

PRESS RELEASE

IIT Alumni Council's MegaIncubator to set-up world class Research Centres in six cutting-edge domains.

- Engineered Biomolecules, Quantum Technologies, Nuclear Sciences, Imaging AI, Transportation and BFSI/ Fintech
- Domain experts and Venture Capitalists from IIT alumni group to act as mentors and guides to help reach commercialisation goals.
- Objective is to complement AtmaNirbhar Bharat through import substitution in old economy sectors and target global leadership in emerging technologies.
- Engineered Biomolecule Centre to be set up in Kalina Campus of University of Mumbai. Quantum Technology Research Centre to be housed in a captive campus in NCR. BFSI Incubator to collocate with BSE Institute in South Mumbai.
- MegaIncubator will accept incubatee applications from September 5th – Teacher's day.

New Delhi, Sept 03, 2020: IIT Alumni Council announces six Research Centres to make the most modern equipment and research tools available to startups registered with the MegaIncubator. Startups can register with MegaIncubator in addition to their host incubator to be able to roam across partner incubators and affiliate Research Centers. The Research Centers will be in the areas of Engineered Biomolecules, Quantum Technologies, Nuclear Sciences, Electric Transportation (including drones), BFSI (including fintech) and Imaging AI. The Research Centers will either be collocated with or be established in the vicinity of existing government and academic institutions that specialize in these areas. The Research Centers will be operational in 2021. Incubatee applications will be accepted from September 5th and the first batch of incubatees announced on October 2nd, 2020.

“The objective of IIT Alumni Council is to support Prime Minister's vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat through accelerated deployment of cutting edge technologies. Playing a lead role in revitalizing the incubator and startup ecosystem in high-tech domains is our primary focus. We are working towards empowering an alumni-led innovation movement supported by private capital and independent volunteers. The Research Centers as well as our various other initiatives are in pursuance of this larger goal. In the last six months we have aggregated over 10 million manhours of alumni time as their contribution to nation building. This is unprecedented and gives us the confidence to march ahead.” said Ravi Sharma, President, IIT Alumni Council.

“The MegaIncubator aspires to reach out to any technocrat startup promoter. The innovative network incubator architecture allows a startup already registered with a home incubator to leverage additional incubators facilitating access to incremental funding, infrastructure and markets. We are using the learnings from Zone Startups India and our global partners to build a phygital incubator framework that every startup will aspire to be part of.” said Mr Hemant Gupta, an IIT alumnus, MD of Zone Startups India – and head of the BFSI Research Centre. Zone Startups India manages close to 50,000 square feet of incubator space in the BSE Building in Fort, Mumbai and the Banaras Hindu University Campus.

“A dedicated global team has been working 24/7 on the Engineered Biomolecule Research Centre. Detailed blueprints have been drawn up and the laboratories are in various phases of execution. The National Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology where this will be collocated has already invested over Rs 150 crores in equipment and infrastructure – which we plan to upgrade and make available to all startups registered under the MegaIncubator. The MegaIncubator has already received over twenty incubatee proposals across molecular diagnostics, enzyme development, genomics, proteomics, biologics and folded protein simulation” commented Dr Samir Kulkarni, Director of Innovation and National Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, University of Mumbai. Dr Kulkarni will also head the Engineered Biomolecule Research Centre.

About IIT Alumni Council

IIT Alumni Council is the largest global body of alumni, students and academicians across all the twenty-three IITs and partnering Institutes of the India Innovation Network (I2Net). The IIT Alumni Council aspires to catalyse India's technological renaissance. For this it catalyses the creation of rapid response short term initiatives like the C19 Task Force and perpetual strategically planned initiatives like MegaFund, MegaIncubator and I2Net. Through such 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 appropriate technological solutions to known social challenges at the national level. As a demonstration, the six month C19 Task Force set up in March 2020 conceived of large startup initiatives like the NSCI Dome, Covid Test Bus, MegaLab and MegaTx – by aggregating over 10 million hours of 20,000+ volunteers, all of it on a pro bono basis. The Council is continuing to rally the considerable resources – both financial and technological - of the global IIT alumni ecosystem to catalyse global scale interventions in the social sector. 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 India and TieNet.



Hemant Gupta is an alumnus of IIT Chennai with a BTech in Electronics and Telecommunications 1986 and a PGDM from IIM Kolkata. After spending close to twenty five years with Citibank NA in India and US in various leadership roles across the entire spectrum of Wholesale and Retail Banking, he shifted his focus to the Impact Sector. Since 2016, he serves as the Managing Director of BSE Sammaan CSR Ltd and is currently also the Managing Director of BIL Ryerson Technology Startup Incubator Foundation (BRTSiF), also known as Zone Startups India. BSE Sammaan is world's first online platform facilitating CSR investments by corporates by matching them with NGOs and projects across India. He is a part of the SEBI task force for setting up the Social Stock Exchange Framework and a thought leader in both the ESR and Social entrepreneurship sector. BRTSiF is a global joint venture with Ryerson and Simon Fraser universities and is widely considered to be the best managed and most successful incubator in India. BRTSiF also oversees the incubator at BHU, Varanasi which is supported by the Atal Innovation Mission. Zone Startups India signed up as the first institutional incubator partner for the EBMI in May 2020 and he has been the Chief Mentor of EBMI ever since. He led the large technical and Commercial team that carried out multitude activities from identifying suitable locations for the 2.5 million square feet biologics manufacturing cluster to the 100,000 sqft pilot plant facility to the residential campus for international training programs. He is also responsible for the unique phygital architecture of the MegaIncubator.



An alumnus of ICT Mumbai and Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, Samir Kulkarni holds versatile qualification in complementing faculties of pharmaceutical sciences, bioprocessing, chemical engineering and business management. His total experience extends over a period of about 20 years in the area of biological sciences, with tenures in reputed research institutions such as Oak Ridge National Laboratory and University of Cincinnati, as well as in leading biologics organizations such as, Intas Pharmaceuticals, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, USV Limited etc. He has successfully led strategic and technical planning initiatives to enable launch of Biosimilars in Indian and Global Markets. He is presently working as the Director for Innovation, Incubation and Linkages with University of Mumbai and also holds additional charge as the Director of National Centre for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology. As a representative of the University of Mumbai he has been actively volunteering in the coordination of different initiatives of the IIT Alumni Council and providing technical insights in biomolecule development and diagnosis to manage the Covid19 Pandemic.