

**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**
 - o Proposal → Project Design → Deployment → Monitoring
 - o 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
- Auditable 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. Namashkaar. Jai Hind.