

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the inaugural Indian Institute of Technology Alumni Victoria (IITaV) Newsletter. The graduates of IITs are well known around the world for their excellence in innovation, engineering and leadership. IITs stand alongside MIT and Harvard among others as universities of the highest repute. The IIT alumni in Australia are contributing towards the economic, environmental and social development of Australia. This newsletter will keep the alumni connected and inform the community of the contribution they are making in Australia.

Arun Kumar

## INDIAN CONSUL GENERAL'S MESSAGE




### CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA

2nd Floor, 344 St Kilda Road  
Melbourne  
VIC 3004, Australia  
Tel : 00613-9682 4370  
Fax : 00613-9696 8251  
E-mail : cg@cgimelb.org

### MESSAGE

I am happy to note that IITaV has now taken a concrete shape and embarked on a series of activities aimed at fostering close relations between India and Australia. As we know, the IIT alumni are one of the best brains in India. Their synergy in doing any positive work will be tremendous.

I am also delighted to learn that IITaV is bringing out its newsletter and am confident that this will strengthen the bond among the IIT alumni who are staying in Australia.

  
(Dr S.K. Behera)  
Consul General  
29.7.2011

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Family Dinner** on Sunday, 7 August 2011, 6:30PM at Ragam Indian Restaurant, Doncaster. The Chief Guest, Dr. Subhakanta Behera, Consul General of India will launch the IITaV newsletter.

**Entrepreneurship Workshop**, co-sponsored by Pitcher Partners on Saturday, 20 August 2011. For more details, contact Arun Kumar on 0411040481/ [arunkumarau@gmail.com](mailto:arunkumarau@gmail.com) or Ravi Singh on 0435 657413 / [rsingh\\_se@hotmail.com](mailto:rsingh_se@hotmail.com).

**IITaV Annual Ball** will be held mid-November 2011. Details will be announced very soon.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The first Annual General Meeting (AGM) of IIT Alumni Victoria (IITaV) was held on 26th March 2011 at Brandon Park Primary School, Wheelers Hill. Ravi Bhatia, President, interim committee gave the welcome speech. Rajiv Lal, Vice President of the interim committee added, "...in my opinion, to improve the brand image of IIT in Australia, we have to aspire for leadership positions in academia, industry and business...". Financial report was presented by the interim committee Treasurer, Surinder Lamba.

At the AGM the new Management Committee was nominated and endorsed by the members. The nine office-bearers of the new Management Committee are:

President: Arun Kumar (IITDelhi, 1968)  
Vice-President: Rajiv Lal (IITDelhi, 1976)  
Treasurer: Surinder Lamba (IITKanpur, 1972)  
Secretary: Abaran Deep (IITDelhi, 1990)  
Member: Ravi Bhatia (IITDelhi, 1970)  
Member: Raj Rajkumar (IITBombay, 1965)  
Member: Radhey S Gupta (IITDelhi, 1971)  
Member: Ravi Singh (IITRoorkee, 1983)  
Member: Yogendra Vashishtha (IITRoorkee, 1983)

## IITaV LINKS

[www.iitav.org.au](http://www.iitav.org.au)

[mail@iitav.org.au](mailto:mail@iitav.org.au)

[IIT Alumni Victoria](#) on linkedin.com



## EVENT ROUND UP

### Inaugural Social Event

IITaV's inaugural get together was organised at Mount Waverly on 19 February. The event helped bring alive the memories of our time at the IITs. Everyone enjoyed the food and what made the event really memorable was the collection of musical performances by talented IITians and their families.



### IITaV Planning Workshop

A Planning Workshop was held on 8 May to define the direction of IITaV. Over 30 members spent an afternoon to brainstorm our mission, objectives and priorities. This was well planned and conducted by Dr. Rajkumar, Rajiv Lal and Ravi Singh.

### Presentation by Dr Ramesh Mashelkar

On 10 April 2011 IITaV and the Monash University collaborated to jointly organise a presentation by eminent Indian scientist, Dr Ramesh Mashelkar.

IITaV President, Emeritus Professor Arun Kumar introduced the guest speaker and highlighted his eminent standing and appropriateness of his talk titled, "India and Indian Innovation – Making Impossible Possible", for the Australian audience.

Dr Mashelkar highlighted several examples of the tremendous progress India is making in science, technology and business processes.



He also pointed out that the brain drain through the flight of human capital from India is decreasing. For example, the proportion of graduates from the prestigious IIT institutions migrating overseas has dropped from 70% ten years ago to 30% now which is a tremendous boost for the country.

Dr Mashelkar is a Fellow of the Royal Society, former Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (India), past President of the Indian National Science Academy and member of several influential committees and company Boards. He is Sir Louis Matheson Visiting Professor at Monash University.



## QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

"As far as the laws of mathematics refer to reality, they are not certain, and as far as they are certain, they do not refer to reality".

*Albert Einstein*

## IITIANS CONTRIBUTING TO AUSTRALIA

### Riverina Oils & Bio Energy (ROBE)

**DD Saxena**, IIT Kanpur (1974) is promoting ROBE – a 175,000 Ton Oilseed crushing and refining plant with a plan to also produce 75 million litres of biodiesel. The Project is located at Wagga Wagga NSW and is an investment of AUD85M. ROBE will be in commercial production by March 2012 and the plant/process technology has been provided by Desmet Ballestra, world leaders in this field. This will be the biggest and only second integrated plant in Australia. The main products will be marketed to large food companies and food services like Cadbury, Simplot, Kraft & KFC, Pizza Hut.

ROBE has been declared Project of State significance in NSW and is the single largest investment in value added food/agri sector in Australia in last 5 years. It is also the largest Regional investment in Australia in this sector and will create hundreds of jobs. It is the single largest investment from India and from an entrepreneur of Indian origin in Australia.

The company intends to go public by 2015 in either Singapore or Australia after its first expansion proposed by 2013.

### Eco Pacific

**Jay Vir Kaudinya**, Doctorate from IIT Delhi (1985) and **Mrs. Rachna Kaudinya** Doctorate from IIT Delhi (1986) have set up an enterprise which is set to make a very positive contribution in Victorian community. Their new product “Eco Pacific’s High Efficiency Gas Ducted Heater for Residential Heating” is in line with the recent announcement of the Australian Federal Government to address the Climate Change issue.

Residential heating consumes a significant amount of energy and is responsible for a large amount of

carbon pollution. Jay sees the entrepreneur’s role in the society to use the opportunities that arise from the need to address the national issues by developing new products and technologies. In the area of Energy Efficiency improvement Eco Pacific has developed a new high efficiency gas ducted heater for home heating.

For the last four years the company has been investing in the research, design, development, and testing of a high efficiency gas ducted heater’s novel concept that has been approved for compliance. Eco Pacific is also seeking an AusIndustry grant to commercialise the product in Australia and New Zealand where the company has presence through selling its current range of mid efficiency heaters.

Jai can be contacted on:

[jaikaudinya@ecopacific.com.au](mailto:jaikaudinya@ecopacific.com.au)

### RMIT Post-Graduate Research Day

**Dr. Yogendra Vashishtha**, a graduate of IIT Roorkee (1983) and Doctorate from IIT Bombay (1995) was the invited guest speaker at the postgraduate research day 2011 at Electrical and Computer Engineering, RMIT University, Melbourne, on 23 June 2011. Yogendra has links to both business and academia and is responsible for managing the innovation and research portfolio for the largest power and gas utility in Victoria. He was ideally placed to give practical advice to the researchers on “transition from research to industry”.

In his speech, Yogendra highlighted that collaborative approach between industry and academia is a prerequisite to creating smart solutions. The research community will be the crucial link to make it happen. Yogendra also cautioned researchers to avoid common pitfalls and encouraged them to work on producing real solutions.



## GET TO KNOW YOUR ALUMNI

### Professor Raman Singh

Prof Raman Singh, IIT Kharagpur (1994), is a professor at the Faculty of Engineering of the Monash University (Melbourne, Australia). In addition to his very strong academic credentials, Raman is a connoisseur of Indian classical music, and he, his wife, Nauras and daughter, Zara share a passion for light and semi-classical music (Ghazals, Thumris, folk and Hindi film songs).

*What is the best memory you treasure from your IIT days?*

I was at IIT as a PhD student, and could closely get to know the opportunities it presented to B. Tech students for exploring various aspects of their personality e.g. during the cultural events, elections etc.

*If not an engineer, what other profession you would have chosen?*

To become an honest and truly dedicated politician (if such a thing exists!). In a way, I am relieved that I did not become one as I don't know what I would have actually turned out to be!

*If you are appointed director of an IIT, what one thing you will do first?*

Together with directors of other IITs to create an environment to curb the brain drain of IIT graduates – not so much from one country to other, but from the engineering discipline. The problems of the world cry out for quality engineers. Let's create an environment that encourages them to stay as engineers.

## MEMORY LANE

I remember very clearly the day I finished my final exams. We sat five 3-hour papers over eight days. After the last paper I wandered into the city, and sat in the city gardens thinking, 'I'm not sure where I

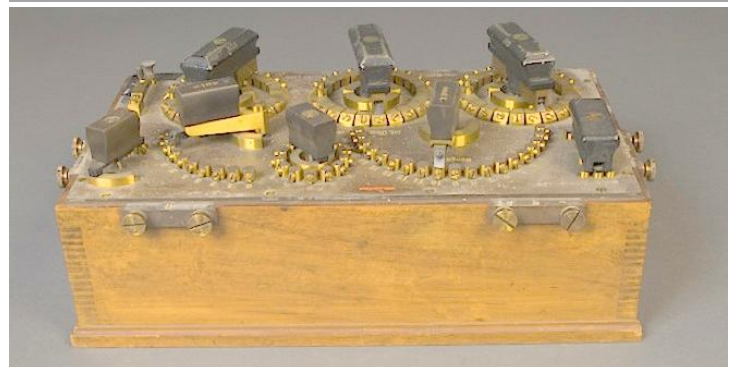
belong now. The problem was I was no longer part of the IIT, but work or further study couldn't be decided until the results came out, so I did not really belong anywhere. To be honest, it was actually a good feeling after the long months of preparing for the final exams.

If someone had cared enough, they could have told me that in fact I still belonged to IIT. I was about to become a graduate—as we say an alumnus, part of the Alumni.

Alumni belong to their university in a very special way: they are not here because they 'have' to be or because they have paid to be. They are here by right and they are here for life.

Rajiv Lal  
IIT Delhi, 1976

## NAME THE MYSTERY OBJECT



This object would occupy a place of pride in an antique showroom but by accounts it still works! Please submit your guess to [mail@iitav.org.au](mailto:mail@iitav.org.au). To win you need to provide the full name of the object. The first three correct submissions will be announced in the next newsletter and the person with the first correct answer will get a special bottle of wine (committee members excluded).

We trust you enjoyed the inaugural edition of the IITaV Newsletter. Please send your feedback and contributions (news, views and memories) to Yogendra Vashishtha on 0439 692 010/[yogendra.vashishtha@gmail.com](mailto:yogendra.vashishtha@gmail.com) for the next issue by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

### **IITaV Newsletter team:**

Yogendra Vashishtha (Editor), Ram Lal Garg, Gopal Verma, Madur Chand and Abaran Deep.