



PRESS RELEASE

IIT Mandi Alumnus wins INYAS National Award 2020 for Research Excellence

Dr. Navneet Chandra Verma, who completed his Ph.D. from IIT Mandi in 2020, won the Best Ph.D. Thesis in the Area of Carbon Materials

MANDI, 2nd March 2021: Indian Institute of Technology Mandi alumnus Dr. Navneet Chandra Verma has won the Indian National Young Academy of Sciences (INYAS) National Award 2020 for Research Excellence. Dr. Verma, who completed his Ph.D. from IIT Mandi in 2020, received this award in recognition of his excellent contribution in fundamental understanding of the chemical structure and functional relationship of the carbogenic nanoparticles and their application in super resolution light microscopy.

Under the supervision of Prof. Chayan Nandi, School of Basic Sciences, IIT Mandi, Dr. Verma custom built the most advanced single molecule super resolution nanoscopic technique, for the first time in India and showed how easily the carbon nanomaterials could be utilized as a fluorescent probe to study the cellular dynamics under live cell condition down to nanometer resolution.

Expressing his happiness towards Dr. Verma's achievement, Prof. Ajit K. Chaturvedi, Director, IIT Mandi, said, "This is a proud moment for the IIT Mandi community that Dr Navneet's thesis has been selected for the best thesis award in the area of Carbon Materials in the prestigious INYAS National Awards 2020. This award will inspire the young students of IIT Mandi to overcome all the difficulties and excel."

Founded by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) council in December 2014, Indian National Young Academy of Sciences (INYAS) is the first recognised young scientist academy of India to promote Science education and networking among young scientists at National as well as International level. INYAS provides a platform to exchange ideas, initiate discussions on scientific topics, collaborations among the new generation of scientists and to make the voices of the young researchers be heard by senior academicians and policy makers of the country.

Congratulating his former student for winning the best Ph.D. thesis award in the Area of Carbon Materials from the 42 entries received by the INYAS committee from all over the country, Prof. Chayan Nandi, School of Basic Sciences, IIT Mandi, said, "I am glad to have such a hardworking student who has devoted his life for the benefit of the research and development. Dr. Navneet Verma has been brilliant in developing and fabricating new instruments and nanomaterial with his innovative ideas. I wish him all the very best for his bright future."



Dr. Verma is currently working as a post-doctoral fellow in Technion, Israel Institute of Technology Haifa, Israel, on the development of super resolution microscopy and single molecule measurement based robust sensitive fast and high throughput advanced diagnosis devices for protein finger printing liquid biopsy and future medical application.

About Indian National Science Academy

With the objective of promoting science in India and harnessing scientific knowledge for the cause of humanity and national welfare, the Indian National Science Academy was established in January 1935. Through its many initiatives, such as National Frontiers of Science meetings, technical symposiums, Science outreach camps, remote area lectures, career awareness workshops, webinars on current topics and many more, [INIAS](#) is actively working to connect the young scientists of the country as well as world for Science promotion.

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About IIT Mandi

Since the first batch of 97 students joined in July 2009, IIT Mandi has grown to currently host 125 faculty and 1,833 students who are enrolled in various programmes of studies in undergraduate, postgraduate and research programmes, and 1516 alumni. IIT Mandi is a fully residential campus with 1.4 lakh sq. m. buildings completed. It has a guest house with 88 rooms, an 750-seater Auditorium, campus school, sports complex and hospital.

IIT Mandi has four Academic Schools and three major Research Centers. The Schools are: School of Computing and Electrical Engineering, School of Basic Sciences, School of Engineering, and School of Humanities and Social Sciences. The Centers are: Advanced Materials Research Centre (AMRC; set up with an investment of Rs. 60 crore), Centre for Design and Fabrication of Electrical Devices (C4DFED; has Rs. 50 crore worth of fabrication tools), and BioX Centre (has acquired research equipment worth Rs. 15 crore). In 2017, the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, selected IIT Mandi to lead the prestigious Rs. 10 crore FarmerZone® Project.

To cater to the growing and changing needs of Indian industry and the aspirations of students, IIT Mandi has introduced 7 B.Tech., 7 M.Tech., 5 M.Sc., 4 Ph.D., 1 I-Ph.D and 1 M.A programmes in the past 10 years. The unique, project-oriented B.Tech. curriculum is centered around its 4-year long Design and Innovation stream. From August 2019, IIT Mandi started 3 new and unique B. Tech. programmes in Data Science and Engineering, Engineering Physics, and Dual Degree in Bioengineering.

Since the inception of the Institute, IIT Mandi faculty have been involved in over 275 Research and Development (R&D) projects worth more than Rs. 120 crore. In the past 10 years, the Institute has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with as many as 11 international and 12 national universities.



IIT Mandi Catalyst, first Technology Business Incubator in Himachal Pradesh, has helped over 75 startups since 2017 and is changing both the industry profile and entrepreneurial mindset in the state. So far, Catalyst has secured external funding of Rs. 24 crore from various funding agencies. Enabling Women of Kamand Valley (EWOK) is another innovative programme run by IIT Mandi, which focuses on imparting skills training to rural women to enable them to start village-scale businesses.

IIT Mandi has been ranked no. 31 in the Engineering Institutions Category in the [India Rankings 2020](#) released by National Institutional Ranking Framework, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India. Apart from this IIT Mandi is the only second generation IIT to be featured at rank no. 7 in the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements, of the Innovation Cell, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India.

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