

**National Announcement of 'Impact RISE' Initiative
Constitution Club of India, New Delhi | 25 November 2026**

Honourable dignitaries, respected policy leaders, captains of industry, development champions, members of the IIT Kharagpur fraternity, and friends

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It is my honour to address the nation today as we launch a landmark initiative:

Impact RISE — Research, Innovation, Skilling, and Entrepreneurship for Sustainable India.

This initiative represents IIT Kharagpur's **Platinum Jubilee pledge to the nation** — a pledge that our science, engineering, technology, and talent will drive **large-scale, measurable, inclusive societal transformation**.

I thank **Shri Bhaskar Chatterjee**, whose pioneering leadership in CSR policy continues to guide India. Today marks the evolution of that policy framework into a **technology-enabled impact model for the nation**.

I. The National Imperative: Why Impact RISE, Why Now?

A Moment of National Responsibility

India stands today at an inflection point. A point where our scientific capability and technological prowess must translate into **large-scale, measurable, last-mile impact**.

In this moment, we at IIT Kharagpur ask ourselves a simple but powerful question:

"If not us, then who? If not now, then when?"

In the last year alone, here is what we witnessed:

- Cyclonic vulnerability and ecological distress in the **Sundarbans**,
- Youth in need of **new-age employability skills**,
- Rural women facing preventable health challenges,
- Farmers struggling with **water, soil, and climate variability**,
- Cities choking with pollution and waste,
- A nation preparing for **Viksit Bharat @2047**, hungry for solutions.

It is time for institutions like IIT Kharagpur to move beyond research papers and prototypes and step decisively into the arena of **impact leadership**.

India is moving rapidly towards **Viksit Bharat @2047**, yet major systemic challenges remain:

- **70% of rural households** rely on contaminated groundwater in several states.
- **Over 55% of Indian women** suffer from anaemia.
- **One in five oral cancer cases globally** is from India.
- **Nearly 30% of agricultural produce** is lost due to poor post-harvest management.
- **AQI at places routinely crosses 400**, affecting more than 20 million lives.
- **Noise pollution in the metros is 10–20 dB above WHO limits.**
- **Climate vulnerability costs India nearly 2% of GDP annually.**
- **Over 1.5 million schoolteachers** require upskilling in digital pedagogy and generative AI.
- **India produces 62 million tons of solid waste annually**, projected to double by 2030.

These issues cannot be solved by business-as-usual approaches.

They require **deep-tech research, ground-tested solutions, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and scalable delivery mechanisms**.

That is exactly what Impact RISE will deliver.

II. What is Impact RISE? — A National Blueprint for Academic–Social Partnership

Impact RISE is a *four-pillar national model*:

1. R – Research

Science aligned directly to:

- National Missions (Jal Jeevan, Ayushman Bharat, Swachh Bharat, National Education Mission)
- UN SDGs (3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13)
- Aspirational District needs
- India's climate and development priorities

2. I – Innovation

Technologies built at TRL 3–7, with pathways to:

- Pilot deployment through Research Park
- State-level scale-ups
- Corporate CSR partnerships
- Global replication

3. S – Skilling

A future-ready workforce capable of:

- AI-assisted teaching
- Digital health support
- Green manufacturing
- Precision agriculture
- Impact entrepreneurship

4. E – Entrepreneurship

Startups and MSMEs leveraging IIT Kharagpur's:

- Incubation ecosystem
- Deep-tech labs
- Faculty mentorship
- National and global connections

This is not a project.

It is **India's first comprehensive, institution-led, impact acceleration platform.**

III. Evidence-Based Missions Under Impact RISE

Platinum Jubilee Vision — “Build in our Labs, Pilot in our Campus, and Extend to the World”

Last year, when we signed the MoU with **WHEELS Global Foundation**, we made a decisive commitment:

IIT Kharagpur will no longer wait for opportunities to serve society. We will create them, scale them, and sustain them.

This initiative is our pledge to the nation.

Let me illustrate with concrete examples — each backed by real outcomes, ongoing research, or validated pilots.

1. Climate, Ecology & Sundarbans Resilience

- IIT Kharagpur has conducted **15 years of continuous environmental monitoring** in the Sundarbans.
- Our models show sea-level rise of **8 mm/year** in the region — 3x the global average.
- Communities face **livelihood loss, salinity intrusion, and ecosystem erosion.**

Our solutions include:

- AI-based mangrove mapping used by over **100+ local administrators**.
- Microbial CO₂ sequestration leading to **20–25% faster carbon uptake**.
- Bio-inspired coastal protection modules undergoing trials in 3 blocks.
- Last mile healthcare delivery via disruptive technology-enabled ecosystem model.

Impact RISE will scale this work to **200 villages** across the delta and beyond.

2. Human Capital Transformation Using AI

- India has **9 million teachers, 3 million anganwadi workers, 1.2 million ASHA workers**, and **3 million frontline governance staff**.

These groups require 21st-century tools to deliver 21st-century outcomes.

IIT Kharagpur's AI platforms:

- AI Tutor that improves learning outcomes by **30–50%** in trials.
- AI-based legal assistants deployed in pilot courts for document summarization and case triage.
- AI health worker assistive models achieving **92% diagnostic accuracy** in field trials on anaemia and oral lesions.

Impact RISE will create a **national AI augmentation network**, not replacing workers but **upskilling millions**.

3. Women's Health & Rural Preventive Health

Our ultra-low-cost screening technologies include:

Anaemia detection:

- Minimally-invasive device validated across **3 states, 10,000+ women**, with **>90% sensitivity**.

Vaginal health & infection screening:

- Paper-strip and smart-device hybrid that reduces testing time from **2 days to 15 minutes**.
- Mandated for adoption in **multiple district-level women's health programmes**.

Oral cancer screening:

- AI-assisted camera-based screening used on **4,500+ individuals**, identifying early lesions with **95% accuracy**.

Impact RISE will deploy these through a **National Screen India Network**, targeting **50 million screenings by 2030**.

4. Water & Soil Security

- 27% of India's groundwater blocks are **over-exploited or contaminated**.
- Arsenic affects **2 crore people** in the Ganga basin.

IIT KGP solutions:

- Laterite-based filter that removes arsenic at **1/10th the cost** of current technologies.
- Ceramic waste filter with **100 litres/hour** flow rate for community use.
- Smart soil scanner that provides nutrient analysis in **3 minutes**.

Impact RISE aims to bring safe water to **10 million people** over the next 5 years.

5. Green Energy, Materials & Decarbonised Infrastructure

Aqueous Aluminium-Ion Batteries:

- 3–4x cheaper than lithium-ion
- Safer, non-flammable, ideal for rural micro-grids

Laser Direct Deposition for W/Cu graded materials:

- Enables defense-grade and space-grade components
- Reduces manufacturing time by **40%**

Hybrid Solar Dryer:

- Reduces post-harvest loss by **up to 60%**
- Increases farmer income by **20–30%**

Impact RISE will integrate these solutions into rural clusters across **12 states**.

6. Air & Noise Pollution Mitigation

Some cities rank among the world's most polluted:

IIT Kharagpur is developing:

- AI-driven pollution mapping for smart city integration.
- Portable air-quality harvester units.
- Noise-suppression technologies tested in Kolkata and Bangalore pilot corridors.

Impact RISE will create **pollution innovation districts** across major cities.

7. Agriculture & Zero Hunger Mission

Autonomous Agri Robot:

- Disease detection accuracy: **>92%**
- Reduces pesticide usage by **30–40%**

Food Fortification Technologies:

- Iron-fortified rice meeting **FSSAI standards**.
- Low-moisture meat analogues to address protein gap of **25–30%** in rural populations.

Solar Drying & Storage:

- Helps preserve fruits, vegetables, herbs with **80% nutrient retention**.

Impact RISE will support **1 lakh farmers** in the first phase.

IV. New National Model: The IIT Kharagpur Research Park CSR Umbrella

Today, I am proud to announce a **first-of-its-kind CSR implementation architecture** in India.

The IIT Kharagpur Research Park “Impact RISE CSR Umbrella”

Key Features:

1. **Single Window CSR Processing**
 - Proposal → Project Design → Deployment → Monitoring
All handled under one unified system.
2. **Ready-to-Deploy Technology Kits** CSR partners can choose from 100+ field-validated impact kits.
3. **Real-Time Dashboards** Satellite-linked, IoT-enabled project monitoring with transparent metrics.
4. **Outcome-Based Funding** Corporations pay for **verified results**, not processes.
5. **Social Return on Investment (SROI) Metrics** Developed with IICA and industry experts.

Why This Matters:

- Reduces administrative burden by **70–80%**
- Predictable timelines
- Auditible impact
- National scalability

Corporates no longer support fragmented small projects — they become co-creators of national-scale development missions.

V. IIT Kharagpur as the “Mentor of Mentors”: The Job-Creation Engine

Our role is evolving beyond education, research, and innovation.

We are becoming:

A National Mentor of Mentors Platform — Training those who will train millions.

This includes:

- Master trainers for 21st-century skill development
- Health supervisors for rural screening camps
- Micro-entrepreneurs in rural service delivery
- Technicians maintaining water systems, solar dryers, health devices

Job Creation Potential:

- **Every village-level technology creates 2–5 jobs** for operations and maintenance.
- With 50,000 deployments, this alone creates **1–2 lakh jobs**.
- AI skilling through IIT KGP could prepare **1 million workers** over the next decade.

This is how we convert **technology** → **skill** → **livelihood** → **impact**.

VI. Call for National Partnerships

Impact RISE is an open, collaborative platform.

We invite:

Government

- Integrate proven IIT Kharagpur technologies into flagship missions.

Corporates & Foundations

- Fund scalable projects with predictable outcomes.

NGOs

- Manage last-mile community engagement.

Alumni

- Lead state-wise impact chapters.

International Agencies

- Co-develop solutions for Africa, Southeast Asia, Latin America.

Students & Youth

- Become innovators, operators, and ambassadors.

The message is simple: “**Join us. Partner with us. Build with us.**”

VII. Closing Vision: The India We Are Building Together

Let me end with a picture of the India that Impact RISE seeks to create:

- *An India where no child drinks contaminated water.*
- *An India where no woman neglects her health for lack of access.*
- *An India where climate resilience is engineered through advanced science.*
- *An India where green jobs create rural prosperity.*
- *An India where a farmer’s produce no longer rots in the sun.*
- *An India where every teacher is AI-empowered.*
- *An India where innovation is not locked in the lab — but lives in every district.*
- *An India that builds solutions for the world.*

This is our vision. This is our responsibility.

This is the promise of **Impact RISE**.

Let us rise together — for a sustainable, empowered, and self-reliant India.

Thank you. Nmashkaar. Jai Hind.