 27, 2017.

e. A three-member delegation including Ms. Joyce Hamilla, Director of International affairs, and Portland State University, Oregon, United States visited the Institute on March 2, 2017.

As many as 10 sponsored research projects have been undertaken under the Uchchatar Avishkar Yojana Scheme of MHRD with total sanctioned value of Rs. 32.55 crores. The UAY projects in IIT Delhi have a broad research spectrum spread across defence, space, railways, textiles, gold refinery, environment and energy. Dean R&D, Bodh Raj Mehta and Assoc Dean R&D, Suddhasatwa Basu maintain that the partnering will foster innovation that are directly relevant to the needs of the industry.

Other Initiatives

A total of 44 sponsored research projects have been undertaken from November 6, 2016 to March 10, 2017 with a total value of Rs. 21.04 crores.

As many as 8 sponsored research proposals approved by MHRD under the IMPRINT Initiative of Govt. of India, with a total sanctioned value of 13 crores have already been started.

New Initiatives

**Faculty Interdisciplinary Research Projects (FIRP)**
Forty projects have been selected for financial support in the first phase of the new scheme Faculty Interdisciplinary Research Projects (FIRP) with the objective of enhancing interdisciplinary and collaborative research interest in the Institute. An initial grant of Rs. 10 Lakhs has been sanctioned for each project.

**Administrative Assistance to Principal Investigators of Sponsored Research Projects**
IRD has started providing Administrative Assistants to PIs of ongoing sponsored research projects. One Project Administrative Assistant (PAA) will be provided to a team of 5 PIs.

**1234 Discover and Learn Projects (1-2-3-4 )**
The objective of this initiative is to enhance research aptitude among undergraduate students and increase the component of learning by research. Financial support of Rs. 1 lakh per year will be provided for each project. As many as 22 projects have been selected for support under this scheme.

**Student Start-up Action**
IRD has started a new scheme to support student start-up activity on the campus. Each of the selected projects will be given a seed grant of Rs. 1 lakh.
News from Dean Faculty

Nearly 30 new faculty members have joined IIT Delhi from January 2016 till March 2017.

A group of faculty has taken the initiative to set up a state-of-the-art day care center within the campus for faculty children.

A Faculty Induction Cell has been recently announced to help new faculty settle down in a friendly and seamless manner.

Major announcements made for the faculty:

- Expanding the scope of PDA utilization to include hosting of visiting researchers and short-time project staff.
- Simplifying recruitment of Post-Doctoral Fellows and also enhancing their terms and conditions to attract a larger number.
- Increasing the number of Special Casual Leave to undertake research visits or fieldwork during the vacation period.
- Enhancing the lease amount for off-campus housing lease to 35k/pm for new faculty.

News from Corporate Relations Department

The Corporate Relations Department (CRD) was started in September, 2016, with an aim to capitalize on the already strong relationship that IIT Delhi enjoys with industry and to further strengthen it by facilitating larger IIT-D industry collaborations. The modality of these relationships could be in the form of major sponsored projects, philanthropic relationships, and/or training programs. An example of such a relationship is the recent signing of an MOU between IIT Delhi and Tata Consultancy Services on March 2, 2017. Besides a major partnership in IITD's upcoming Research Park, TCS has committed to funding a major research collaboration with IIT Delhi via financial support of more than 10 crores over a period of next 5 years. A variety of research projects covering the topics of machine perception, predictive modeling and plant control will be pursued in this relationship. Both the organizations are looking forward to working together. The CRD is in advanced stages of similar discussions with several major sponsors including the Rahul Mehta Foundation, Applied Materials, and Mahindra Tech on a variety of collaborative research programs. IIT Delhi also received a CSR grant of 21 lakhs from Hi-Tech Group (Hi-tech Robotics and Hi-Tech Gears) towards creation of Hi-Tech Chair for Translational Research for a period of 3 years.

CRD will be organizing Industry Day on Sep 23, 2017, to showcase cutting edge research activities at IIT Delhi in front of industry leaders. The effort aims at enhancing industry interactions at IITD and boost CSR funding for the Institute.
News from the Infrastructure Desk

Work going on in full swing at Sonipat campus

The extended campus of IIT Delhi at Sonipat in Haryana is scheduled to become functional from the end of June 2017. Situated at a distance of around 60 kms from IIT Delhi, the Innovation Centre for Education (ICE) spreads over 10 acres and is being created as a modern eco-friendly Gurukul to consolidate and enhance teaching-learning / pedagogical research activities and conduct the same more effectively for a greater impact on the educational landscape. It is aimed to become a platform where people from a broad spectrum of scientific and industrial community can collaborate in multi-disciplinary areas. Work is going on in full swing at Sonipat campus.

Transfer of 50 Acres land of Jhajjar in favour of IIT Delhi

The Haryana Government has allotted 50 acres of land to IIT Delhi in Jhajjar. The land allotted was taken possession for further development activities.

Bhoomi Poojan for Engineering Block 99B & 99C

CPWD assigned the work of construction of Engineering Block 99B & 99C to M/s. Nagarjuna Construction Co. Ltd. after inviting tender. Work at the site has been started by the agency. The Bhoomi Poojan was held on January 25, 2017.

Renovation work taken up of 83 Houses on the campus

Renovation of various Flats/Houses have been taken up by Works Section and the renovation of 83 Houses/ Flats have been completed till date. Work is in progress on the remaining 20 Houses. Approval of following buildings has been received:

- Science and Innovation Park
- Indoor Sports Complex Building
- Shopping Complex
- Faculty Housing
- Boys Hostel- E
- 414 Seated Girls Hostel
Inter IIT meet:

The IIT Delhi contingent went to the 51st Inter IIT Sports in full form. Athletics team proved to be the gem of the contingent with multiple record-breaking performances.

The Hockey Team showed great teamwork and dedication to clinch the Gold. Jai Prakash is a must-mention here, as he led the team from the front. Same goes with the Squash Team. Despite the poor condition of the courts, Abhimanyu Dubey and company went for regular practices in the Siri Fort Auditorium and came home with a Silver at the Inter IIT meet. The Cricket team won silver playing in very different conditions altogether. Badminton has been a stronghold of IITD under Amit Kothari and they did not disappoint with a bronze. The women Table Tennis team won bronze in a well-fought contest.

The Volleyball team faced an unfortunate loss in the quarters due to injuries. Table Tennis men too, lost a closely fought match for the third position and finished 4th. Basketball Women lost a controversial match to lose the bronze. Sports like Basketball (Men), Lawn Tennis (Men) and Football did not live up to the expectations as they were eliminated before the semifinals. The event was very well organized with great opening and closing ceremonies, well-maintained sporting facilities and a grand dinner.

IIT Delhi secured second position in overall and men’s general championship and third position in women’s championship.
Sportech:

Sportech 2017, IIT Delhi’s very own sports extravaganza was no less than a box full of surprises. This year, it was not just about sports but about the deeper aspect of well-being and enjoyment that sports activities unfurl. Sportech this year, was the proud host of 45 colleges, 160 teams, 1500 participants and many more memories.

The biggest milestone that Sportech should flaunt is hosting four matches of the T20 World Cup 2017 for the Blind in collaboration with the World Blind Cricket Council. Despite having minor exams, the turnout for the same was truly spectacular. The very idea of promoting sports for the differently abled and increasing the social sensitivity and acceptance for the cause was heartwarming.

Sportech 2017 was seen to promote a number of unconventional sports. Women’s Football Exhibition Match between the ladies of Ashoka University and Vasant Valley School was highly appreciated. Sportech organised a marathon for the mentally disabled children in collaboration with Volunteer4India. There was also a motivational speech by Divyanshu Ganatara.

The Formal Events in all sports saw enthusiastic participation from all the teams. IIT Delhi left its mark by performing extraordinarily well and ensuring a good and healthy tournament for all. IIT Delhi won laurels across nine sports, a high in itself. And lastly athletics coach Mr. Lalit Kumar won gold in High Jump with a jump of 1.85m and bronze in Triple Jump with a jump of 11.59m in the recently concluded Masters National Athletics Meet held at Hyderabad.
For any feedback or follow-up write to us

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