



PANIIT USA

A Trusted Resource for IIT Alumni in the U.S.A.

Newsletter | April 2017

EVENTS

The Annual IIT Bay Area Leadership Conference

June 17, 2017 | San Jose, CA



The theme for this year's conference is "From Engineers to Leaders." For additional details, please visit the website. Stay tuned for announcements about our keynote & panel speakers. As always, this is an invaluable opportunity for networking with fellow alumni. Register soon to grab the early bird prices.

Where: Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Pkwy, Santa Clara, United States

When: June 17th, 2017

Volunteer Opportunity: Volunteers@iit-bayarea.org

Website: www.IIT-BayArea.org

IIT-MADRAS ORGANIZED THE ANNUAL GRADUANDS DINNER

"Willkommen 2017" Was Held on Tuesday 11th April 2017

In a grand function, all the students graduating in 2017 from various degrees, numbering about a thousand five hundred final year students gathered and carried the cherished memory of IIT-Madras.

The graduates were officially inducted to the Alumni Association. Program details below.

5.30pm : Registration

5.30pm to 6.30pm : Exhibition of World Cuisine by International Students

6.30pm to 7.00pm : Address by Dignitaries

7.00pm to 7.30pm : Variety Entertainment by International Students

7.30pm to 8.30pm : English Standup Comedy by Sahil Shah of East India Comedy, Mumbai

8.30pm to 10.00pm: Music & Dance

8.30pm onwards: Dinner

We request your support and contribution as a donor. Kindly [CLICK HERE](#) for bank details to send your donations.

IN THE NEWS

The Indian Institutes of Technology Takes 8 Out of the Top 10 Spots in India Ranking for Engineering Institutes

ENGINEERING

Sr. No.	Names of the Institution	India Rankings 2016	India Rankings 2017
1	Indian Institute of Technology Madras	1	1
2	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	2	2
3	Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur	3	3
4	Indian Institute of Technology Delhi	4	4
5	Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur	5	5
6	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee	6	6
7	Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati	11	7
8	Anna University	Not applied	8
9	Jadavpur University	Not applied	9
10	Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad	7	10

for colleges that have moved down in ranking from previous year

for colleges that have moved up in ranking from previous year

The Indian Institutes of Technology towered above others in the India Rankings 2017 for engineering institutes, grabbing eight out of the top 10 spots.

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Hybrid Aircraft By A IIT-Delhi Engineer Aims To Make Regional Air Travel Much More Affordable



A mechanical engineer from IIT-Delhi is on his way to develop hybrid planes in the U.S. and hopes to sell the same in India for about 1,100-km-long regional flights by early 2020s. Ashish Kumar, CEO and founder of Kirkland (Washington)-based Zunum Aero, is developing regional hybrid-electric aircraft whose range will go up to 1,600 km by 2030.

"Boeing and JetBlue (via JetBlue Technology Ventures subsidiary) are backing us. We will first come out with a sub-20 seater hybrid aircraft. We hope to have the first prototype flying in two years and begin commercial production in early 2020s," Kumar, a PhD in mechanical and aerospace engineering from Cornell University, said in an interview with Times Of India.


"Our planes will be way cheaper for airlines to operate. They will not go as high as commercial aircraft due to the distances they will be covering. While they will be slower than other planes, their ability to land at airstrips closer to final destination will significantly reduce door-to-door time for flyers," said Kumar.

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IIT Guwahati Alum, Richa Singh and Puneet Manuja's "YourDOST," Brings Awareness to the Mental Health Issues

30 **Forbes** **30**
UNDER
2017

NGOs & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



Puneet Manuja
29
Co-founder & COO



Richa Singh
29
Co-founder & CEO

YourDOST

Through YourDOST, they have provided a platform for people with mental health issues to speak up and seek counselling. It has 750-plus experts, conducts 1,200 sessions per day and has helped 9 lakh people

A series of experiences of peers falling prey to depression—and not seeking help—got Richa Singh interested in the subject of mental health. The final tipping point was when “in college, a girl who stayed two rooms away from me committed suicide as she thought she wouldn’t get a job through college placements,” says Singh, 29, an IIT Guwahati graduate. After college, she started working in the Hyderabad office of investment firm DE Shaw & Co. It was here that she, along with colleague Puneet Manuja, 29, began researching mental health in earnest in 2009. Manuja, an MBA from IIM Bangalore, had himself been through depression when he couldn’t get a job despite being a gold medalist engineer at NIT Calicut.

“We spoke to thousands of people through focus group surveys and emails, and realized that a big chunk of the population is suffering from mental illness, but is afraid to speak about it,” says Singh.

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3 IIT Kanpur Alumni Make It To Forbes '30 Under 30' List For Their App 'ShareChat'



Farid Ahsan, 24, from Lucknow, Bhanu Pratap Singh, 25, from Gorakhpur and Ankush Sachdeva, 23, from Ghaziabad have made it to the prestigious Forbes 30 under 30 list.

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Scientists at IIT-Madras Find Aspirin Could Cure Cancer

For more than three years now, scientists have been saying aspirin, the low-cost painkiller that also prevents heart diseases, can kill cancer cells. Just that they didn't know how. Now, a team of scientists from Indian Institute of Technology - Madras has discovered how this non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug destroys cancer cells.

The study, published in peer-reviewed journal Scientific Reports, found aspirin targeted malignant cells which are high in a protein called voltage-dependent anion channel (VDAC). "The drug induces high levels of calcium ions in the mitochondria of the cancer cells. Elevated levels of calcium prevent mitochondria from breaking down food into energy. Aspirin prevents this energy production and releases toxic substances that kill the cell," said IIT-M professor of biotechnology Amal Kanti Bera.

The study will help pharmaceutical researchers design more potent anti-cancer drugs, said researcher Debanjan Tewari, who began his PhD work on the protein three years ago when animal studies showed anti-cancer properties in aspirin. "When we understand how a molecule works, the scope for new drug discovery widens," he said. Research has shown how low-dose aspirin taken every day can reduce risks of cardiac diseases in high-risk people. "We hope it has the same effect on cancer," said Tewari.

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IIT-Gandhinagar Batch of 2016 Launches Scholarship for Junior Students

AHMEDABAD: Soon after graduating, the B Tech Class of 2016 of Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn), has volunteered to support their alma mater and their juniors.

The 2016 batch of alumni has set up an endowment fund to create the "Class-of-2016 Scholarship", an award for meritorious students in the institute. Out of the batch of about 115 students, 30 students are actively donating to the endowment fund on a monthly basis, said officials at IIT-Gn.

The first "Class-of-2016 Scholarship" has been awarded to Danish Mansoor. He will receive the scholarship of Rs 2,000 per month for ten months.

The alumni have decided to keep donors anonymous for the moment. A student coordinator of the batch, Yash Pratap Singh said, "The BTech Class has decided to keep donors and donated amounts confidential so that those who intend to donate but haven't done it yet, do not feel left out."

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Jyoti Bansal: AppDynamics Inc



Networking equipment giant Cisco Systems Inc has agreed to acquire San Francisco-based AppDynamics Inc, an application intelligence software company, for nearly \$3.7 billion, in one of its largest deals in the past few years.

Founded by IIT Delhi alumnus Jyoti Bansal in 2008, AppDynamics' cloud application and business monitoring platform enables companies to improve application and business performance.

"Together AppDynamics and Cisco will provide customers with intelligent and actionable insights, helping them make speedy business decisions and improve business performance," Cisco said in a statement.

AppDynamics will continue to be led by chief executive David Wadhvani as a new software business unit in Cisco's IoT and applications business. The acquisition is subject to customary closing conditions and is likely to close in Cisco's third quarter of fiscal year 2017.

"The acquisition of AppDynamics also supports Cisco's strategic transition toward software-centric solutions that deliver predictable recurring revenue," said Robert Salvagno, head of Cisco's M&A and venture investment team, in a blog post.

Several media reports had previously suggested that AppDynamics could go public in 2017. The reports also said that the company was looking to raise \$100 million through a public offering.

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This IIT professor Once Taught Raghuram Rajan, Now Works with Tribal Communities in Madhya Pradesh

We have read stories on how graduates from top universities have taken initiatives to support poor but not many go and live with them. Alok Sagar, an ex-IIT Delhi professor, left his lucrative job in 1982 to serve the tribal communities, work for upliftment of women and stay connected to nature.

Besides having graduate and masters degrees from IIT Delhi, Sagar has a PhD from Houston University in Texas, US. He has infact taught former-RBI governor Raghuram Rajan.

But all these degrees were meaningless to him and he found his true calling in one of the remotest parts of Madhya Pradesh. For the past 26 years, Sagar has been living in Kochamu — a place which has no electricity or roads.



“He is focused about nature and has been educating people on growing trees and taking care of environment. He is a simple man who does what he says and mean,” said Anurag Modi from Shramik Adiwasi Sangathan, who is closely associated with Alok.

Indeed, 64-year-old Sagar is a simple man. He would have continued to remain low key until he was forced to reveal his identity during Betul’s recent district elections. Some local authorities found him suspicious and asked him to leave the village. Alok went on to meet the police and revealed his qualifications.

Based in Delhi’s Patparganj, Sagar’s father was an IRS officer (he passed away last year) while his mother was a physics teacher in Miranda House, Delhi University. His brother is a professor in IIT Delhi.

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