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November 10, 2020

THE YEAR 2020: IIT Kharagpur Foundation, USA

Fellow Alumnus/na of IIT Kharagpur,

With the festive holiday season quickly approaching and the end of the year soon upon us, we wanted to reach out and give you updates on some of the accomplishments the IITKGP Foundation (IITKGPF) have achieved over the past year.

[Clock Tower Dedication](#)—On January 25, 2020, the Alumni Clock Tower at IIT-KGP was inaugurated. The event was held at IIT-KGP campus and coincided with the GOLDEN2020REUNION and ADDA dedication ceremonies. The Secretary of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Govt. of India, Shri Amit Khare, IAS was on hand to officially inaugurate the tower by cutting the ceremonial ribbon. Fundraising towards this effort began in 2018 and brought in over 150 donors. Members of graduating batches extending from 1959 to 2017 were energized to give back to this pioneer project. The Clock Tower was designed by renowned architect and alumnus of IIT-KGP, the late I.M. Asthana, for whom this tower was his last project. Director V.K. Tewari, said, “The Clock Tower may be made to display more features in the future, such as digital display of the temperature, humidity or announcements of major events. IIT Kharagpur has the largest infrastructure, students, faculty as well as alumni of all the IITs. With this enormous resource, particularly the assistance and mentorship of the alumni, no dream is impossible to achieve.” Additionally, The Ranbir and Chitra Gupta School of Infrastructure and Design (RCGSIDM) inaugurated their monitoring laboratories which will allow for the monitoring of campus. The plans are for this to provide some of the information that is displayed on the Alumni Clock Tower.

[GOLDEN2020REUNION, ADDA Dedication, and Spring Fest](#)—The Batch of 1970 (AKA, “The Incredibles”) celebrated their 50th Golden Reunion in grand fashion, holding gatherings across India. Approximately 150 alumni and their spouses joined in the festivities. The trip down memory lane kicked off in Hyderabad, followed by Delhi, then Kolkata, and culminated at Kharagpur. There were plenty of activities that were happening on campus for the returning graduates including the inauguration of ADDA, Spring Fest, and the Clock Tower (more details below) dedication ceremonies. During the Golden 2020 Reunion, the Batch of 1970 also inaugurated one of the batch’s gifts, the ‘ADDA’. The ADDA is an expansive area with a sculpted garden and varied seating arrangement. Renowned architect Abin Chaudhuri designed the gigantic red emblem that marks out the space. This beautiful piece that sits at the crossroads on the campus will be a gathering spot for alumni, students, faculty, staff, and the entire KGP community.

[International Internships](#)—In the third year of the program, the Foundation awarded 14 students’ scholarships to pursue international internships at leading colleges/universities around the world. There were close to 60 top IIT-KGP students that applied for the opportunity. The institutions our students were accepted for internships at were Harvard, University of Illinois at Urbana, Princeton, Cornell, Georgia Tech, Arizona State, University of California, Berkeley, and University of Michigan in the US; University of Ottawa and Institut National Scient, Quebec in Canada; The University of Groningen in The Netherlands; University College, London in England; Max-Planck-Institute, Stuttgart in Germany, and University of Technology, Sydney in Australia. Unfortunately, many of the interns were unable to complete their internships in the spring/summer terms due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but were able to defer until a later term if they are still IIT-Kharagpur students and their host institution will welcome them. Our hope is that we can continue this program in the future!

[Guru Krupa Foundation establishes fellowships](#)—The Guru Krupa Foundation (GKF), a non-profit organization created by alumnus, Mukund Padmanabhan (’87), created ten student fellowships that will provide support for five incoming students to KGP and five outgoing students from KGP. These fellowships will be chosen using a merit-cum-means based model. Students can be pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees, including PhD’s and can be from any department, school, or center of IIT-Kharagpur with an additional criteria that one of the recipients must be chosen from the Department of Electronics and Electrical Communications, Mr. Padmanabhan’s department of study while at IIT-Kharagpur. Many of these interns were unable to travel due to the pandemic and can defer to another term if they will still be IIT-Kharagpur students and their host institutions will have them.

[Partha S Ghosh Academy of Leadership](#)—The academy, the first of its kind in India, named Prof. Kanchan Chowdhury as its Chairman. Prof. Chowdhury is currently a Professor in the Department of Cryogenic Engineering at IIT Kharagpur. The academy plans to develop innovative programs combining the core curricula in science and engineering disciplines with philosophy, reasoning, and liberal arts.

[Academy of Classical and Folk Arts](#)—On the occasion of its 70th Foundation Day, IIT Kharagpur inaugurated the Academy of Classical and Folk Arts on August 18.

A first in the IIT system, the Academy aims to nurture the creative talents of the IIT Kharagpur community through an immersion in music and fine arts. Alumni Mukund Padmanbhan ('87), Arjun Malhotra ('70), and Kiran Seth ('70) all provided critical support to this project.

[G S Sanyal Award](#)—Also, on the 70th Foundation Day, IITKGP Foundation announced the first “G S Sanyal Award” to Prof. Shailendra Varshney. This yearly award recognizes a faculty member who epitomized the legendary Prof. G S Sanyal. Prof. Sanyal was revered by the students for his contributions to them outside of the normal academic environment. Alumnus Puran Dang ('59) helped us develop an article for the newsletter with tributes to Prof. Sanyal. You can read it by clicking [here](#).

[‘COVIRAP’ Testing Device Development](#)—Prof. Suman Chakraborty, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Kharagpur, and Dr. Arindam Mondal, Assistant Professor, School of Bioscience, IIT Kharagpur, and their team of doctoral students developed a new testing method for COVID-19 named ‘COVIRAP’. Monetary support was provided by the IIT Kharagpur Foundation USA and IIT Madras alumnus, Anand Rajaraman. This low-cost, quick, and accurate device has now received ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) Certification and has the potential to impact the detection of COVID-19 world-wide!

[IITKGP Directors Alumni Fund for Campus and Vicinity Staff due to COVID-19 \(AKA ‘KGP Alumni Fund for COVID-19’\)](#)—Although 2020 has brought about unprecedented events, KGP alumni stepped up to help those that needed it the most, raising over \$500,000 to support KGP secondary staff. You helped mess workers, ward boys, dhobis, gardeners, rickshaw pullers, vegetable sellers, construction workers, et al at IIT-Kharagpur who had little to no benefits during the Coronavirus lockdown. The suggestion for this campaign came from Vinod Gupta ('67), who was reminded of the help he received from a ward boy in Patel Hall when he was sick. He wanted to help those that had helped all KGP graduates during their times of need. Several alumni groups also heeded the call to raise funds. There were hall quiz competitions that led to an inter hall (inter generation) quiz finals, the batch of 1993 donated funds they had raised towards the “AKS Endowment Fund”, which was started to honor their fallen batchmate, Ajay Kumar Singh, who lost his life in the line of duty, and a group of students on campus, ‘The Scholars’ Avenue’ came together to spearhead an appeal for this fund. This program continues to provide rations and monetary support to the workers and is scheduled to continue until at least March 2021. Director Tewari wrote a thank-you to the alumni for introducing and implementing this program. You can read it [here](#). We are still raising funds for this critical account, so please help how you can. Here is a link to the fundraising page. ([Donate Now!](#))

Ongoing Support for Chair Professorships: [Ajay Kumar Singh \(AKS\) Endowment Fund \(Batch of 1993\)](#), [Professor A.S. Davis Chair Professorship \(Vinod Gupta '67\)](#)

Ongoing Support for Scholarships: [Professors Chandralekha Singh \('88\) and Jeremy Levy Student Excellence Awards](#), [Asoke Deysarkar \('73\) International Program \(ADSIP\)](#)

As we move into 2021, there are many novel and exciting projects on the horizon and the Foundation will continue working hard to promote new programs towards the success of their alma mater!

We want to thank you for your generosity and your continued support. Your contributions to IITKGP help the Foundation to assist with all the above initiatives, introduce new programs to drive ongoing achievements, and sustain our reputation as a world-class institution.

If you have a proposal for a fundraising initiative, would like to help us with future initiatives, want to become more involved with the Foundation or have any news to share about KGP-related happenings, please drop us a line at info@iitkgpfoundation.org. We are always looking for more “champions” of KGP.

The IITKGP Foundation is an IRS authorized 501(c)(3) entity and your donations may be tax-deductible under the US Law.

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[Make a Quick Donation Now!](#)

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IITKGP Foundation
PO Box 27183
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(Note: make sure to list your donation intentions in the memo or include a note with your check.)

Best wishes to you and yours for the upcoming holiday season,

Ron Gupta

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