

PRESS RELEASE

IIT Alumni Council announces the India Innovation Network (I2Net) initiative to accelerate research, particularly against Covid19.

- India Innovation Network (I2Net) to be India's first collaborative research network to deploy Quantum Technologies for 100x faster processing than any other Indian supercomputer. Targets to be worlds fastest.
- I2net to facilitate creation of a petabit backbone and 40/400 Gbps local fiber loop to provide secure high bandwidth, low latency connectivity to main infectious disease database being open sourced by CSIR IGIB.
- I2Net to provide researchers access to massive quantum computing resources and covid patient database, larger than any open sourced by any such initiative anywhere in the world.
- I2Net will support drug discovery research for MegaTx by simulating folding proteins on the Quantum Network.
- I2Net partners to dovetail into CSIR IGIB MoU with IIT Alumni Council for data intensive collaborative research
- I2Net to connect all establishments of the MegaIncubator initiative with direct access for startups. I2Net to connect all MegaFund portfolio entities including startups and AIF Funds

New Delhi, August 10th, 2020: IIT Alumni Council will tie-together partnering institutions of the India Innovation Network – into one unified research and innovation ecosystem - as part of the i2Net initiative. IIT Alumni Council will selectively align with innovator teams and incubators of the highest rated academic colleges, research institutions, incubators and industry research centres so as to create an innovation ecosystem with access to over 30,000 PhDs and with a virtual reach to millions of students and thousands of startups that can be onboarded almost instantaneously.

"Proposed at the heart of i2Net is the world's fastest educational network and the world's largest supercomputer – both based on Quantum Technologies – created by tying together High Performance Quantum Computers with a million laptops and a billion phones" said Ravi Sharma, President of the IIT Alumni Council, a telecom industry veteran and Head of the Telecom Equipment Manufacturers Association . "We propose to tie together the most eminent Educational, Technology, Industry and Research establishments in this initiative for synergizing and accelerating innovation in areas like drug discovery, recombinant protein production and DNA studies" he added.

"Mumbai University is delighted to be a founding partner institution of i2Net. The University faculty and research students stand to gain significantly by way of collaboration of research work and sharing of ideas with other research institutions . We are ready to contribute in the overall research being conducted to tackle the pandemic situation . University's Information Technology capabilities are well placed to associate with the brightest minds in the country by way of this network, enhancing the overall coalition of ideas, generating valuable leads and solutions thereof." said Dr. Suhas Pednekar, Vice Chancellor, University of Mumbai .

Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Ex-Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU and Ex-Chairman of UGC and currently Vice-Chancellor of Somaiya Vidya Vihar University, Mumbai, has helped to bring the benefits, learnings and functionalities of the open, distance and digital learning ecosystem to the i2Net initiative conceptualised by the IIT Alumni Council. According to him, "i2Net is really a dream come true. In the past, I have served on the Boards of several science, technology and health institutions at the State and National levels and as Director of the Apollo Hospitals. I am sure that national research institutions, hospital chains, research departments of industry and Universities can bring lots of data and inputs for this noble initiative"

“The first quantum computer network with quantum cryptography for security and accessible online through 40/400 Gbps loops will usher in a paradigm change and take India to the top of the technology tables almost overnight. This kind of computing power will provide a great impetus to computing intensive areas like folded protein simulation, weather predictions and climate change modelling in addition to facilitating more tangible functionality such as high quality video conferencing and virtual reality” added Mr Arun Seth, a telecom industry veteran himself and part of Selection Committee of the Quantum Task Force.. IIT Alumni Council will soon be launching a global search to choose the operating, technology and funding partners for the petabit I2Net fibre backbone and Quantum Computing infrastructure in India which is described in the Annexure to this document.

About IIT Alumni Council

IIT Alumni Council is an autonomous and independent global body of alumni of all the twenty-three IITs and partnering institutions of the India Innovation Network (i2Net). The IIT Alumni Council aspires to catalyse India’s technological renaissance. Through its initiatives , IIT Alumni Council intends to act as a network and as a bridge between various providers of knowledge, wealth, information, wisdom, ideas, expertise and entrepreneurship to promote technological solutions to problems facing India under its 100 global city initiative. The Council has rallied the considerable resources of the global IIT alumni ecosystem to catalyse technological and financial interventions for the C19 battle. For more information on IIT Alumni Council, please visit: www.iitalumnicouncil.org



A distinguished Alumnus of IIT Roorkee, former Corporate leader and now full time Philanthropist - Ravi Sharma plays an active role in global revitalisation and unification of IIT alumni across countries, across IITs and across age groups. He is the President and Chief Volunteer of the IIT Alumni Council and also leads the Institute Outreach & Branding initiatives. The main deliverables of the Council are facilitating alumni networking, fortifying Brand IIT and Brand India, catalysing alumni participation in nation building and accelerating technological developments in key areas of our economy including start-ups, manufacturing and digital transformation. The Council has six operating missions - Alumni Networking (PanIIT Alumni) , Mentorship (PanIIT Institute), Social Venture funding (PanIIT Fund), CSR Platform (PanIIT Foundation), a Thinktank (PanIIT Forum) a Biomolecule Mega Incubator (PanIIT Incubator). The IIT Alumni Council is now actively engaged in solving the corona crisis and has formed the C19 Task Force which has the participation of over 20,000 alumni and includes Mumbai University and ICT Mumbai as institutional partners. C19 Task Force initiatives include MegaLab Mumbai, MegaTx NCR, MegaFund and ToprNet.



Prof. Suhas Pednekar is the Vice Chancellor of the University of Mumbai. He has over 30 years of academic experience as a under graduate, post-graduate teacher and a researcher. His inherent passion, commitment and dedication towards academics and research led to his appointment as Principal of Ramnarain Ruia College in 2006, a position he held until April 2018. He holds a Doctoral Degree in Organic Chemistry and was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Stevens Institute of Technology, New Jersey, USA. His areas of research interest are Green Chemistry, Pharmacological and Chemical Investigation of Medicinal Plants and Marine Biotechnology. He has presented his research findings in many national and international conferences and has published over 50 research papers in national and international journals of repute. He has undertaken collaborative research projects with many Universities in India and abroad and has successfully guided over 25 students for Doctoral and Masters' programs. He has vast administrative experience and has served as a Member of official bodies of the Institute of Chemical Technology (Mumbai), University of Mumbai and State and National level bodies engaged in the enhancement of quality of education. He has worked as the Member of the many National and State level bodies such as the Working Group on Higher Education (XII Five Year Plan) Planning Commission of India (2012), Committee for Revision of Maharashtra Universities' Act, Government of Maharashtra (2012), Task Force Committee, Government of Maharashtra for New National Education Policy (2016 – 2017), Education Innovation Committee & Commercial Examination Board, Indian Merchants' Chamber (2009). He has been the President (2007- 08); Vice-President (2002 – 2004); Joint Secretary (1999 – 2002) and Member of the Executive Committee, Indian Chemical Society, Mumbai Branch. He is also the Life Member of many scientific bodies. He is the recipient of several awards which include the Best Chemistry Teacher Award at National level by Tata Chemicals Ltd. given in association with the Association of Chemistry Teachers, Royal Society of Chemistry, Confederation of Indian Industry and Godrej (2013); and the Best Teacher Award, Government of Maharashtra (2012).



V. N. Rajasekharan is a distinguished academician and Scientist. He is currently the Vice-Chancellor of Somaiya Vidyavihar University and Chancellor of the ICFAI University, Tripura. He was President of Mewar University, Chiittorgarh, Rajasthan, India (2016–2018). He served as the the Principal Secretary, Science & Technology Dept of the Govt of Kerala, Prior to that Prof. Pillai was the Vice-Chancellor of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi (2006–2011). He served as Chairman of the University Grants Commission, Govt of India, New Delhi during the period 2002-2006.. Prior to that he was the Vice-Chancellor of the Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Govt of Kerala and held additional charge of the Cochin University of Science and Technology (1996–2000). In 2000 he was on a Visiting Research Professor assignment in the University of Lausanne, Switzerland. From 1983 to 1996 Dr. Pillai worked in various academic and research executive positions in the Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam such as the Founder Professor and Director of the School of Chemical Sciences, Dean of Faculty of Science, Founder Director of the School of Professional Distance Education, Director, College Development Council and Controller of Examinations of the University. During the period 1977–1983, Dr. Pillai worked as a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, on deputation from Calicut University, Kerala, in the Universities of Tübingen and Mainz, Germany. From 1971 to 1983, he worked in the Universities of Kerala and Calicut University as UGC/CSIR Junor and Senior Research Fellow, Assistant Professor and Associate Professor in the area of Chemical Sciences. He is an Elected Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences. Distinguished Fellow of the Kerala Academy of Sciences, and an Honorary Fellow of the Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers (IETE), New Delhi. He has been a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and an Honorary Senior Fellow of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore.



Arun Seth holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and a master's in business administration from the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata. Arun was associated with Alcatel-Lucent India as a non-executive chairman from May, 2011 until May 2014. He has worked for the BT Group in India in a variety of positions for over 17 years, retiring in July 2012.

Currently, Arun is a corporate leader and on serves on the board of Jubilant Foodworks Limited, Cadista Holdings Inc., Centum Learning Limited, Usha Breco Limited and Samtel Avionics Limited and Narayan Hrudayalaya.

He stands tall among alumni leaders of the IIT Alumni Movement as served as Chairman of the IIT Alumni Conclave held in Noida in 2010. This was the largest IIT Alumni Conclave ever held in India. He is an active member on the boards of various non-governmental organisations such as HelpAge India where he chairs the resource committee, 'Katha', 'SPIC-MACAY' and 'India Sponsor Foundation'. He is also a trustee of the Nasscom Foundation, which drives corporate social responsibility initiatives for the IT industry. In the past he has served as Chairman of PIAI and is a founder Global Board Invitee of the IIT Alumni Council.

