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December 10, 2021

THE YEAR 2021: IIT Kharagpur Foundation, USA

Fellow Alumnus/na of IIT Kharagpur,

As 2021 ends and we celebrate the festive holiday season, we reflect upon the last year. We wanted to share and update you on a few of the major accomplishments of the IITKGP Foundation (IITKGP) from this past year.

[IITKGP Directors Alumni Fund for Campus and Vicinity Staff due to COVID—19 \(AKA “KGP Alumni Fund for COVID-19”\)](#)—Started in April 2020, the hugely successful efforts to help community workers of IIT-Kharagpur’s campus continues with ration distributions still being held. The hope is for this campaign to continue until the pandemic has ended. We will continue to bring you updates in our weekly newsletters when there are distributions.

[IIT KGP Foundation Supported COVID Test Kit Hits the Market](#)—IIT Kharagpur successfully commercialized its flagship healthcare product-COVRAP-the novel diagnostic technology for infectious diseases including COVID-19 and beyond. Monetary support was provided by IIT Kharagpur Foundation of USA and IIT Madras graduate, Anand Rajaraman.

[Thirty Oxygen Concentrators Presented to IIT-Kharagpur’s B C Roy Hospital](#)—IITKGP purchased and arranged delivery of thirty oxygen concentrators for the B C Roy Hospital during the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic in India.

[KGP Batch of 1993 Support of R&D for Manufacturing of Oxygen Concentrators](#)—Members of the KGP Batch of 1993 provided funds (in memory of A K Singh) to help support the research and work that a group of IIT Kharagpur faculty members, namely Aditya Bandyopadhyay, Sourav Mitra, and Manoj K Mondal, were conducting to help Indian manufacturers to indigenously manufacture Oxygen Concentrators.

[A C Pandya Students’ Activity Centre](#)—The A C Pandya Students’ Activity Centre (IIT Gupshup Pavillion), located in the Department of Agricultural & Food Engineering, was initiated on February

22, 2021. The Centre, established by Vinod Gupta ('67) and receiving huge support from Rakesh Gupta ('86), will serve as a place for students to hang out, have a cup of tea or snack, and connect with each other. The hope is that all departments will eventually have a center like this for their students.

[Alumni Clock Tower/ADDA](#)—The Alumni Clock Tower has been popular since its dedication in 2020. It was illuminated in lights for Diwali and continues to be a beacon to those visiting IIT-Kharagpur. The ADDA, a gift from the Batch of 1970 on their Golden 2020 Reunion, serves as a site at the crossroads of campus for students, alumni, faculty, and staff to gather.

[Partha Ghosh Academy of Leadership](#)—The academy, the first of its kind in India, is holding its inauguration December 18, 2021, in the PC Ray Building at IIT-Kharagpur. With Prof. Kanchan Chowdhury from the Department of Cryogenic Engineering at the helm as Chair, the academy has plans to develop innovative programs combining core curricula in science and engineering disciplines with philosophy, reasoning, and liberal arts.

[Guru Krupa Foundation provides support for fellowships within the Academy of Classical and Folk Arts \(ACFA\)](#)—Mukund Padmanabhan ('87) under the name of Guru Krupa Foundation (GKF), established seven research fellow positions within the Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur's Academy of Classical and Folk Arts (ACFA).

[G S Sanyal Award for Faculty Excellence Awarded](#)—On the second year of being awarded, Prof. Joy Sen, a Professor with the Department of Architecture and Regional Planning, was chosen to receive the prestigious award. Instituted by the IITKGPF USA, it is awarded each year to a faculty member of the institute, based on his/her contributions to the students of IIT-KGP through student related activities, technology, innovation and/or entrepreneurship.

[Nehru Hall Ka Tempo/Own Your Hall Room](#)—A group of Nehruites have gotten together to start a campaign to refurbish their beloved Hall. The campaign has already received commitments of over \$250,000 and room renovations are set to begin soon. The Own Your Hall Room campaign, started by the Office of Alumni Affairs at IIT-Kharagpur, allows alumni to donate for the renovation of their old room(s).

#### New Scholarship Opportunities for Students through IITKGPF--

- [Markose Thomas Memorial Award for Best Research Paper in CSE](#)—Dr. Daibashish Gangopadhyay and the family of Mr. Mathew Thomas started this award in honor of Markose Thomas ('06) and will award the best research paper from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at IIT-Kharagpur.
- [Dr R R Verma Prize for Best Masters Thesis in Healthcare Technology](#)—Peeyush Ranjan ('95) has set in motion an award for an M. Tech student across all departments, centres, and schools who prepares a thesis on Healthcare Technology.
- [Sobhraj and Krishna Gajria Scholarship](#)—Chandrasen Gajria ('70) instituted an award in the name of his parents, Sobhraj and Krishna. The award will go to M. Sc students in the Chemistry Department.
- [Dr. Nirni Kumar \('07\) Memorial Best Student Award](#)—Dr. Kumar's wife established this award in his honor and will provide support to the graduating B. Tech student with the highest CGPA from the Department of Ocean Engineering and Naval Architecture.

- Sidhanta-Jagan Akella Geochemistry Grant—Prof. Jagannadham Akella ('63) donated funding to award a Ph.D. research scholar from the Geology and Geophysics Department working under the broad domain of Geochemistry.
- Dr. Phanindranath Mukherjee and Sagarika Mukherjee Awards—Satyendranath ('76) Mukherjee has set up two scholarships (one for a male student and one for a female student) emphasizing leadership and community service in addition to academic excellence. The students can be from any department at IIT-Kharagpur.
- There are many other MoU's being set-up for scholarships started by KGP alumni. If you are interested in learning more on how to set up scholarships and/or professorships, please reach out to us at [info@iitkgpfoundation.org](mailto:info@iitkgpfoundation.org) and we will get you more information.

#### New Chair Professorships through IITKGPF--

- Prithviraj Banerjee and Swati Banerjee Chair Professorship—Distinguished and eminent graduate, Prith Banerjee ('81) has instituted the 1<sup>st</sup> Chair Professorship in the Department of Electronics and Electrical Engineering.
- Suresh and Vidya Nair Chair Professorship in Industrial and Systems Engineering—Suresh ('79) and his wife Vidya have funded this award with the main objective to encourage practice-based research and industrial collaboration in the Department of ISE.
- Paresh ('91) & Shimul Shah Chair Professorship/Paresh & Shimul Shah Student Award—This award aims to carry out state-of-the-art teaching, research and industrial collaboration in the Department of Chemical Engineering. Additionally, the Paresh & Shimul Shah Student Award will guide a Final Year B. Tech student from the same department in his/her final year project submission.

RGSOIPL Graduate with support from the Foundation, pursues LLM degree at Cambridge—The Foundation provided support to Pranit Kulkarni ('20), the first graduate of IIT-Kharagpur's RGSOIPL (Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law) to be admitted to the LLM studies program at Cambridge.

Honorary Awards for 2020—Vinod Gupta ('67) and Ron Gupta ('70) of the IITKGP Foundation of USA received exemplary honorary awards in February 2021. Vinod received the DSc Honoris Causa and Ron was awarded the life fellow award.

Honorary Awards for 2021—Puran Dang ('59) and Asoke Deysarkar ('71), both trustees of the IITKGP Foundation of USA, were recently bestowed as life fellows.

As we begin our journey into 2022, there are new and exciting projects in the future for the Foundation. We will continue to work hard to promote the latest programs for the success of our alma mater!

We want to thank you for your generosity and support. Your continued contributions to IITKGP help the Foundation to further the above projects, launch new initiatives to drive ongoing achievements, and bolster our reputation as a world-class institution.

If you have a proposal or 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](mailto: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.

You can make a quick donation now:

[Make a Quick Donation Now!](#)

To send a check, you can mail it to the following address:

IITKGP Foundation

PO Box 27183

Omaha, NE 68127

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

If there are other ways in which you would like to give back, such as donation of stock, please reach out to us and we will be more than happy to assist in the process!

## **IIT-Kharagpur Ka Tempo High Hai!**

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

*Ron Gupta*

Ron Gupta (Arch., 1970, NH)

President

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