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Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'able Minister of Education with Prof. T. G. Sitharam and other dignitaries

## Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship inaugurates major infrastructure Projects in IIT Guwahati

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship visited IIT Guwahati today and inaugurated the state-of-the-art Centre for Nanotechnology (CNT) and Centre for Indian Knowledge System (CIKS) as well as two hostels at the Institute. Dr. Ranaj Pegu, Hon'ble Education Minister of Assam and Smt. Queen Oja, Hon'ble MP were also present.

Centre for Nanotechnology (CNT) aims at meeting future challenges and augment academic partnerships with industry in Nanotechnology. The major funding for the Centre, which included Rs. 37 crore for the building, apart from equipment, was obtained from the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India. It will host 25 advanced laboratories that will focus on advancements in multi-disciplinary, scientific and translational research and is equipped with a Class-100 clean room facilities integrated with state-of-the-art fabrication, characterization and testing laboratories. The CNT presently hosts two Centres-for-Excellence sponsored by the Ministry of Electronics and Information

Technology (MeitY) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) along with an Incubator BioNEST sponsored by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. CNT is thus a good example of synergy among various ministries of the Government of India. The key outcomes expected from the Centre for Nanotechnology include nano-enabled healthcare, energy harvesting, and LED prototypes, devices and technologies, start-ups/ incubation ecosystem, high-end R&D outputs, capacity building of highly skilled manpower in the area of nanofabrication and nanoelectronics, etc.

Centre for Indian Knowledge System (CIKS) will focus on preserving, documenting and sustaining the knowledge that is unique to India. The top priorities include Indian classical music, Yoga, Sanskrit, traditional medicines, temple architecture, ceramic tradition and special agricultural practices of North-East India, herbal plants of north-east as health food and metal work of Assam. Scholars from diverse backgrounds will be encouraged to participate in the new CIKS's interdisciplinary research and education

programs, enabling them to evolve practices and technologies in varied areas for sustainable growth and development.

Disang hostel adds another 1000 rooms to the existing hostel capacity of IIT Guwahati. Dikhow hostel is the first hostel in the campus specifically for the accommodation of project staff. Constructed at a total cost of Rs. 132 cr, these hostels will further help in enhancing the capacity of IIT Guwahati.

Speaking on the occasion, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship congratulated IIT Guwahati for achieving excellent rankings in various international and national ranking systems and appreciated the efforts of IIT Guwahati for creating an ecosystem for research and education as well as focusing on overall development of the northeastern region. He said that, in this era of interconnected world, the centre for nanotechnology at IIT Guwahati will contribute not only to the knowledge and development of India but the whole world. Rich biodiversity of northeast provide a lot of scope for research which can benefit the entire humanity. There are a number of policy directions in the National Education Policy 2020 which can modernize our education system. As provided in the NEP, we should create an education hub in Guwahati by creating a cluster of institutions in the region.

Dr. Ranaj Pegu, Hon'ble Education Minister of Assam congratulated IIT Guwahati and said that the Institute should focus on entrepreneurship and produce job creators and not only job seekers. Institutes like IIT Guwahati should also focus on developing new agricultural technologies to help double farmers' income. He further requested IIT Guwahati to mentor other educational institutions in the region and also develop modules for training of teachers.

Smt. Queen Oja, Hon'ble MP expressed her happiness in getting such advanced research facilities in northeast and expected IIT Guwahati to contribute in the overall development of northeast.

Earlier, while welcoming the guests, Director, IIT, Guwahati said that, through these and similar other initiatives, the Institute has been proactively pursuing high-end research and working towards the vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat", while fulfilling the aspirations of the region, aligning with national policies, especially implementing the NEP2020, and competing globally in research and technology development.



Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Director, IIT Guwahati welcoming Shri Dharmendra Pradhan



Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Education, addressing the gathering at IIT Guwahati

## Gen. V. K. Singh (Rtd), Hon'ble MoS for Civil Aviation, launches Drone based Technology, Skill Development, Administrative Center and Droneport at IIT Guwahati

Gen (Dr) VK Singh (Rtd), Hon'ble Minister of State Civil Aviation, Government of India, launched India's First "Center for Excellence in Research on Drone/UAV Technology and Artificial Intelligence," Skill development Center for Drone/UAV operation and maintenance, Nodal Center for overall administrative Drone Data management for NE region and "AXOM Droneports," which will be used to support cargo drones delivering urgent/medical and emergency supplies/precious supplies to remote areas of the North East.

This Droneport was among the four initiatives inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of State at IIT Guwahati to promote the development and adoption of drone technology in the North-Eastern Region. This program was jointly organised by IIT Guwahati and FICCI. These initiatives will address various aspects of the development and implementation of drone technology such as technological advancements, training, legal aspects, administrative management, logistics, and adoption for the benefit of the entire region and the country.

Addressing the inaugural event, Gen (Dr) VK Singh (Rtd), Hon'ble Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Government of India, said, "I assure you that the Government will leave no stone unturned. Having understood the remarkable potential of Drones to transform every sector of the Economy, the Government of India, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, has brought out the New Drone Rules in August 2021 and has followed it up with a Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) Scheme for manufacturers. Our Focus is to develop India's capabilities as an important and integral value multiplier to the global drone ecosystem."

Further, Gen (Dr) VK Singh (Rtd) said, "Drones offer tremendous benefits to almost all sectors of the economy. They can be significant creators of employment and economic growth due to their reach, versatility, and ease of use, especially in India's remote and inaccessible areas. It's encouraging to see the IITs of our country take some timely initiatives in this direction. I pay my regards to the people who are driving the growth of drones in India."

The Hon'ble Minister of State Gen (Dr) VK Singh (Rtd) began his tour by interacting with Drone companies and start-ups. He was led by Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Director, IIT Guwahati, Prof. Sashindra K. Kakoty, Deputy Director, IIT Guwahati, and Prof. Parameswar K. Iyer, Dean (Public Relations and Branding), IIT Guwahati. Shri Amber Dubey, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India, Mr. Dipankar Barua, Chairman, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Assam State Council and Mr. Sumeet Gupta, FICCI, New Delhi accompanied the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble MoS presided over the meeting of guests, dignitaries, Kendriya Vidyalaya-IITG students, farmers, medical practitioners, policy makers and other end users. Thereafter, he proceeded to the inauguration of the IIT Guwahati Centre for Excellence for Drones and Artificial Intelligence.

Welcoming the Hon'ble Minister of State to the Campus, Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Director, IIT Guwahati, said, "IIT Guwahati has taken the lead and made significant contribution in self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) in several sectors and has been focusing on various technology based development projects for the benefit of the region. Utilizing the salient features which Drone assisted technology offers, the remote and difficult terrains in the entire northeast region can be brought within reach during any emergency. IIT Guwahati will share its research expertise, impart skill development, set-up a droneport and provide all administrative support and fulfil the vision of Hon'ble PM of India Shri Narendra Modi to realize the potential of India to be global drone hub by 2030"

Highlighting the FICCI's initiatives to further augment the development of drone technology in country, Mr. Dipankar Barua, Chairman, FICCI Assam State Council said, "North-eastern region of the country is on a progressive track and welcomes use of drone technology for overall development and especially in areas like, Border Security, Agriculture, Health, Tourism, Mining and Infrastructure. FICCI has been closely working with MoCA throughout the process of policy transformation, supporting the Ministry with its inputs in form of white papers and policy recommendations. We will continue to support government machinery and industry in all possible ways to make India a drone hub."

The IIT Guwahati Centre for Excellence for Drones/UAV and Artificial Intelligence addresses a broad spectrum of technical and social concerns related to drone technology. It has been established with the vision to design and develop the most advanced indigenous drones for solving the northeast region's most persistent problems and contributing to the nation's technological achievements. Along with the Technology Incubation Hub where research on underwater drones is also being carried out, this center will utilize the diverse expertise available across the institute to provide thrust in development of drones/UAVs, software platforms, data collation and analysis as well as creating broad application base.

It will also assist innovators and start-ups in their research and development activities. In addition to this, the center will work on the ideation and implementation of drone policies and regulations. Similarly, the testing and due certification of drones will also be one of the organization's focuses. Already two Drone based start-ups are setting up their labs at IIT Guwahati Research Park.

The Hon'ble MoS then inaugurated the Skill Development Center for North East followed by AXOM Droneports and Nodal Centre for North East.

The Skill Development Center for North East will work in collaboration with the State Government, Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India, Ministry of Defence Government of India, and relevant industrial partners for capacity building and advanced training. It will provide professional UAV training to Government and Private organizations, including users such as farmers, security personnel, disaster relief and management, high power fault detection and remote.

Apart from providing technical training to operate the drones, the center will also be responsible for the training of rules and regulations. This will create a career opportunity for the youth of the regions and help the adoption of drone technology for the benefit of common people living in difficult terrain.

Nodal Centre for North East will be responsible for the overall administrative management for the northeast region, drafting policies frameworks with State Governments to build a sustainable UAV industry in India. It will promote and strive towards building a safer and scalable environment in the unmanned aviation industry in the northeast. I engage with researchers, Thought Leaders, Industry experts, Visionaries, and policymakers to share their expertise to achieve its goals.



IIT Guwahati Drone Utsav



Drone developed by Marut Drones, startup founded by IIT Guwahati alumni



Hon'ble Minister Gen. V. K. Singh (Rtd) and Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Director, IIT Guwahati at the Guwahati Drone Utsav

## Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare Chaired a Meeting at IIT Guwahati on Executing Major Infrastructure Projects at AIIMS

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India visited Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati today and Chaired a meeting along with Dr. Keshav Mahanta, Hon'ble Minister of Health, Govt. of Assam and Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Director, IIT Guwahati. The meeting was also attended by Prof. S. K. Kakoty, Deputy Director, Prof. P. K. Iyer, Dean, PRBR IIT Guwahati, Shri Kailash Karthik, DC Kamrup, Shri Siddharth Singh, (Commissioner & Secretary-Health), Dr. Manoj Choudhury, ED-NHM, Prof. Gitanjali Batmanabane, Director, AIIMS Guwahati and representatives from construction companies implementing the AIIMS project on Sunday.

While reviewing the project implementation in the entirety, the Hon'ble Health Minister Mandaviya has taken a tough stand on the delay caused in completion of the project. These included the major civil construction of buildings, roads, drains as well as procuring major instruments for full functioning of the institute. The timelines presented by the construction companies were not accepted since this was likely to further delay the completion of the project. The minister then suggested to have a joint meeting with all stakeholders, involve expert representatives from IIT Guwahati rather than any third party representatives and provide a roadmap within a week to the Health Ministry and come up with a concrete date on the inauguration of the AIIMS, Guwahati campus.

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare mentioned, "The delay in completing the construction of AIIMS Guwahati is very disappointing at a time when the country is making giant strides in fighting COVID pandemic, vaccine administering and all the healthcare parameters are on upswing across the country. In order to fulfil the aspirations of the citizens of Assam and northeast region who have to travel to far off states for better medical facilities, it is necessary to complete the construction work as well procure all necessary medical equipment immediately, so that the best medical facilities is available at the doorstep."

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya also requested Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Director, IIT Guwahati to provide all technical support immediately to AIIMS and ensure that the quality of materials used is audited, the project implementation delay is overcome and provide all other administrative support. Dr. Mandaviya also requested the Health Minister of Assam Dr. Keshav Mahanta to facilitate filling up of senior administrative positions from state cadre officials on priority to help the faster functioning of the institute recruitment and other official procedures.

Later the Hon'ble ministers Dr. Mandaviya and Dr. Mahanta and officials of various departments, including IIT Guwahati officials also visited the AIIMS construction site at Changsari, Guwahati and reviewed the entire campus, including the progress of the construction works.

While welcoming the guests on campus, Director, IIT, Guwahati said that, "IIT Guwahati which has a much larger campus has already demonstrated that a fully functional campus located few kilometres away from AIIMS, having similar terrain, has one of the best infrastructure facilities in the country and every support needed to AIIMS, Guwahati as directed by the Union Minister will be provided. Prof. Sitharam also mentioned that IIT Guwahati has made elaborate plans to set-up a medical school at the institute along with the support of the state government, and a pre-proposal for the same has been submitted to the health department already."





Prof T G Sitharam welcoming the hon'ble Health Minister Shri Mansukh Mandaviya



Shri Mansukh Mandaviya chairs the meeting at IIT Guwahati on executing major infrastructure projects at AIIMS

## Awards & honours



Dr. Chandan Kumar, Associate Professor, Department of Electronics and Electrical Engineering has joined IEEE System Journal as an Associate Editor.



Prof. Latha Rangan, Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering has been selected for the "Dr. P. Sheel Memorial Lecture (Young Women Scientist) Award" by the National Academy of Sciences, India.



Prof. Biman Behari Mandal, Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering has joined as Associate Editor in ACS Biomaterials Science & Engineering (ACS Publications)

Mr. Tirthankar Sen, 2nd Year MTech student of Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering, currently pursuing his research project under Dr. Rajkumar P. Thummer has been jointly awarded Best E-Poster Award (first place, literature review category) in the National Conference on CRISPR/Cas: From Biology to Technology for e-poster titled "Recent Developments in CRISPR-iPSC based Neurodegenerative Disease Modelling".



Dr. Suraj Kumar Mandal receiving the award



Mr. Angshu Dutta receiving the award

Dr. Suraj Kumar Mandal and Mr. Angshu Dutta pursuing research under supervision of Prof. Shankar Prasad Kanaujia of the Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering have been awarded with the BEST ORAL PRESENTATION at National Seminar on Crystallography (NSC)-48 held at IIT Roorkee on 25-27 November, 2021.

Ms. Pragya Gupta working under Prof. Dilip Pal, Department of Physics, received the Best Presentation Award (including the payment of US\$ 400) for recognition of giving an excellent poster presentation at the 2021 Around-the-Clock Around-the-Globe Magnetics Conference (AtC-AtG). The award was given for the work on "Coupled lattice vibrations and exchange bias in Eu substituted NdCrO<sub>3</sub>"

Master Thesis Project completed in 2021 by Mr. Prashant Patil, Department of Design, the 'Dholm Rocking chair' has entered the official Pre-Selection of the Green Concept Award 2022 in the 'New Materials' category. The seat pan of the chair was made with a natural composite of royal palm leaf fiber and natural aromatic resin (dhoop). This is the second furniture design project as MTP under the guidance of Dr. Supradip Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Design, to be recognized on any international platform. The last furniture design project by Mr. Rijas M. P. was showcased in Global Grad Show Dubai in 2017.

The Green Concept Award acknowledges products, services and concepts from established companies, start-ups and students for their excellence in sustainability, design and innovation. The Award has been making 'best practice' examples accessible to a broad public on an international level from a pool of 1500 submission entries yearly since 2013.





## IIT Guwahati to collaborate with Oil India Ltd. to Develop New Technologies for energy and allied sectors

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati is going to collaborate with Oil India Limited (OIL) on the development and introduction of new technologies energy, and related sectors. The partnership will also focus on cooperation in Transfer of existing technologies, Knowledge up-gradation and innovation partnership, Training and skill development, and other areas of mutual agreement.

The MoU was signed on 11 November 2021 by Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Director, IIT Guwahati, and Mr. Sasanka Pratim Deka, Executive Director, Oil India Limited, in the presence of Institute Faculty and OIL Executives. They will work together to catalyse innovation and growth in technology.

Outlining the benefits and future prospective of the MoU, Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Director, IIT Guwahati, said, "This MoU will facilitate a new path for exploring various opportunities in applied and translational research for the sustainable energy sector with OIL. IIT Guwahati is among the few top institutions in India that are dedicated to develop state-of-the-art technologies and skilled manpower in the field of petroleum and its allied industries."

Further, Prof. T. G. Sitharam said, "With this MOU the oil and gas industries like OIL will highly benefit by developing indigenous Technologies. These joint research activities should be inclined in such a way that it reaches the common people of India and pave the pathway for the upliftment of society. IIT Guwahati is now aggressively working with industries for challenging research and innovation problems aligning with 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' Mission."

Collaboration between industry and academia is mutually beneficial. It provides the industry work-ready talent with specialized knowledge and practical training and academia benefits by having opportunities to work on relevant technologies and challenging problems.

Speaking on the significance of this collaboration, Mr. Sasanka Pratim Deka, Executive Director, Oil India Limited, said, "Oil India Limited firmly believes that the MoU shall facilitate a quantum jump in the efficiency in the process, thereby contributing to profitability. This is just the beginning and Oil India Limited looks forward to a bright future by collaborating with IIT Guwahati."

The Engineering Service Group of Oil India Limited constitutes mainly core engineering department(s) like Electrical, Civil, Field Engineering, Instrumentation, Field Communication, Information Technology, and Logistics. The Engineering Service Group provides various essential engineering services to the main areas like Exploration, Drilling, and Production of Crude Oil and Natural Gas, Transportation of crude oil and production of LPG in addition to the company's other business avenues.

Those present in the MoU Signing Ceremony include Prof. S.K. Kakoty, Deputy Director, IIT Guwahati, Prof. Vimal Katiyar, Dean, R&D, IIT Guwahati, Prof. S.S. Bag, Associate Dean, R&D, IIT Guwahati, Prof. G. Krishnamoorthy, Dean, II&SI, IIT Guwahati, Prof. P. Muthukumar, Associate Dean, II&SI, IIT Guwahati, Prof. P.K. Iyer, Dean, PRBR, IIT Guwahati and Prof. R.K. Bhattacharya, Dean RGF, IIT Guwahati.

Representations of OIL who also graced the ceremony are Mr. Sasanka Pratim Deka, ED (ES, IC & DOR), Mr. Sandip Goswami, CGM(PLS), Mr. Ajit Chandra Haloi, CGM( Electrical), Mr. Dilip Kumar Das, GM(-Civil), Mr. Ikhtiar Hussain, GM (Instrumentation), Mr. Tapan Kumar Sarma, GM (Electrical), Mr. Monoj Gogoi, DGM (Field Engineering), Ms. Dipti Shikha Chintey, Dy. CE (Instrumentation), among others



Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Director, IIT Guwahati, and Mr. Sasanka Pratim Deka, Executive Director, Oil India Limited signing the MoU Limited



Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Director, IIT Guwahati, and Mr. Sasanka Pratim Deka, Executive Director, Oil India Limited and other dignitaries

### IIT Guwahati develops Coating to modify ordinary cloth masks for better protection against COVID-19

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati researchers have developed a 'Nanometer Thick Superhydrophobic Coating' material to modify ordinary cloth or silk masks that will maintain its comfort but offer better protection against aerosol-driven infections such as COVID-19.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines, N95 masks or double masking protects people to a great extent from Coronavirus. But the drawback is that people undergo suffocation after wearing them for a long time. Besides, N95 are costly and thus unaffordable to large sections of the population. Instead, people resort to cheaper and readily-available cloth and silk masks.

To address these challenges and to bring in a safer, economical and comfortable alternative the researchers of IIT Guwahati have developed a coating material to modify the easily-available cloth mask into a hydrophobic mask to repel virus-laden droplets and avoid breathing difficulties even when worn for a longer period of time. Another advantage is that these masks are versatile and can be used with other additives such as antibacterial nanomaterial for additional protection against viruses.

The research was led by Prof. Arun Chattopadhyay, Department of Chemistry and Centre for Nanotechnology, IIT Guwahati and Dr. Partho S. G. Pattader, Department of Chemical Engineering, School of

Health Science and Technology, and Centre for Nanotechnology, IIT Guwahati. This work is recently published in the reputed peer-reviewed journal ACS Applied Bio Materials (<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acsabm.1c00851>).

Highlighting the unique aspects of this Research, Prof. Arun Chattopadhyay, Department of Chemistry and Centre for nanotechnology, IIT Guwahati, said, "A cloth mask is largely porous to aerosol and thus cannot effectively prevent COVID-19 type infection. Although they are still better than wearing no mask, an improved version that would prevent the entry or exit of the aerosol from the modified cloth mask was needed. We have worked on that based on the principle of repulsion of the aerosol by the modified cloth while allowing the air to flow through the mask. A simple coating of the hydrophobic molecule on the silk cloth worked well here."

The breathability was tested by measuring the oxygen permeation through the mask with the help of an instrument called Gas Chromatography. The penetration of oxygen reduces by only 22% for the modified Eri silk mask compared to the natural Eri silk mask, whereas for N95 the reduction with respect to the natural Eri silk came out to be around 59%. Hence, the modified silk mask is way more breathable than the N95 mask but with almost similar protection against aerosol-driven infections.

Shedding light on the use of Eri silk, Ms. Prerona Gogoi, Student, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Guwahati, and the first author of the paper, said, "We have chosen Eri silk for carrying out this study. This silk comes from the caterpillar *Samia ricini* native to northeast India and some parts of China and Japan."

"This is a one-step quick and inexpensive fabrication process that would help in the mass production and distribution of these masks to a large section of the population," Ms Gogoi added.

The sustainable, durable, and robust Eri silk, also referred to as the fabric of peace, is softer than many other silks or cotton and has the unique property of maintaining coolness in summer and providing warmth in winter.

Describing the functioning of the mask, Dr Partho S. G. Pattader, Department of Chemical Engineering, School of Health Science and Technology, and Centre

for Nanotechnology, IIT Guwahati, said, “To attain hydrophobicity, Eri silk fabric was coated with a bio-compatible nanometer-thick coating of a chemical called octadecyl trichlorosilane (OTS). OTS, being a fluorine-free chemical after bonding with the fabric, becomes non-hazardous to health and the environment. And the good part is the cloth/silk masks still remain comfortably breathable after the nan-coating.”

When any droplet hits the modified Eri silk mask, it bounces back into the air rather than being passed through the fabric or getting soaked by the fabric itself. Another added advantage is that these modified Eri silk masks can be reused again after subsequent washing with household detergent and drying.

### IIT Guwahati collaborates with Australia India Water Centre and Western Sydney University to support the water management reforms in India.

As a collaborative initiative among the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, Australia India Water Centre, and Western Sydney University, the first edition of the India Young Water Professional Programme was launched virtually on 29 November 2021.

His Excellency Mr. Manpreet Vohra, Indian High Commissioner to Australia, His Excellency Barry O’ Farrell, Australian High Commissioner to India, Ms. Debashree Mukherjee, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Professor T G Sitharam, Director IIT Guwahati, Professor Basant Maheshwari, Western Sydney University and more than 100 participants joined the launch of the Program.

The launch of the India Young Water Professional Program marks a significant milestone in the Australia-India collaboration in the field of water conservation. This program will be implemented by the Australia India Water Centre (a consortium of Australian and Indian universities). This initiative aims to provide a structured platform for capacity building with strategic and long-term investment to support the water management reforms in India. The objectives of the India Young Water Professional Programme are to equip water professionals with the necessary skills, knowledge, behaviours, and networks that will better enable them to contribute to the development and management of water resources in India, and to address the competency needs and priorities of the water sector in India.

Speaking on the occasion, India High Commissioner HE Manpreet Vohra said that water is a key priority area of collaboration between India and Australia and

both countries are working actively on this front. He said that the Young Water Professional Program is a significant milestone in the India-Australia relationship and will go a long way in institutional strengthening and capacity building.

Shedding light on the importance of this collaboration Shri T. G. Sitharam, Director, IIT Guwahati said, “This launch of the Young Water Professionals (YWP) program will be a great milestone for AIWC, IIT Guwahati, and Western Sydney University. I thank everyone who made this possible. AIWC is committed to working together for a common goal aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 framework to explicitly contribute to SDG 2 Zero Hunger; SDG5 Gender Equality, SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 10 Reduced Inequities, and SDG 13 Climate Action. India receives more than 1000 mm annual rainfall and is blessed with the monsoon. ‘India is not running of water, In fact, water is running out of India’. However, the shortage in India is of storage not of water. Even though Independent India since 1947 has built more than 5800 large dams, the storage is abysmally small. We need to look at newer opportunities through campaigns like "catch the rain, where it falls and when it falls" launched by our Honourable Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi Ji under National Water Mission.”

This program is unique and different from typical capacity building and training programs. It is focused on the Engaged Training and Learning Model. About 70% of the program is focused on project-based learning through Situation Understanding and Improvement Projects (SUIP). The Program focuses on gender equality and diversity because sustainable water management can only benefit from the views and skills of all members of society. A total of 20 participants have been selected for the first edition of this Program (10 men and 10 women) from central and state implementing agencies of the National Hydrology Project.

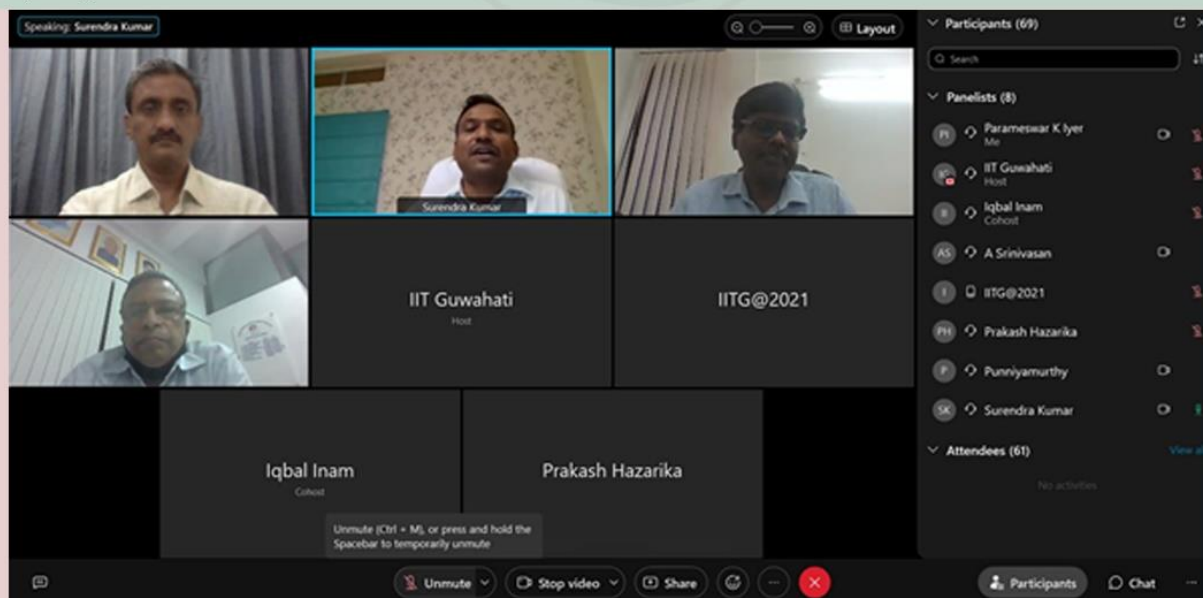


Prof. T. G. Sitharam with the other dignitaries



IIT Guwahati and ChemDist group signed an MoU to start a ChemDist Centre of Excellence for Industrial Nanotech Innovations (CD-CoE) at IIT Guwahati.

The main focus of COE will be on developing and commercializing new-generation technologies and products related to ethanol manufacturing from agro-based feedstock. The COE will also emphasize on converting ethanol into valuable pharmaceuticals intermediates, specialty and commodity chemicals which are otherwise being currently imported.



As part of Vigilance Awareness Week 2021 with the theme Independent India@75 : Self Reliance with Integrity, an online talk on "Preventive Vigilance Measures" had been organized.

Shri Surendra Kumar, Inspector General of Police (Nodal Officer for Anti-Human Trafficking Units), Assam was the invited speaker.



Adopted by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949, the Constitution of India has been the fundamental in ensuring the success of the world's largest democracy for over seventy years. On the occasion of the 'Constitution Day' or 'Samvidhan Divas' on November 26, to commemorate its adoption, the employees of the Institute along with the top functionaries of the Institute gathered together to read the Preamble of the Indian Constitution



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