

## IITAV Newsletter

April 2016

Issue No. 14

### Message from the IITAV President

*Dear IITAV colleagues and friends,*

This edition of our newsletter has reports of our professional and social events and activities during the past six months. Our special feature event with John McIntosh, National President of Engineers Australia, a site visit to IITAV member Rajesh Kataria's impressive GlassCo Australia, a networking event and two social events, Diwali and Holi, were held. It is pleasing to report that participation at IITAV events has shown a remarkable increase and we broke yet another record of attendance at our recent Holi event.

Our revised membership policy implemented in 2015 is seeing more of our members including Foundation members renewing their membership for multiple years. This bodes well for the sustainability and growth of IITAV. I specially request our members to actively encourage IIT alumni to become members of IITAV. Thank you!

On a personal note, I was privileged to be invited as a panel member at the inaugural Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2016 hosted by the Consul General of India in Melbourne on 21st February. The invitation was also acknowledgement of the good work and activities of IITAV.

I take this opportunity to thank current and past Committee members and their families for your remarkable efforts during the year. The work done by the Committee members is critical to the activities of the association. In the past three years we have been averaging seven to eight events and other activities every year which have required a lot of voluntary effort and commitment.

It is AGM time again! IITAV's 2016 AGM will be held on Saturday, 7th May 2016, 3-5.30 pm at Swinburne University's Hawthorn campus. IITAV members and IIT alumni are sincerely invited to attend and participate in the discussions which will be of great help to the work of the 2016-17 Management Committee.



## IITAV Management Committee 2015-16:

**Front row left to right:** Rachana Kaudinya, Raj Rajakumar, Nikhil Kumar, Ravi Singh, Rakesh Saraf

**Back Row:** Dilip Desai, Abaran Deep, Sridhar Karuppasami, Vipin Gaindhar.

Best wishes,

Raj Rajakumar

Dr. Raj Rajakumar

Mob: 0432 474 385

[raj.rajakumar43@gmail.com](mailto:raj.rajakumar43@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Events

### Annual General Meeting 2016

The 2016 Annual General Meeting for IITAV will be held on Saturday, 7th May 2016, from 3:00 to 5:30 pm at [ATC-Room 205, Swinburne University, Hawthorn, Victoria, Australia 3122](#).

All IIT Alumni are invited to attend. Please note that in the event of an election, voting rights are available only to active financial members of IITAV.

Please RSVP your intention to attend by sending a mail to [mail@iitav.org.au](mailto:mail@iitav.org.au). Light refreshments will be provided. The agenda for the AGM is as follows:

1. Welcome, Apologies and Proxies.
2. Approve minutes of 2015 AGM.
3. President's Annual Report 2015-16.
4. Treasurer's Annual Report 2015-16.
5. Nominations and Elections for 2016-17 Management Committee.
6. Welcome and hand-over to the 2016-17 Management Committee.
7. Open discussion on way forward.

More details about the AGM can be found [here](#).

## Professional Networking Events

### Special Feature Event:

**“Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Effective Change Management” by  
John McIntosh, National President 2016 Engineers Australia  
5th October 2015**

IITAV's special event in collaboration with [Engineers Australia](#) featured [John McIntosh](#), National President 2016, Engineers Australia, who took the audience on an engaging and interactive journey highlighting how moods and emotions play a key role in encouraging entrepreneurship, innovation and change management. The session was attended by over 65 IITAV members and guests, with a significant attendance of our friends from Engineers Australia, [Swinburne University of Technology](#) and the [University of Melbourne](#).

## IIT News

**Congratulations to DD Saxena on winning two awards:** IITAV congratulates our member, DD Saxena, Managing Director of ROBE, for being honoured with the prestigious Indian Australian Ambassador of the Year award in October 2015 ( [Watch here](#) ) and [NRI of the Year 2016 award](#) in the Entrepreneur category.

### Recently published Books by IITians:

1) [Building Golden India](#) : *How to unleash India's vast potential and transform its higher education system.* By [Shail Kumar](#) (IIT Kharagpur 1987) - This book is about the future of India and unleashing the potential of its 1.3 billion people. The interests of students, parents, society, industry, and the nation are intimately connected through the higher education system. So, how is India's higher education system doing and how could it be transformed?

Shail Kumar has written a captivating book about how fixing India's higher education system can address many of its largest problems and enable its people to achieve their full potential. The book has also received endorsements from several industry leaders, entrepreneurs, faculty members, young professionals, students and thought leaders. For more information on the [book and author](#).

### 2) [IIT Delhi - Through the Lens](#):

This IIT Delhi Coffee Table Book released in September 2015 illustrates the pictorial story of Indian Institute of Technology Delhi seen through the lens and outlines the synthesis of photographs of IIT Delhi from its inception to the present day covering various facets ranging from history, students, faculty and alumni to architecture, sports, cultural and curricular aspects.



Kicking off the evening, [Prof. Ajay Kapoor](#), Pro Vice Chancellor - International Research Engagement, Swinburne University, who had kindly arranged the excellent venue at the university's Hawthorn campus, welcomed Special Guest [Ms. Manika Jain \(Consul General of India – Melbourne\)](#), John McIntosh, IITAV members and other guests.



John started the session by reviewing how his life as an engineer at Mobil inspired him to look at the human aspects of engineering and how managing our emotions can improve our effectiveness in driving change. Working together with the audience in the interactive discussion, John outlined six categories of Moods and Emotions on the two sides of the scale representing negative (Anger, Resignation and Anxiety) and positive (Acceptance, Optimism and Curiosity) orientations. For the success of any entrepreneurial or organisational change endeavour, John highlighted that we need to work out the current position of our emotional state and proactively move from negative to positive orientations. John cited examples of Walt Disney and his own experience at Mobil-Exxon to highlight how managing your anger and anxiety and moving towards optimism and curiosity can convert failures into successes.

Alumni in Australia who would like to buy this book should contact Dr. Deepak Dogra, President, IIT Delhi Alumni Association (Mobile: +91 98113 75936), Nalanda House, IIT Delhi, Hauz Khas, New Delhi 110 016 (Tel: 2686 8523/2659 7178 Fax: 2651 4177) E-mail: [office@iitdalumni.com](mailto:office@iitdalumni.com) Website: <http://www.iitdalumni.com>

#### Foreign students to be allowed to appear for Joint Entrance Exam:

Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are slated to open their gates wider to foreign students this year, reports Abhijeet Kar (15th January 2016) in [www.india.com](http://www.india.com). The Human Resource Development ministry has accepted a proposal for aspirants from overseas to undertake entrance examinations for admissions into the premier engineering institutes. It will also be an initiative to hold these examinations abroad.

This move also reflects the government's efforts to improve the standing of Indian institutions on global rankings. While IITs have a global reputation for quality, they tend to lose out on the internationalisation criteria which depends on the number of foreign students and faculty at each institute.

The latest proposal aims at adding about 10,000 seats in 18 IITs across the country as part of the drive to attract foreign students, mainly from South Asia, Africa and West Asia, especially at the post graduate and doctorate levels. More information can be found [here](#).

#### Make in India: Winners for IIT-Bombay hackathon declared:

The Economic Times (Pachi Verma, ET Bureau, New Delhi, February 16, 2016) reported that six out of 30 participating teams were declared winners in a week-long hackathon held at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay as part of the Make in India Week.

These winning teams collaborated to solve problems across three categories of energy, water and transportation. The participants included coders, engineers and designers. In the energy category, [IIT Kanpur](#) held the top spot while, [Vellore Institute of Technology](#), and [Karpagam College of Engineering](#) shared the honours for the second spot.

"India cannot be a great manufacturing nation till we don't



One of the key learnings from John's presentation was that different moods happen due to changing circumstances, but we are responsible for staying in a particular mood or change our emotions towards productive output. John presented an extensive framework of tools and techniques to guide an engineer to successfully navigate the productivity curve during a change event.

The session was very interactive throughout John's engaging presentation. Lively discussions and numerous questions around strategies for learning, identification of change leaders, role of listening, threats and opportunities highlighted the relevance of the topic for a predominantly technology based audience.

Dr Raj Rajakumar, President of IITAV, moderated the session, thanked John McIntosh and presented him and Engineers Australia with IITAV's Certificates of Appreciation. He thanked Hon. Manika Jain for attending as IITAV's Special Guest and Swinburne University for hosting the event. Certificates of Corporate Gold membership were presented to Swinburne University of Technology and Envision IT represented by Dr Ajay Kapoor and [Steve Bungay](#) respectively. The event finished with Vipin Gaindhar taking a group photograph of the attendees to mark the successful session.



invent and innovate and design in India and our belief is that we had lost our close relationship between academia and industry. Our IIT and engineering institutes will play an important role to take it forward," said [Amitabh Kant](#), Secretary, department of Industrial Promotion and Policy, while announcing the names of the winners. ([More](#))

#### 9th Young Engineer & Scientist awards; scholarships of \$3,000 each to the 14 winners from 8 IITs:

The Financial Express (Monday 15th February 2016) reported that Honda Motor India has announced [Ninth Young Engineers and Scientists' \(Y-E-S\) awards](#) for 2015 in India. The awards instituted by Honda Foundation in 2008 to encourage and support young Indian engineers and scientists were presented to 14 IIT students last week in Delhi by His Excellency Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Japan.

According to Honda, The Y-E-S platform provides financial assistance to young Indian engineers and researchers. It also gives them an opportunity to acquire higher professional education in Japan. This year, a scholarship of cash equivalent of \$3,000 each was presented to the 14 students selected from eight IITs-Delhi, Bombay, Roorkee, Madras, Kharagpur, Kanpur, Guwahati and BHU on the basis of their Cumulative Grade Point Average, technical papers, essays and one-on-one interviews. Muramatsu said that, over the last nine years, a total of 112 students have been awarded. ([More](#))

#### Membership Update

We welcome Atul Johari (BHU) and Abhay Sinha (IIT Delhi) to our family of IITAV members and take this opportunity to thank all members for their continued participation in and support of IITAV activities.

#### Corporate Members

#### Visit to GlassCo Australia

12th December 2015

IITAV members and guests were privileged to visit [GlassCo Australia](#) on Saturday, 12th December 2015. GlassCo Australia is owned by IIT Delhi graduate, Rajesh Kataria since 2003. The business model principally is B2B supplying glass products and services to window manufacturers, glaziers, builders, furniture and cabinet makers in addition to glass used in surface transport vehicles such as cars, buses, trams and trains. It predominantly sources float and laminated glass from offshore markets and subsequently processes, finishes and delivers this glass to the wholesale glass and glazing market sectors within Victoria.



Over the years, Rajesh Kataria has experienced that the glass and glazing market has been shifting from the use of regular float and laminated glass to the use of heat-strengthened, toughened safety glass and the use of Double/Triple Insulated Glazed Units.

The growth in these markets is receiving considerable momentum from the need for products for Environmental Applications, Energy Conservation and Awareness, Safety and New Building Codes involving commercial, industrial and domestic building constructions. The result of this shift has seen GlassCo Australia's business activity incorporate capabilities to supply Toughened safety glass and other products. In the last 2 years or so the company has invested in industry specific manufacturing technologies and acquiring state-of-the-art plant, equipment and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Systems. The company currently employs 25 people.



Rajesh briefly described the history of GlassCo from the days when he first set it up to the large business which it now is. He and his team took the visitors on an informative tour of the site and the complex operations involved in making value



[Swinburne University of Technology](#) is an Australian public university based in Melbourne, Victoria. Swinburne operates five campuses in two countries and has an enrolment of students across vocational, undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Swinburne houses advanced labs such as Design for Ageing, Smart Structure and Factory of Future labs. **"Being a corporate member of IITAV, we benefit from collaborations and industry experts to create a new forum for engineering students,"** [Professor Ajay Kapoor](#), said.

Swinburne has been ranked one of the world's top 400 universities by the prestigious 2015 [Academic Ranking of World Universities \(ARWU\)](#). This result places Swinburne among the top 3% of universities in the world.

Swinburne was named one of the world's top 400 universities by the [Times Higher Education University World Rankings 2014-2015](#). In 2015, Swinburne was ranked for the first time in the [Times Higher Education Top 100 Under 50 Rankings](#), an index of the world's top universities under the age of 50.



Established in 2002 in Melbourne, [Envision IT](#) develops software products for global markets. This

added products such as laminated glass from simple glass sheets.

The meeting ended with an engaging Q&A session, light refreshments and networking. Dr Raj Rajakumar, President of IITAV, thanked Rajesh and team for their hospitality and presented Rajesh with IITAV's Certificate of Appreciation.



## Informal Networking Event

### @Elephant and WheelBarrow, 9th March 2016

This event was held at the popular [Elephant and Wheel Barrow](#) in the city. The attendees enjoyed the get together. The possibility of holding some of these informal networking events at suburban locations to facilitate attendance by improving ease of access was discussed. Thank you to Nikhil Kumar for organising the venue.

## Other Events

### IITAV @ Inaugural Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, Indian Consulate, Melbourne 21st February 2016

The Inaugural Pravasi Bhartiya Divas was held at the [Consulate General of India](#). Ms Manika Jain, Consul General for India in Melbourne moderated the two hour session.

Ms Jain briefly mentioned that the Government of India (GOI)'s flagship project initiatives are (i) Smart Cities (ii) Renewable Energy (iii) Make in India (iv) Digital India (v) Skill India (vi) Diaspora contribution to India's social and developmental efforts (vii) Transferring Knowledge and Encouraging Innovation (viii) Startup India (ix) Making India the preferred Destination for Holistic Healthcare (x) Accelerating Tourism in India (xi) Indian Diaspora Associations contribution to GOI flagship Initiatives.

includes Standalone, Cloud based SaaS, Enterprise, Line of Business and mobile applications.

Envision IT products are known for their ease of use, high productivity, efficiency and reliability. Typically, our products offer an ROI under 3 months.

We are able to achieve this through decades of experience in industry, developing 100+ innovative projects and technology alliances (see below). This enables us deliver products that are seamlessly integrated, diligently automate tasks and streamline business processes.

Microsoft technologies and agile methodology provide a base platform for all our projects. The projects however invariably involve disparate software and hardware from vendors such as Adobe, Autodesk, Cameras, CISCO, Devices, Equipment, Hadoop, Hortonworks, IBM, MongoDB, Oracle, Pay by Phone, RFID, SAP, SenSen Networks, Sensors etc. We maintain alliances with all major and many niche technology vendors.

Envision IT products has consistently won awards right from TravelSmart (2004) to Encarp for employee parking management (FMA 2011 Runners up) to our new product – Audispect that eases Audits and Inspections and saves 40-85% in routine workload. In addition, we develop product for global and government organisations that run their core business.

## Contact Us

We take this opportunity to thank everyone for their contributions. Special thanks to: Professor Saman Halgamuge for reports from the University of Melbourne; Nikhil Kumar for his report on the IITAV event held with Engineers Australia; Vipin Gaindhar for providing the bulk of the photographs; Dr Raj Rajakumar for writing, sourcing and editing content; and Sridhar Karuppasami for production.

To help us improve the newsletter, please send your feedback and contributions (news, views and memories) for the next issue to [mail@iitav.org.au](mailto:mail@iitav.org.au)

Previous editions of the newsletter are available [here](#).

Dr Raj Rajakumar, IITAV President, was invited as a panel member along with five other panelists including IIT alumnus, [Dr. Ravi Bhatia](#).

Members are also requested to update their profiles at our [website](#).

Thank you.

**IITAV Management Committee**

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Each panel member was given two minutes to speak followed by a brief discussion. Ravi Bhatia reviewed the scope of the important Make in India flagship project.

In his brief address, Raj Rajakumar said: "The Government of India's (GOI) flagship projects are praiseworthy. Converting ideas to opportunities and opportunities to commercial success through technology and innovation are critical for the success of these projects. We have a number of engineers, scientists and entrepreneurs in Victoria and Australia who have experience and expertise relevant to various GOI projects including Smart Cities, Renewable Energy, Make in India, Skill India, Digital India and Startup India. Several are already working on technology transfer projects between Australia and India.

With the recent significant increase in the number of IITs and the Indian institutes of Information Technology (IIIT), adequate resourcing and skilling of the newer IITs and IIITs through appropriate educational, training and skills development exchange programs are important for their success. Several Australian universities are already working in bilateral collaborative programs with the established IITs. A coordinated effort to utilise the significant expertise available among the expatriate Indian diaspora community in Australia for the benefit of the newer institutions will be timely.

We at IITAV are happy to assist and work closely with the Indian Consulate in sourcing relevant expertise in Victoria and more broadly in Australia to facilitate the GOI flagship projects mentioned above".

Sunny Chandra, IITAV member and Dr Madhu Nilmani, alumnus of IIT Roorkee, contributed actively to the ensuing discussion on their experience as contributors to various projects in the Indian context.

The Consulate staff anticipate that PBD will become an annual event in Melbourne.

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## **Two great Universities join forces in training smart Indian students in Australia, December 2015**

[Professor Saman Halgamuge,](#)  
The University of Melbourne

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IIT Kanpur signed a Joint PhD agreement with University of Melbourne expanding the existing collaboration. The Director of IIT Kanpur Prof Indranil Manna signed the agreement with the Deputy Provost and Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof Susan Elliott. Pro Vice-chancellor Graduate and International Research Prof Dick Strugnell witnessed the agreement and Dean of Engineering Prof Iven Mareels, Dean of Science Prof Karen Day and many Professors of the University and IIT alumni including Dr Raj Rajakumar, President of IIT Alumni Victoria joined the historical occasion.



IIT Madras signed a similar agreement with the University of Melbourne previously. The agreement allows both IITs to train and award PhDs jointly with University of Melbourne. The PhD students are expected to spend two years at Melbourne and two or more years at IIT. The program opens up the opportunity for Australian and Indian industries to sponsor high calibre Indian students to work on their industry research problems while obtaining a PhD jointly offered by the University of Melbourne and one of the participating IITs.




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### **Indian Institute of Science Director, Prof Anurag Kumar visited the University of Melbourne - January 2016**

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Director of Indian Institute of Science (IISc) [Prof Anurag Kumar](#) (an Alumnus of IIT Kanpur), Chairperson of International relations of IISc [Professor Usha Vijayraghavan](#) and Chairperson of Centre for Nano Science and Engineering [Prof Rudra Prathap](#) visited University of Melbourne to explore the collaboration opportunity between the two Universities. The Vice Chancellor of University of Melbourne [Prof Glyn Davis](#) hosted a lunch at the University for the delegation. The delegation also visited [Walter Eliza Hall Institute](#) and various Departments and gave research talks at the Departments of Electrical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering.

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## SOCIAL EVENTS



### IITAV DIWALI CELEBRATIONS 2015



Our Diwali celebration held on 1st November at the Spirit of India Receptions in Preston was remarkable in that we had nearly 110 attendees. It was a fun evening with plenty of lively entertainment and sumptuous food. Thank you to our resident star performers including Radheshyam Gupta, Raman Singh and our youngsters who entertained us with their songs and dances. Guest performers, Abhishek Sharma and Mudit Kamal entertained us with their jokes and songs.



Raffle prizes were given and the singing and dancing continued well into the night. We were privileged to have our Corporate members, Swinburne University and EnvisionIT attend with their VIP guests. Thank you to Rakesh and Pallavi Saraf, Ravi and Sangeeta Singh and the team for putting together this fabulous event.





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## IITAV HOLI HUNGAMA 2016

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IITAV families and guests celebrated Holi on 20th March this year with over 80 attendees, a new record for our annual Holi event. In a departure from our past Holi celebrations, the event was held at the Waverley Bowling Club. The guests were welcomed with colour, snacks and thandai. We had plenty of entertainment and nice South Indian delicacies at the specially set up dosa counter.

The youngsters, Aditi, Ramona, Kokil, Pratyusha, Janani and Chaitanya entertained everyone with their singing and dancing. Other highlights included songs by Raman Singh and a special qawali performance by the team led by Radheyshyam Gupta and Rakesh Saraf. A spot of dancing to the dhol, preceded by an introductory workshop on Bollywood dancing expertly guided by Marshie Rajakumar added to the enjoyment.



The weather was beautifully sunny and everyone enjoyed the networking out in the open adjacent to the immaculately manicured bowling greens. Several attendees also had a go at bowling in the practice greens with coaching thanks to the Bowling club staff.

Dr Raj Rajakumar welcomed the attendees and Nikhil Kumar proposed the vote of thanks.

Our congratulations and thanks to Rakesh and Pallavi Saraf, Sangeetha and Ravi Singh and team including IITAV Management Committee families for putting together such a fabulous event which will be a hard act to follow in terms of venue, quality and entertainment!















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Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) are the premier institutes of engineering education in India.  
IITAV is the Alumni Association for IIT alumni in Victoria.