

IIT Alumni Newsletter February 2016

PANIIT ALUMNI NEWS



Saroj Kumar Jha, IIT Kanpur Alumnus Appointed To Key Position In World Bank

An Indian has been appointed to a key position in the World Bank with President Jim Young Kim assigning him a role to provide strategic leadership to address the challenge of fragility, conflict and violence.

Saroj Kumar Jha is an alumnus of Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. Jha till last week was World Bank's Regional Director for Central Asia based in Almaty since February 2012.

Jha assumed the position of Senior Director for the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group at the World Bank yesterday. Jha has been tasked by World Bank President Jim Young Kim to provide strategic leadership to address the challenge of fragility, conflict and violence, working across the Bank Group and in close collaboration with partners. An Indian national, Jha joined the World Bank in 2005 as a Senior Infrastructure Specialist in the Sustainable Development Network, after significant experience with the Indian Government and the United Nation's Development Program (UNDP) as a senior executive in the field of public sector management, infrastructure financing, natural resources management, natural disaster prevention and environmental sustainability.

He supported transformative innovations in regional cooperation, water and energy security, social safety nets, inclusive

governance and grievance redress mechanisms in various regions of the world. Earlier, Jha worked as the World Bank's Global Manager for Disaster Risk Management Practice.

Adapted from huffingtonpost.in on 02/02/2016

[Read More](#)

IIT-Delhi Alumnus Indian American To Head Cornell's New Business College

Soumitra Dutta, an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi, will become the dean of the prestigious Cornell University's new College of Business to be established during the 2016-17 academic year as a world-class centre of teaching and research for business management and entrepreneurship. Mr Dutta is currently the dean and professor of management and organisations in the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management at the Cornell University. The College of Business will comprise Cornell's three accredited business programmes: the School of Hotel Administration, the Charles H Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, and the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management. "Each school will maintain its unique identity and mission, while their collective capabilities will be strengthened by bringing together faculty, curricular offerings, and programmes within a cohesive college," the university said.

Mr Dutta is known for his contribution on the impact of new technology on the business world, especially social media and social networking, and on strategies for driving growth and innovation by embracing the digital economy. His work has been widely published



in the Harvard Business Review, European Management Journal, Management Science, IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management, Decision Support Systems, Journal of Strategic Information Systems, and other journals.

Adapted from theindianpanorama on Feb 6, 2016

[Read More](#)



Google CEO Sundar Pichai got a stock package worth almost \$200 million

Google's Sundar Pichai is getting a nice payday to go along with his new role as CEO of the internet search company. Pichai received roughly \$183 million in stock, which will vest over a period of four years, according to a regulatory filing. The pay package appears to be one of the largest awarded to a Google executive. Pichai became the CEO of Google in October, after the company restructured and created the new Alphabet holding company. Alphabet is comprised of the traditional Google Internet business and various separate companies focused on "other bets," such as the high-speed broadband business Google Fiber and the home appliance business Nest. The hefty pay package underscores how important Alphabet's flagship search engine remains to the company, even as it diversifies into other projects, and how much the company wants Pichai to stick around. Pichai was awarded 273,328 Class C shares of Google stock, which will vest over a four year period, according to SEC documents filed on Friday.

According to Bloomberg, the pay package is the highest that Google has ever given to an executive officer whose equity grants have been reported in filings. Former Google CEO Eric Schmidt, who is currently Executive Chairman, received two separate \$100 million stock grants in 2011 and 2014.

Adapted from business insider on 02/08/2016

[Read More](#)

PANIIT CHAPTER NEWS

IIT Bombay SF Bay Area Chapter Announces First-of-a-kind Hackathon Event "SVHacks"

The IIT Bombay SF Bay Area Chapter is organizing a hackathon - SVHacks - to bring all technocrats with entrepreneurial spirit together under one roof to build something amazing. The theme of the event is "Ideas Come to Life" and it will take place on 20th and 21st of February 2016. The Hon'ble Ambassador Ashok, Consul General of India, San Francisco will be delivering keynote on "Digital India and Start-up India". For more details of event and to register:

[EVENT INFORMATION](#)

IIT NEWS

IIT-Madras is allowing professors to take sabbaticals to focus on their startups

At IIT-Madras, sabbatical from academics no more just means taking a one-year time off to go to another university or a research organisation. When Professor Balaji Srinivasan, faculty at IIT-Madras as well as co-founder and director of Chennai-based startup Unilumen Photonics, attended a tradeshow in 2014, he found new markets opening up.

The new found demand for the technology he was developing was so high that Srinivasan felt the need to accelerate work and push things forward. Initially he tried to take some hours off every day from teaching and focus on his startup, only to find it was not making much progress. "My day would be really torn between different things such as coming to class, teaching students, attending meetings, doing research and meeting my students, and in between I would have to find time to go to the company to take care of some emergencies there," he recollects. Finally to sort out things he went for a sabbatical at the end of which he was successfully able to make a couple of products work.

IIT Madras, the premier engineering institute which has a thriving startup ecosystem has enabled its faculty members, through policy level changes, to take up sabbatical also to focus on their

individual startups. "Typically, an academical sabbatical means a faculty would either go to another university or a research organisation or even an industry in some cases and they will spend time there up to a year or so," noted Prof Krishnan Balasubramanian, Dean of IC&SR department, IIT-M. "What we are offering is also an opportunity to do more. If you are involved in a startup from the beginning and want to focus more on it, then sabbatical is a way to do it." According to him the need to avail a sabbatical could be sector-specific as well as company-specific.

"If you are in a startup sector which needs very high rate of growth or if you are in a company that needs your time very significantly then your participation has to be wholesome and you may want to take time-off and spend time there," he said.

Adapted from Business Insider Feb13,2016

EUREKA MOMENT FOR IIT-G'NAGAR

As the news of the revolutionary discovery of gravitational waves, or ripples in space-time, spread across the globe, IIT Gandhinagar, too, basked in the glory of the breakthrough. Besides the several teams of researchers behind the discovery, a group from the institute led by Dr Anand Sengupta, assistant professor, also made a small contribution. In an official communication, IIT Gandhinagar states that its scientists co-authored the landmark discovery paper, along with 35 others. The discovery was made by the Laser Interferometer Gravitationalwave Observatory (LIGO) Scientific Collaboration, a group of more than 1,000 scientists from universities around the US as well as in 14 other countries.

IIT-Gn group is part of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration that works under the aegis of Indian Initiative in Gravitational-Wave Observations (IndIGO) — a consortium of scientists from nine Indian research institutes and universities who contributed to the discovery. "Almost everything we know about the universe had been through the detection of light at different wavelengths. As gravitational waves carry different information about the nature of gravity and about their dramatic origin, this discovery has thrown open a fundamentally new way of observing the cosmos. "These waves are quite faint and challenging to detect. Special data processing techniques are needed to detect them in the noisy detector data channels.

Our research group has made important contribution in developing some of them and deploying them on supercomputers," said Dr Sengupta, who had played an important role in the IndIGO's interaction with the LIGO Scientific Collaboration. He was the principal investigator of IndIGO until 2014. Dr Sengupta also played a key role in IndIGO's efforts to set up a collaboration-wide computational facility at Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics in Pune. Besides, he also contributed in building IndIGO community by organising various workshops and schools. In the last four years, IIT Gandhinagar has become a partner in the global efforts for detection of gravitational waves by participating in the development of sensitive search algorithms using a network of terrestrial detectors and their deployment over automated data analysis workflows using high-throughput computing technology.

IIT CAMPUS NEWS

IIT KGP Students win Hult Prize India Final

Students of IIT Kharagpur have done it again. A team of 4 students from the Institute studying at 4th year undergraduate programmes have secured 1st place in the finals of PAN India HULT Prize competition. The team competed with 30 teams from all over India at the competition held at IIM Ahmedabad on January 9, 2016 and adjudged winner by a panel of 13 eminent judges.

The teams were asked to suggest ideas to double the income of people living in crowded urban areas within 5 years. The winner of the competition, Team Aces comprising of Anubhav Goyal, Anush Gupta, Lakshya Kalra and Shreshtha Mundra had come up with a mobile application along the lines of Mechanical Turk to provide these people with a means of stable income by utilizing their non-productive broken time. The app has simple questions based on image categorization and text verification. The team would provide this data to research groups and companies that require this preliminary data processing and transfer the monetary benefits to the people in crowded slums. Firstly the team would conduct a pilot in the month of February and this pilot will be the integral part of their pitch at Finals at Boston. The development of the mobile app is in the beta stage.

Team Aces will now be competing against 50 other teams from across the globe at the Regional Finals of HULT Prize Competition 2016 being held at Boston, for a prize money of \$1 million. The other finalists include teams from other prestigious colleges and universities like Harvard, MIT, and Yale.

Adapted from IITKGP.org

ABOUT THIS EMAIL

You are receiving this email because you are subscribed to PanIIT. If you do not want to receive this, click [@@unsubscribe_url@@](#).

PAN IIT USA 5042 Wilshire Blvd #24235 Los Angeles, CA 90036