"Nobody is bothered about that institution more than its alumni"

- N.R. Narayan Murthy

Dear IITG Alumni, Student Alumni Interaction Linkage (SAIL) Team, and Stakeholders,

Greetings from the desk of the Director, IITG. This year has been no less than a challenge for everyone. The way IIT Guwahati tackled the pandemic fills me with pride. I'm delighted to present the newsletter for the academic session 2020-2021 to you all. Within this short span, IITG has been the only academic institution from India that occupied a place among the top 100 world universities – under 50 years of age-published by London-based Times Higher Education (THE) and continues to do this even today in various International Rankings.

It is strongly believed that IIT Guwahati has been able to fulfill the aspirations of the people of the North East region to a large extent since its inception through the Assam Accord signed in 1985. The institute has been working very hard to excel in academics, as well as in R&D, and continues to attract outstanding talent in the form of new faculty members in every discipline. IIT Guwahati joined the battle against COVID-19 from the beginning. The institute converted itself to a COVID isolation center through the help of various hostels, guest houses, and other facilities on campus. All the students, professors, and researchers joined their hands to deal with the enraging pandemic.
Affordable and sterile Viral Transport Media (VTM) kits, RT-PCR kits, and RNA isolation kits were developed jointly with RR Animal Healthcare Ltd. with inputs from GMCH. Around 950 kits have been delivered which were launched on 17/06/2020 by the then Minister of Finance, Health and Family Welfare, Assam, Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma.

The institute also made an effort at the beginning of February to call a majority of the students back to campus with all the necessary precautions. Various products have already been developed and are ready for manufacturing like Mobile Robot for carrying drug/food in COVID-19. Isolation wards, Mobile robots for medical waste disposal in the COVID-19 isolation wards, Face Shields for Medical professionals and security staff, and Hand sanitizersA Disaster Response Team has been constituted which is looking into all aspects relating to prevention/mitigation of COVID19 within the campus. Regular online Yoga classes for faculty, staff, and students are being held to boost immunity and do away with mental stress.

We invite our alumni, corporate entities, and other friends of the institute to contribute to the institute's betterment through which we would like to bring significant difference to our endeavor in pursuit of excellence. Your contribution towards revenue generation will be utilized for Infrastructure Development, Young Faculty Awards, Chair Professorships, Hostel Development, Student Development, and for the general betterment of the institute. We would like to award the achievers of IIT Guwahati, Distinguished Alumnus Awards (DAA) every year starting from 2020, the Silver Jubilee year, to those who have reached positions of eminence in the areas of Business, Academics, Research, Governance, Society, Public service, and Entrepreneurship. I hope that you will continue to walk the journey of growth and prosperity with IITG in the future.
"I think the success of any school can be measured by the contribution the alumni make to our national life"

- John F Kennedy

It has already been a year since the silver jubilee celebrations of our institute! Throughout these years the campus has encompassed about 20,000 students who are having many accomplishments in their career and created many beautiful memories of their life through the campus and we are welcoming furthermore talents to come.

There are many events like Alumni meet, Webinars taking place on the campus which are connecting the alumni and the campus. We are getting amazing support from your side. Due to the pandemic condition, online events are being held in a way so that there will be no shortage in any way. We are hoping that you will be supportive and give your active participation in our further journey. Hopefully, we would be able to conduct the first-ever Alumni Meet at the IITG campus soon, which was almost pulled off last year if not for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kudos to all Alumni fraternity!
French Delegation Visit to IIT Guwahati

The Honourable Ecological Minister of France Ms. Barbara Pompili, His excellency Mr. Emmanuel Lenain, Ambassador of France to India, Ms. Virginie Corteval, Consul General of France in Kolkata and Mr. Bruno Bosle, Country Director, AFD (Agence Française de Développement) along with other 11 delegates from France visited IIT Guwahati on January 30, 2021.

Honorable Cabinet Minister of Assam for Transport, Industry, and Commerce, Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary also accompanied the delegation.

Prof. Mihir Kumar Purkait, Dean of Alumni and External Relations (AER) chaired the session and delivered a formal welcome address to the delegates.
French Delegation Visit to IIT Guwahati

This was followed by a visit to the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Polymer (CoE-SusPol) by the Honourable Minister along with his team led by Prof. Vimal Katiyar, Dean of Research and Development, IIT Guwahati. The delegation interacted with research scholars and discussed recent developments and achievements in the field of recycling plastic and biodegradable plastic.

Thereafter, the delegation took a tour of the IIT Guwahati campus and proceeded to visit Kaziranga National Park.
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Honorary Faculty

IIT Guwahati appointed 11 members of honorary faculty in various centers of institute in 2020. The faculty members are scientists, researchers, engineers and other professionals who are serving and retired from leading educational institutions and industries which are located in India and abroad with excellent professional track record are considered to be eligible for this position. Any visitor to the campus such as delegates deputed by the foreign institution/Embassies/High Commission, Senior Collaborators of large bilateral projects during Conferences/workshops/symposia, in lieu of bilateral/multilateral MOU activities, office bearers of recognized international societies, internationally acclaimed personalities and similar such activities are followed by them.

List of Honorary Faculty

Ashok Mishra  Brian C Lovell  Bruce balentine
Honorary Faculty

Dr Rajiv V Joshi
Dr Raksh Vir Jasra
Jayanta b Sharma
Karl F Mac Dorman
Ken Ono
Prof. Anabel Ford
Honorary Faculty

Winston Ho

Yuji Iwahori
Alumni Award 2020

IITG has now established itself as a reputed and admired organization in different parts of the world with its vast reservoir of talent which is now spreading its footprint everywhere showing the best of IIT Guwahati

A new initiative that the Institute started during the pandemic phase is to recognize the glorious achievements and services of the alumni. Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati recognizes the professional achievements and contributions of its alumni and decided for the very first time to confer awards under three categories:

IITG for very first time took this opportunity to recognize the professional achievements and contributions made by our alumni community in different spheres of their professional and social engagements in the form of IIT Guwahati Alumni Awards in three different categories:

-> Outstanding Service Award
-> Young Alumni Achiever Award
-> Distinguished Alumni Award

The winners of the Alumni awards were felicitated in an online ceremony held on 27th March 2021, hosted by the Alumni and External Relations(AER) Office of IIT Guwahati and assisted by the Student Alumni Interaction Linkage(SAIL) team of IIT Guwahati. The Alumni Portal was launched and another edition the IITG Alumni Newsletter was announced to highlight alumni achievements and activities of the campus. Mr. Aman Mathur, the President of IIT Guwahati Alumni Association chaired the event as the Guest of Honour. The winners shared their experiences at IIT Guwahati and expressed their gratitude to their alma mater for recognizing their achievements and contribution to the Institute and Society as well.
Alumni Award 2020

The IIT Guwahati Alumni Awards 2020

- Mr. Ankit Nagori, Co-Founder Cure.fit, Bangalore for Young Alumni Achiever Award
- Dr. Harpreet S. Dhillon, Associate Professor, Department of ECE, Virginia Tech, the USA for Young Alumni Achiever Award
- The winner of the Outstanding Service Award for 2020, is Mr. Kiran Kumar Thota, Product Lead, Amazon AWS, President, PanIIT USA

Mr. Ankit Nagori  (Young Alumni Achiever Award)

Mr. Nagori is one of the most renowned entrepreneurs in the Indian ecosystem today. Graduated from IIT Guwahati in 2008, Mr. Nagori started his first startup in the social network space – YouthPad. He started off by joining Flipkart as a manager, launched the fashion and electronics category, headed the marketplace, and was instrumental in the acquisition of Myntra. In 2015, he was promoted to Chief Business Officer (CBO) of Flipkart.

Notwithstanding his success at Flipkart, Mr. Nagori had a zeal to re-discover the path of entrepreneurship, thereby starting cure.fit, aimed to primarily disrupt the Healthcare space. Throughout his immensely spectacular professional career spanning over a decade, Ankit Nagori and his startup have been an awardee of several accolades which include

- Digital Startup of the year 2019
- Featured in 40 under 40 lists by Forbes Magazine 2016
Alumni Award 2020

Dr. Harpreet Dhillon  (Young Alumni Achiever Award)

Graduated with a degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering from IIT Guwahati in 2008, Dr. Dhillon found his interest in areas of wireless communications and networking. Hence, he went to pursue M.S. in Electrical Engineering from Virginia Tech, and a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas. Currently, he is a tenured Associate Professor at Virginia Tech and has received numerous honors during these years.

He has contributed to the performance analysis of large-scale communication systems using advanced mathematical tools from the area of stochastic geometry. He has more than 160 publications in premier IEEE venues, including 80+ journal papers, and four patents in his ranks.

Mr. Dhillon has received numerous highly prestigious technical awards like Heinrich Hertz Award, Communications Society Young Author Best Paper Award, International Conference on Communications Best Paper Award, and others in different years.
Alumni Award 2020

Mr. Kiran kumar Thota (Outstanding Service Award)

Mr. Thota, the man of distinct vision is the founding head of many epitomes for IIT Guwahati, be it Techniche, Alcheringa- the annual Techno-management and Cultural fests of IIT Guwahati or the IIT Guwahati Alumni Association.

He has represented IIT Guwahati at all forums including PanIIT USA and PanIIT Global and served as Board member, Chairman(Governance), and President there.

Presently, he is President emeritus, PanIIT USA

PanIIT USA is a national organization with volunteer leaders nationwide to promote brand IIT and provide Alumni Services.

Mr. Thota has expanded PanIIT USA services to an alumni base to over 50,000. Crossed 20+ chapters, in multiple cities across the USA, he has defined and improved governance. As President, he has conducted 65 events for alumni and built digital platforms and processes to scale up. As a board member, he has acted as one of the Co-Chairs for PanIIT Global Conference, 2007 - the largest ever in the US with over 3500 attendees. He has generated about 1 million USD revenue for PanIIT USA through fundraising.

He was felicitated by PanIIT USA for his Outstanding Services.
The AER office of IIT Guwahati is instrumental in execution of MoUs for Academic and Research Collaborations with International academic institutions and organizations. At present there are 77 MoUs active with institutions and organization from all over the world. Some of the significant MoUs signed in 2020 are as follows:

**Suzuki endowed course & Suzuki internship program**

Following the MoU that IIT Guwahati signed with Suzuki Motor Corporation, Japan; Maruti Suzuki India Limited & The Association for Overseas Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Partnership, Japan, the Suzuki Endowed Course was started at IIT Guwahati whereby the top 10 students registered for the Japanese Language and Automobile Engineering courses would be selected for the Suzuki Internship Program at the Maruti Suzuki offices in Japan and India. The classes for the same started on February 08, 2020 and continued till March 08, 2020 after which it had to be postponed due to the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The formal inaugural ceremony of the Japanese Endowed Course was held in the august presence of the Hon’ble Ambassador of Japan to India, H.E. Mr. Satoshi Suzuki IIT Guwahati on March 03, 2020
MoUs were signed with the above two institutions with the objective to enhance mutual relations and develop academic interchange in the areas of education and research. The areas of cooperation will include exchange of students, exchange of faculty members and researchers, Joint research projects, Joint cultural programs, Internship opportunities, etc.

Joint degree programmes with Gifu University, Japan:

Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IITG) has launched three new programs from the academic session of 2019-2020 in joint effort with Gifu University of Japan. The new programs include three international courses with Gifu University

1. International Joint Master's Degree program in Food Science & Technology,
2. international Joint Ph.D. program in Food Science & Technology and
3. international Joint Ph.D. program in Integrated Mechanical Engineering.

As part of the joint International agreement between the two Institutes, 04 (four) students each from both IIT Guwahati and Gifu University enrolled for the international joint master's degree program in food science and technology in April 2019.
Joint degree programmes with Gifu University, Japan, JAPAN

The courses, laboratory work, projects for the program will be jointly taught and supervised by faculty members of both the institutions.

In addition, 04 (four) students from India have also been registered for the International Joint Ph.D. program in Food Science &Technology, and for the international Joint Degree Program in Integrated Mechanical Engineering.

These joint degree programs are also expected to enhance the industrial interaction among Japanese industries and those in the northeast region of India.
Namaste+:

IIT Guwahati is a part of NAMASTE+ program, which is a mobility and research cooperation project between the Georg-August Universität Göttingen and 12 Indian Higher Education Partner Institutions of which IIT Guwahati is one. The project is financed by the DAAD and the German Ministry of Education and Research within the Program “A New Passage to India”.

DBT-TWAS and ASEAN-India research training fellowship (AI-RTF)

A total number of 4 students from Indonesia, Cameroon, Iran and Egypt had enrolled at IIT Guwahati under various fellowships such as DBT-TWAS fellowship, ASEAN-INDIA Research Training Fellowship

Heritage network annual general assembly

IIT Guwahati is one of the partners of the Heritage Network, a body of HEIs from India and Europe. The Annual Heritage Network General Assembly was scheduled to be hosted by IIT Guwahati, India, during 19-20 March, 2020.
The same however had to be postponed due to the worldwide pandemic caused by Covid-19.

**RTG summer school with Heidelberg University**

IIT Guwahati was scheduled to host the RTG Summer School 2020 in collaboration with Heidelberg University, Germany from March 23-27, 2020 as part of the Joint Degree program in Big Data Research. The same however had to be postponed due to the worldwide pandemic caused by Covid-19.

In a development related to the IITG-Heidelberg Joint Degree Program in Big Data Research, a tandem with Dr. Navin Gupta, BSBE as PI from IIT Guwahati and another faculty from Heidelberg University has been formed facilitating the way for a student to enrol for the program as part of the MoU.

**DUO-INDIA Fellowship programme**

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India, had announced the launch of the DUO-India Fellowship Programme in July 2019 to encourage research collaboration and exchange of faculty and students between India and European countries.

14 European countries namely Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finl. Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and UK are part of this programme. As part of the application process, faculty and student applicants had to jointly apply for the fellowship with their counterparts from European institutions.
The following five faculty members from IIT Guwahati were awarded the 2020 DUO-India Professor Fellowship Award:

1. Dr. Amit Shelke - University of Tromso, Norway
2. Dr. Partha Sarathi Mandal - Universite Grenoble-Alpes, France
3. Priyadarshi Satpati - Uppsala University, Sweden
4. Poonam Kumari - Loughborough University, UK
5. Sushanta Karmakar - Loughborough University, UK

As part of the fellowship, five faculty members from the above-mentioned institutions will visit IIT Guwahati as per their research plans.

**Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)**

Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) aims at improving the research ecosystem of the higher educational institutions in India by facilitating academic as well as research collaborations between Indian institutions and the best institutions in the world from 28 selected nations to jointly solve problems of national and international relevance.

Prof. Peter Comba from University of Heidelberg, Germany visited IIT Guwahati in August 2019 to carry out the project under SPARC titled, “Perspective of Fluctuations in Electron Transfer Reactions in Non-Heme Chemistry” in collaboration with Dr. Chivukula Vasudeva Sastry, Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati.
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<td>Mr. Subham Kumar Gupta</td>
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Archit Gupta  Founder & CEO at ClearTax

The journey from a software engineer in the Silicon Valley to helming one of India’s Largest startups, Archit Gupta, Founder and CEO at ClearTax, has spearheaded a massive paradigm shift in the fin-tech sector through the use of technology. Completing his B.Tech. in Computer Science and Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, Archit then pursued a Master of Sciences from University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Inspired by Silicon Valley’s start-up environment, he founded ClearTax, a fintech company helping people and businesses with tax, compliance and mutual fund investments. In 2014, Silicon Valley based start-up accelerator Y Combinator selected ClearTax to be part of its accelerator programme making it the first Indian company to be part of the accelerator programme. Today Cleartax is backed by global investors such as SAIF partners, Sequoia, composite capital and mentors such as Max Levchin, founder of Paypal, Peter Thiel’s Founders Fund, Neeraj Arora of Whatsapp, Ryan Peterson of Flexport, together contributing to $65M investment. ClearTax has put the Indian startup ecosystem in global spotlight and built the foundation of FinTech innovation in India.
Archit Gupta  Founder & CEO at ClearTax

Over the years ClearTax has contributed towards the upliftment of Indian economy by simplifying finances for millions of Indians. In 2017, when India went through major tax reforms and when GST and other digitization initiatives affected millions of businesses, ClearTax’s B2B products for invoicing, GST filing, E-Way Bill empowered small businesses to overcome these struggles with ease. Under Archit’s leadership, Cleartax launched Income Tax filing and investment products for millenials; GST filing, TDS, E-Way Bill, Reconciliation, Invoicing, Payment reminder mobile application for accountants, small and large businesses. Today, ClearTax is used by over 4 Million individuals, 6 lakh businesses, 40000+ F14 CAs and over 1200 large enterprises.

In addition to employing hundreds of engineers, product and business managers, ClearTax has indirectly supported job growth of lakhs of Indians by continuously imparting education about new age tax reforms for aspiring business accountants and tax practitioners.

The company has grown from 1 member to 800+ employees today. Archit Gupta has earned great respect from his key stakeholders. His vision, leadership and managerial excellence has enabled ClearTax to become one of the fastest growing companies in India, recognized by many Indian and global forums for its technological excellence and business potential.
Dr. Lalit Borana

Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Technology- Indore

Dr. Lalit Borana has received his Ph.D. in Geotechnical Engineering from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) in 2014 and M.Tech in Geotechnical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG) in 2008. Dr. Borana has a total of 13.5 years of experiences which includes more than 3 years is of varied corporate, consulting experience and 8 years of dedicated academic research.

He is presently serving the IIT Indore administration as a Senate Board Member, Chief Warden and Sports Committee Convenor. Dr. Borana has authored and coauthored more than 31 quality publications in esteemed international journals and peer reviewed conferences. His current research interests involve Unsaturated soil mechanics, Structural Health monitoring, Soil-Structure Interaction, Geoenvironmental Engineering and Ground Improvement Techniques. Dr. Borana serves as a reviewer for more than 30 International Journals. Dr. Borana have received “Outstanding Reviewer Award-2018” from the journal of “Computers and Gootechnics” by ELSEVIER, Netherlands. In 2018, he has also served as a Guest Editor for "International Journal of Distributed network sensors" by Sage Publishers (UK).
Dr. Ankit Srivastava

Associate Professor, Mechanical, Materials, & Aerospace Engineering Department, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago

Dr. Ankit received his Bachelor’s degree from the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati in Civil Engineering in 2004. He subsequently attended the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) where he received Master of Sciences (2006) and Ph.D. (2009) degrees in Structural Engineering. His research during his Ph.D. focused on understanding the propagation of dispersive waves in waveguides.

After completing his Ph.D. he worked as a postdoctoral researcher in the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering department at UCSD. He joined the Mechanical, Materials, and Aerospace Engineering department at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago in 2013 as an Assistant Professor

Professor Srivastava has published over 50 peer-reviewed articles, advising more than 20 graduate and undergraduate research students. His research has been continuously funded by the National Science Foundation, DARPA, and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

Dr. Ankit has made several fundamental contributions to his research areas:

- Provided the first proof that certain Lamb wave modes cannot exist at nonlinearity driven higher harmonics - subsequently experimentally verified.
- Published the first study showing how to apply Deep Learning neural networks to problems in mechanics.
Dr. Ankit Srivastava
Associate Professor, Mechanical, Materials, & Aerospace Engineering Department, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago

- Provided the first efficient method of distinguishing level repulsion zones in parametric eigenvalue problems. Such problems are numerous in physics and engineering and are critical for correct band sorting in eigenvalue problems
- Published the first ever study of topology optimization in 3-D phononic crystals
- Provided the first ever treatment of linear elasto-dynamics from the perspective of causality
- Discovered that a simple 2-phase laminate is capable of exhibiting exotic metamaterial behaviour including supporting pure negative refraction and negative material properties
**Alumni Contribution to tackle COVID 19**

Mr. Prem Kumar Vislawath  
Co-Founder and CEO Marut Drones.

Marut Dronetech Private Limited, a start-up, founded by IIT Guwahati alumnus Mr. Prem Kumar Vislawath, B.Tech./ECE graduated in 2012 has developed and deployed drones for spraying disinfectant in public spaces to prevent Coronavirus. Drones have proved to be of great use as seen in countries like China and South Korea.

Marut Dronetech is working with the Government of Telangana and departments across the state to deploy drones for public safety applications. Karimnagar Municipal Corporation, Telangana, had deployed customised drones of Marut Drones for spraying disinfectants in Mukarampur area of Karimnagar where 10 Indonesians and one local had tested positive for COVID-19. Disinfectants were also sprayed at District Collectorate, Municipal Corporation, District Hospital, Bus Station, Auto stand, markets, Police Commissionerate and Rythu Bazars. It is seen that drones disinfect 50 times more area than traditional methods and can keep human operators out of harm. Marut Drones have also developed Public Monitoring and Warning Drones which are fitted with a camera and speaker.
Mr. Prem Kumar Vislawath
Co-Founder and CEO Marut Drones.

These can be used by personnel to monitor places especially with high disease prevalence for crowd gathering and give appropriate instructions, using fitted loudspeakers, to people. As this is much faster than regular patrolling operations, it can be very efficient not only for patrolling but also to spread the message. These drones can be used in places where people are still seen moving around streets and government personnel are having a hard time implementing a strict lockdown,” IIT said.

Prem Kumar Vislawath has also identified new ways in which drones can be deployed to combat the virus. According to him, drones can also be used for temperature Check Thermal Imaging and medical Delivery Drone of Critical Supplies

MS. Richa Singh
Co-Founder and CEO, YOURDOST

YourDOST, co-founded by IIT Guwahati alumna, Ms. Richa Singh is India's first and the largest online mental health and emotional wellness coach. IIT Guwahati has now collaborated with YourDOST to provide this facility to its students whereby expert advice from 900+ Experts, with complete privacy, confidentiality and anonymity on a range of subjects is available to all the students. Amidst this pandemic, YourDOST has also started initiatives to deal with mental health issues called ‘Covid-19 Resources’.
Mr. Himujjall Sarmah
Founder, IZAKE DESIGN AND CONSULTANCY PRIVATE LIMITED.

Izake Design and Consultancy Private Limited, a design company induced at IIT Guwahati and founded by Mr. Himujjall Sarmah, an Alumnus of IIT Guwahati has been manufacturing high grade quality of Face Shields to fulfill the need for face shields locally for the hospitals in Assam & Northeast India.

Despite the logistical challenges, Izake Design and Consultancy Private Limited has successfully been able to manufacture & distribute around 12,000 Face Protection Shields in 28 days' time period, since 16th April 2020 and supplied to 118 direct clients like GMCH, GNCR, Dispur Hospital, Apollo Hospital, Dr B Borooah Cancer Institute. Etc. More than 800 Doctors/Nursing staff & individuals throughout Assam currently using the face shields and they have also donated 2000 Face Shields to Govt. officials/NGOs/GMCH-Guwahati for COVID-19 response
Other significant gestures

Humble effort to fight Pandemic together (Sending 1000 N95 masks)
Our Alumnus Dr. Nand Kishor Roy (Roll Number 10610605/PhD/BSBE) currently based in the USA doing his Postdoctoral training sent 1000 numbers of N95 masks to his Alma Mater. Institute appreciates his support during this challenging time. We are indeed thankful for his kind gesture, which is invaluable. We are truly inspired by your personal commitment towards the Institute and in making a difference in these unprecedented times that the nation is facing.

Donation of 04 (four) Oxygen Concentrators to IIT Guwahati Medical Section:

Mr. Sanjib Goyal, President of IIT DELHI EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION has donated 04 (four) numbers of Oxygen concentrator of 5 liters capacity to IIT Guwahati Medical Section on May 30, 2021. Institute appreciates his support during this challenging time. We are indeed thankful for his kind gesture, which is invaluable.