



Highlights

- Prof. Manindra Agrawal appointed as the Officiating Director, IITK.
- Prof. B V R Kumar, Dept. of Mathematics & Statistics, appointed as the Associate Dean for International Relations (ADIR).
- Prof. Amey Karkare, Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering, appointed as the Associate Dean for Digital Infrastructure (ADDI).

New Head



Prof. Animangsu Ghatak
Chemical Engineering

New Colleagues



Prof. Ajay Vikram Singh
Aerospace Engineering

SKOCH Gold Award

IIT Kanpur has been awarded the SKOCH Gold Award in the category "Technology for Growth" for Prof. TV Prabhakar's agMOOCs project. The award was given at the two-day SKOCH Summit organized by the SKOCH Group, an independent think-tank that deals with socio-economic issues and inclusive growth.

agMOOCs (Agriculture Massive Online Open Course) is an online knowledge platform that provides free online courses – both basic and advanced – for researchers, professionals and students in the agriculture and rural development area.



From the Director's Desk

The start of a new year is a fitting occasion not only to look forward, but also to look back on our achievements in the past year. On the academic front, we have signed several MoUs with international universities, established new departments, organized numerous prestigious conferences and workshops and won distinguished awards.

From the campus community, there have been several environment-friendly initiatives like the Children's Library and the 'Green Campus' initiative by the Women's Association, the campus clean-up drive by Parivartan-IITK and the shared bike-riding service on campus by Ola.

These are only a small peek into all that we have achieved in the year gone by. Many new initiatives are lined up for this year and the support of the campus community will be essential in making these successes. Let us work together to make IITK better.

Prof. Manindra Agrawal
Officiating Director,
IIT Kanpur

In Focus

Inter IIT Sports Meet

The Inter IIT Sports Meet is a much-awaited sporting event on the annual calendar of IITs. In the staff meet, IIT Kanpur has won the General Championship, held at IIT Madras from 25th to 30th December, 2017. This is the second time in a row that IIT Kanpur has been declared the overall winner of the staff championship. It secured the first position with a total score of 66 points, winning 4 gold medals in badminton (men), basketball (men), football (men) and lawn tennis (men); and 4 silver medals in athletics (men and women), badminton (women) and table tennis (women).

In the students' meet, held at IIT Madras from 15th to 23rd December, 2017, IITK secured gold medals in water polo (men) and weightlifting (men); and silver medals in athletics (men) and tennis (men). The women's team did well in the athletics events, securing a gold medal in discus throw and silver medals in the 800m, 1500m and shot put. In the final tally, IITK stood at the 3rd position with a score of 77 points.



News @ IITK



Faculty News



Prof. Sandeep Verma (Chemistry) has been selected for the MRSI-ICSC Superconductivity & Materials Science Annual Prize of the Materials Research Society of India for the year 2018.



Prof. A.K. Chaturvedi (Electrical Engineering), presently, Director, IIT Roorkee, has been awarded the prestigious INSA Teachers Award (2017).



Prof. K. Srihari (Chemistry) has been awarded the prestigious INSA Teachers Award (2017).



Prof. Gautam Biswas (Mechanical Engineering), presently, Director, IIT Guwahati, has been awarded Honorary Doctorate (Honoris Causa) by NIT Agartala.



Prof. Yogesh Joshi (Chemical Engineering) has been invited to join the Editorial Advisory Board of the ACS journal *Langmuir* for the period 2018-2020.



Prof. J. K. Bera and Prof. JN Moorthy (Chemistry) have been elected as Fellows of the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi for their outstanding contributions to chemical sciences research.



Prof. Krishanu Biswas and Prof. Sudhanshu Shekhar Singh (Material Sciences & Engineering) have been awarded the Young Metallurgist of the Year Awards in the Metal Science category.



Prof. Arun Shukla (Biological Sciences & Bioengineering) has been selected for the B.M. Birla Science Prize in Biology for the year 2016 and Professor Umakantha Sinha Memorial Award of the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA). Prof Shukla has also been selected as European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) Young Investigator.



Prof. Debashish Chowdhury (Physics) has been elected, and appointed, to serve as a member of the "C6 Commission: Biological Physics" by the 29th General Assembly of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) for a three-year term.



Prof. Debasis Kundu (Mathematics and Statistics) has been awarded the first Prof Mahalanobis Memorial Award by the Operational Research Society of India for being a 'Distinguished Educator' in Mathematics and Statistics.



Prof. Kantes Balani (Materials Science and Engineering) has been awarded the SwarnaJayanti Fellowship of DST, New Delhi.



Prof. Subhajit Dutta (Mathematics) has been elected as a member of the International Statistical Institute, Netherlands.



Prof. Jayant Singh (Chemical Engineering) has been invited to join the editorial board of the new peer-reviewed, open-access global journal, *ACS Omega*.

New Books

Pipe Inspection Robots for Structural Health and Condition Monitoring by Prof. Bishakh Bhattacharya (Mechanical Engineering) and Prof. Harutoshi Ogai (Waseda University, Japan)



Fundamentals of Rocket Propulsion by Prof. D.P. Mishra (Aerospace Engineering)



Modeling Transport Phenomena in Porous Media with Applications by Prof. Malay K. Das (Mechanical Engineering) & co-authors



Non-convex Optimization for Machine Learning by Prof. Purushottam Kar (Computer Sc. & Engineering)



Research & Development

Some Recent Projects

- The Indo-US Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF) granted a big project titled *Streaming Analytics Over Temporal Variables from Air Quality Monitoring (SATVAM)*. The lead PI of this project is **Prof. SN Tripathi**.
- Department for International Development (DFID) sanctioned a project titled *Strengthening Regulatory Research & Network in the Power Sector*. The PI of the project is **Prof. Anoop Singh**.
- Bioincubator, SIIC received a major grant from BIRAC under a scheme entitled *BioNEST (Bioincubator's Nurturing Entrepreneurship for Scaling Technologies)*.

more @ <http://www.iitk.ac.in/dord/newsletters>

SIIC News

IIT Kanpur has granted Rs. 30 lakh seed funds to KrishiHub, a startup that delivers fresh vegetables to businesses directly from the farmers in Uttar Pradesh. Their supply-chain ensures delivery within 12 hours, thus reducing vegetable wastage and also eliminating middlemen. The company has completed more than 7500 transactions so far and delivered over 1500 tonnes of vegetables to 70+ businesses in Ghaziabad, Noida and Greater Noida.

Happenings @ IITK



Alumni News

- Prof. Abhay Deshpande (MSC2/PHY/1987) appointed to lead the Center for Frontiers in Nuclear Science (CFNS), a new research center formed to resolve the deep mysteries of the universe.
- Prof. HC Verma (MSC2/PhD/PHY/1980) conferred with the 'Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Shiksha Puruskar' by the Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar.
- Prof. Arup K. Chakraborty (BT/CHE/1983), a professor of Chemical Engineering at MIT, elected to the National Academy of Medicine in recognition of his distinguished contributions to medicine and health.
- Dr. Praveen Kumar (BT/ME/2003) honored with the 'Young Engineer Award' 2017 from the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE).
- Prof. Ashutosh Sharma (BT/CHE/1982), Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, honored with the Vijnan Bhushan award for excellence in science & technology by HK Firodia memorial foundation.

Academic News ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

National Entrepreneurship Day Celebration

On 9th November 2017, SIIC, in association with TIE UP, Kanpur Angels and DBR Ventures organized an event to celebrate National Entrepreneurship Day. Prof. S. Ganesh, Dean (R&D) and Prof. Sameer Khandekar introduced the audience to the world-class incubation facilities set-up at the institute in the last few years.

Mrs. Vandana Srivastava, a life coach, motivational speaker and a counselor conducted a workshop titled 'Learn how to attract wealth'. This was followed by an investment pitch by five shortlisted startups from varied fields of operations ranging from Nano fiber solutions for air and water purification and rural employment to organic products from India-bred cow urine and affordable pure water solutions.



IIT Kanpur Signs MoU with Curtin University

IITK has recently signed an MoU with Curtin University, Australia for joint doctoral degree programs. According to the agreement, PhD students enrolled at one institution can apply for the JDP, after which the collaborating departments/schools from both the institutions would select potential candidates. The selected students will then be enrolled full-time at both the institutions. These students will have two supervisors from each university and also get stipend from their home institution. With this MoU, students from both IIT-K and Curtin University will get a chance to work with eminent researchers at both the universities and also to visit the partner institute for more learning opportunities.

Students' Corner ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Antaragni 2017

The 52nd edition of Antaragni, IIT Kanpur's annual cultural festival, was held from 26 to 29 October, 2017. This year, over 300 colleges from India participated in the fest. The line-up of performances included KSHMR (headliner), Euphoria and Vishal-Shekhar. Another highlight of the festival was the Red Bull Tour Bus that travelled to Kanpur for the first time for Antaragni. Skyharbor, the progressive metal band and Submarine in Space, the college band, had played atop the bus.

Spread across the four days of the fest were a number of competitions such as Ritambhara (fashion show), performance poetry, DJ war, Synchronicity (rock music show) and Junoon (music). Special talks by eminent personalities - Colonel Hitendra Bharti, General Subrata Saha and Ashutosh Gupta - were also organized.



Cyber Security Awareness Week 2017

The second edition of the world's biggest student-run cyber security competition, Cyber Security Awareness Week (CSAW), was held at IIT Kanpur from 9 to 11 November, 2017. CSAW was founded 14 years ago by the New York University Tandon School of Engineering. In 2016, NYU Tandon liaised with IITK and NYU Abu Dhabi Center for Cyber Security to widen CSAW beyond Brooklyn, New York.



The three-day event had a total of 14 teams with 64 participants from across India. The competitions included a hacking marathon, a hardware hacking challenge and a paper and poster presentation. IIT Roorkee, IIT Madras and IIT Kharagpur were the winners of the three competitions, respectively.

Campus Diary



Around the Campus ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Run for Unity

The 'Run for Unity' was organized as part of the National Unity Day celebrations held on 31st October 2017 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The event was organised by the Physical Education Section at IITK in which around 800 students, faculties, staff and members of the campus community participated. The non-competitive 3-Km run, flagged off by Prof. Indranil Manna, Former Director, IIT Kanpur, was aimed at team-building and unity so that every participant completes the run and also helps others to do the same.



Diwali Mela

The Women's Association of IIT Kanpur organized the Diwali Mela on 14th October 2017 and this year, it was bigger than ever with over 40 stalls offering handicrafts and wooden toys, organic food produce, artistic jewellery and dress material. A card-making competition for children and a rangoli competition brought out the local talent. Local vendors and women on campus had also put up stalls offering delicious food.

With 'Go Green' as the theme this year, the proceeds from the fair will be used to support environment-friendly practices on campus.



Bike Sharing Inside Campus

IIT Kanpur recently tied up with Ola, the taxi aggregator, to start Ola Pedal, a cycle pool service. Currently launched on a trial basis, Ola Pedal is aimed at solving the parking space crunch on campus, particularly in the Lecture Hall Complex and the Halls of Residence.



The Ola Zones have been clearly marked near all the halls and the academic buildings where the distinctively green-colored bikes will be parked. The service users simply need to identify a bike currently not in use and then enter the bike's number in the Ola app on their smartphones. The app will generate a code to unlock the bike. The bike can then be dropped off after use at the nearest Ola Zone. By notifying the same on the Ola app, the total fare will be generated. The usage of bikes is free for the first 30 minutes, after which Rs. 5 for every 30 minutes will be charged.

Obituary

The institute offers its condolences to the families and loved ones of the deceased.

- Shri Dinesh,
Daily wage worker, P.K.Kelkar Library
- Mr. Amit Awasti
Senior Assistant,
Office of Dean Student Affairs

From the Album



N.C. Dahl (MIT), Program Leader and P.K. Kelkar, first Director of IITK at IITK temporary location in Harcourt Butler Technology Institute, Agricultural gardens, Kanpur