



IC-IMPACTS

**2020-2021  
ANNUAL REPORT**



**IC-IMPACTS**

Canada India Research Centre of Excellence  
Building Healthy Communities in Canada & India

**INNOVATIVE  
RESEARCH & TRAINING**

**INDUSTRY  
PARTNERSHIPS**

**HEALTHIER  
COMMUNITIES**

**NCE RCE**  
Network of Centres of Excellence of Canada | Réseau de centres d'excellence du Canada

For more information please visit:  
[www.ic-impacts.com](http://www.ic-impacts.com)



IC-IMPACTS 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT COVERS THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 2020 TO MARCH 31, 2021.  
THIS REPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AT: [WWW.IC-IMPACTS.COM](http://WWW.IC-IMPACTS.COM)

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IC-IMPACTS OFFICE IS SITUATED ON THE TRADITIONAL, UNCEDED TERRITORY OF THE MUSQUEAM NATION.

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# YEAR IN REVIEW

The past year was challenging with unprecedented events and the COVID-19 pandemic impacts. These impacts touched us all personally and professionally. Millions of people have lost family members, friends and colleagues increasing stress and anxiety. We are grateful to the frontline healthcare professionals who are attending to the needs of others while risking their lives every day.

Despite the challenges, 2020 was also a year of opportunities, discovery and development. I am pleased to report that IC-IMPACTS has continued to advance research collaboration and knowledge transfer between Canada and India, and applied new technologies in communities in both countries, particularly in cooperation with First Nation communities in Canada. Together, our researchers are breaking new ground—with innovative demonstration projects in safe and sustainable infrastructure, integrated water management, and public health.

IC-IMPACTS unique bilateral model is a tangible demonstration of the importance of collaboration in science and technology and we particularly value the support received from India's Department of Science and Technology (DST), and India's Department of Biotechnology (DBT). Their support has grown and expanded over the years.

We remain committed to providing graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in both countries to develop skills, perspectives, and mindsets to pursue research for social good. The success of our entrepreneurship training can be seen in the employment rate of our graduates.

Through the expanding network of enthusiastic and talented young people, outstanding researchers, innovating industries, and the vision and commitment of governments and communities, IC-IMPACTS has proven itself as an effective and inspiring model for bilateral engagement between Canada and India.

We are grateful to our entire team - Research Management Committee, CEO and Scientific Director, staff, partners, researchers, and students across Canada and India - for their dedication and commitment to IC-IMPACTS. We also acknowledge the amazing support we continue to receive from the Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).



**Mr. Barj S. Dhahan**  
*Chairman of the Board of Directors*

As challenging as 2020 was, our Centre has made steady progress in advancing its mission. IC-IMPACTS continues to facilitate collaborations between Canada and India, as it is our commitment to expand the very successful model of applied research, through partnerships with industry and the engagement of local communities in order to contribute to the well-being of communities in Canada and India. We remain fundamentally committed to the model of science-based research and social innovations that accelerate trade and transform the lives of citizens.

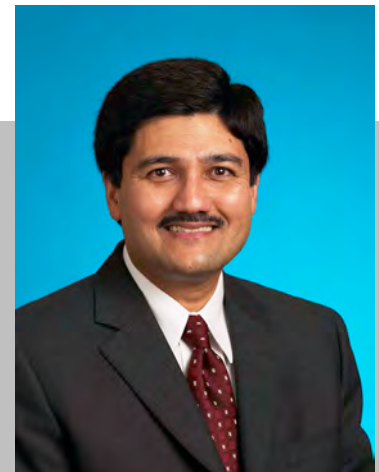
This report captures some of the main achievements of our work in 2020-2021, highlighting the fight against COVID-19. IC-IMPACTS' work has always been identified and driven by community need. As a result, two projects were funded to support the global fight against COVID-19.

IC-IMPACTS' relationship with the Government of India's Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Biotechnology have only strengthened over the years. These collaborations have resulted in exciting new research in the areas of public health, integrated water management, and safe and sustainable infrastructure. Collaborations with a number of First Nation communities across Canada have led to transformative social changes, particularly the target Indigenous communities, and IC-IMPACTS technologies are now being scaled up and installed in other communities across Canada and India.

Training of Highly Qualified Personnel (HQPs), including graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, remains a key mandate. With 1,163 HQPs trained, IC-IMPACTS continues to create innovative and hands-on training and networking opportunities for our HQPs. Our researchers have produced 1,298 peer-reviewed research publications and launched 8 start-ups. IC-IMPACTS continues to play an important role in developing partnerships between researchers and companies. With more than 360 partnerships created and 31 patents, IC-IMPACTS is accelerating knowledge-based trade between Canada and India.

IC-IMPACTS continues to expand its network by collaborating with universities, NGOs, industry leaders and communities across Canada and India as we progress towards our long-term vision of building a financially sustainable Centre.

Finally, I would like to thank our frontline workers for their efforts in keeping us safe, and for demonstrating resilience and showing great commitment in these unprecedented times.



**Dr. Nemy Banthia**

*Chief Executive Officer and Scientific Director*

# OVERALL ACHIEVEMENTS

## Translating Research Into Communities

### SELECT DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS IN INDIA:

- Self-Healing Road, Thodebhavi
- Tika Vaani, Uttar Pradesh
- Screening of HIV Associated Co-Infections, Manipal
- KRS Dam Repair, Mysore
- Testing and Upscaling Phytoremediation Technology, Kashmir
- Engaging Pharmacists in Detection of Tuberculosis, Patna



### SELECT DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS IN CANADA:

- Resilient Global Urban Shelter, Toronto
- Water Treatment System, Lytton First Nation
- Self-Healing Pavement, Chawathil First Nation
- Sewer Pipe Coating, Delta
- Elementary School Retrofit, Vancouver
- MacMillan Building Stairway Resurfacing, Vancouver
- Transforming Waste into Pavers, Victoria
- Scour Monitoring of Bridges, Winnipeg



# IC-IMPACTS BY THE NUMBERS

**74**

**RESEARCH  
PROJECTS**

**1,163**

**HQP  
TRAINED**

**363**

**PARTNERSHIPS  
CREATED**

**1,298**

**SCIENTIFIC  
PUBLICATIONS**

**31**

**PATENTS  
FILED**

**8**

**START-UPS  
LAUNCHED**

# DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

## COVID-19 and Other Public Health Related Projects

IC-IMPACTS' work has always been identified and driven by community need and during the past year, a call for proposals was launched, tailored to the health, economic, and social challenges communities were facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the call, two projects were funded to support the global fight against COVID-19.

***Citizen-lead Evaluation of the Public Health Response to COVID-19 in India: Harnessing Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to Promote Real-Time Learning, Human Rights and Good Governance***

Indian Lead: Dr. Aaditeshwar Seth, Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Mira Johri, University of Montreal (CHUM)

This project provides an essential lifeline to India's poor and vulnerable. It is a nationwide effort, with points of strength in Delhi, Gurgaon, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. It established an emergency network of civil society partners to aid in India's COVID-19 response and to evaluate and learn from the work. During the project's first 100 days, from March 13th to June 20th, 2020, the research team initiated a COVID-19 response network reaching 1.15 million individuals with audio content to aid in awareness and health promotion. Shortly after, the network responded to more than 6,000 SOS messages on the ground and offered help. The field staff also created the non-profit *Raah Health & Social Development Foundation*, and the COVID-19 response network continues to function with funding from numerous partners.

Publication: *The first 100 days: how has COVID-19 affected poor and vulnerable groups in India?*

Link to article: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34002217/>



Individuals Getting Vaccinated through the Network



Field Team

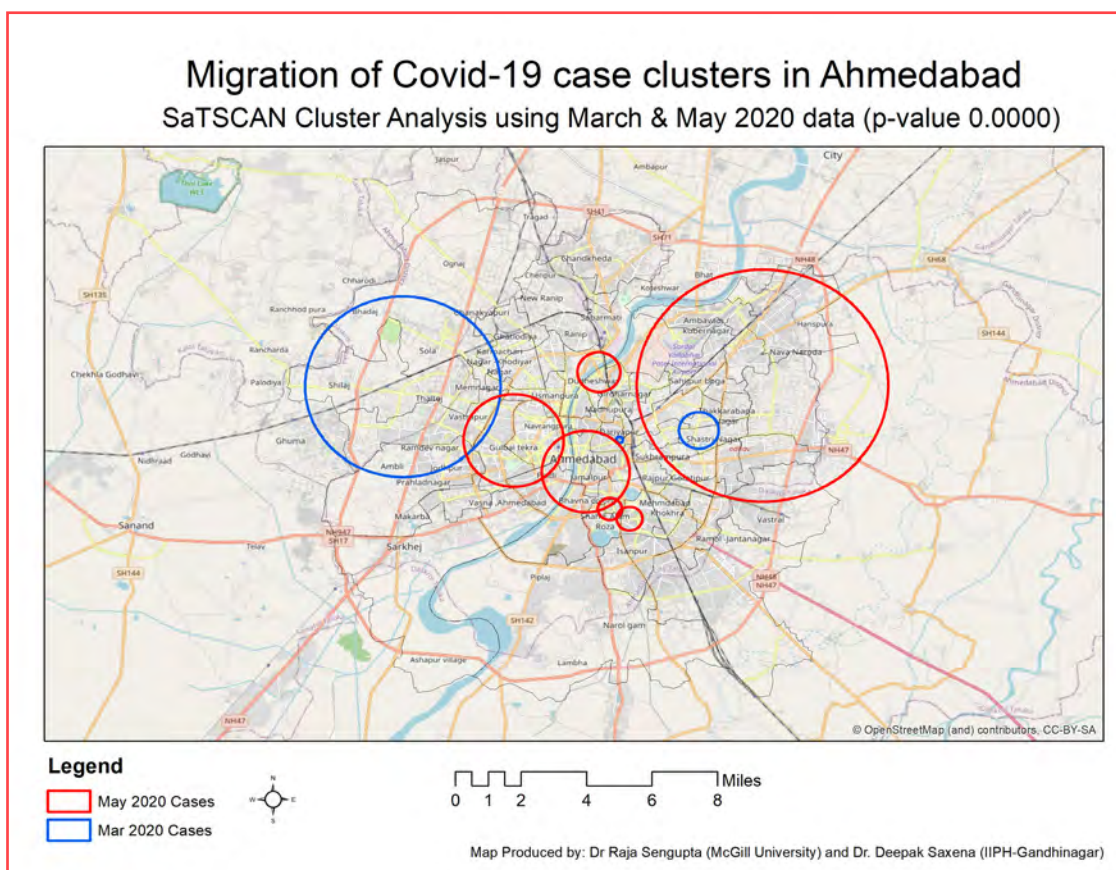
# COVID-19

## **Agent-Based Simulation of COVID-19: Estimating the Spread and Disease Burden Using Advanced Epidemiological Modelling**

Indian Lead: Dr. Deepak Saxena, Indian Institute of Public Health-Gandhinagar

Canadian Lead: Dr. Raja Sengupta, McGill University

This project aims to assist the unfolding crisis in India following a second COVID-19 wave. Currently, project personnel from three institutions (McGill, BITS Pilani Goa Campus, and IIPHG) are working closely with Dr. Saxena and IIPHG to provide Geospatial data support for the location of reported COVID-19 cases and identification of hospital resources, which in turn is to be used by Ahmadabad Municipal Corporation (AMC). The team is creating maps to show the location of the reported cases and the medical resources for specific regions of Ahmadabad. These maps aid in decision Making and resource management.



Map Screenshot Indicating the Migration of COVID-19 in Ahmedabad



***Smart App-Based Rapid Multiplex Screening of HIV Associated Co-Infections of At-Risk Populations at the Point-of-Care: A Demonstration Study in India***

Indian Lead: Dr. Suma Nair, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)

Canadian Lead: Dr. Nitika Pai, Research Institute of McGill University Health Centre (RI-MUHC)

This research project aims to provide deployment of an app-based multiplex testing strategy for many viral and bacterial infections. In this age of the pandemic, where conventional testing/screening proves to be difficult, digital solutions to improve the quality and efficiency of primary care are essential. The project team redeveloped the AideSmart application; in the past year, the new the AideSmart app has been adapted from its previous version to the context of the current project. The testing kits and platform devices provided by Cepheid were shipped and received at MAHE in September 2020 and the fully executed inter-institutional agreement between RI-MUHC and MAHE was completed in February 2021 and IRB approvals were duly obtained. Three systematic reviews have stemmed from the multiplexing project and have been submitted to open access journals.

The research team also published a related review in *The Lancet HIV* on Modern Diagnostic Technologies for HIV, with a focus on the role of multiplexed technologies.

Publication: *Modern Diagnostic Technologies for HIV*

Link to article: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanhiv/article/PIIS2352-3018\(20\)30190-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanhiv/article/PIIS2352-3018(20)30190-9/fulltext)

## Integrated Water Management

### ***Development of Capacitive Deionization Technology for Point-of-Use Water Purification***

Indian Lead: Dr. Satish Kumar, Eureka Forbes Ltd.

Canadian Lead: Dr. Madjid Mohseni, The University of British Columbia

Carbon corrosion is a persistent challenge in electrochemical systems. This project aims to further understand carbon corrosion under a variety of experimental conditions. Amongst these, special attention was given to the effect of applied potential, cycling time, presence of dissolved oxygen in addition to organic and inorganic constituents. Moreover, an electrochemical approach to mitigate the effect of carbon corrosion was explored.

Fundamental work was carried out using an electrochemical cell that allowed fine tuning and exceptional potential control. This helped overcome issues with potential allocation that occur in classic, more practical, two-electrode cells. Once the fundamental studies were finished, a few selected cases were replicated using a two-electrode cell; hence, it was possible to contrast rigorous fundamental work with what is seen in the field, under typical cycling conditions. The research team identified the importance of conducting long-term assessment experiments using a three-electrode cell. This setup enables a careful control over the thermodynamic state of the electrode being studied (i.e., constant driving force). Researchers also revealed the unsuccessful outcome of electrochemical regeneration approaches and demonstrated the need for adequate pre-treatment for iron containing brackish waters to avoid increased decay and loss of performance.





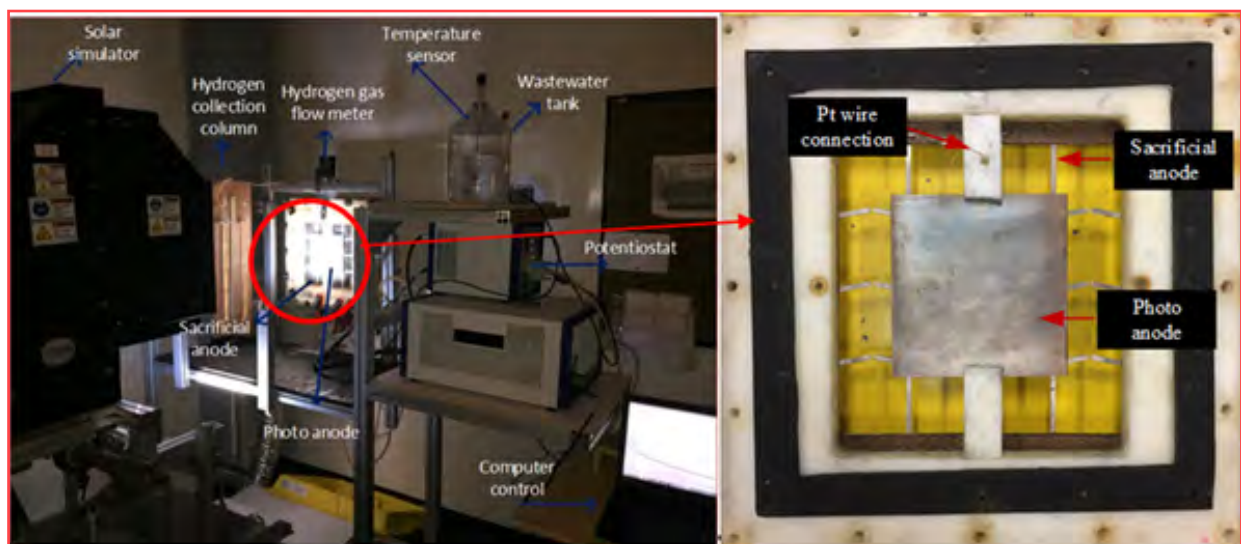
***Carbon Neutrality through Combined CO<sub>2</sub> Capture and Novel H<sub>2</sub> Technology with Production of Non-Conventional Fuels for Smart Cities***

Indian Lead: Dr. Subrata Borgohain Gogoi, Dibrugarh University

Canadian Lead: Dr. Ibrahim Dincer, Ontario Tech University

CO<sub>2</sub> is recognized as the main pollutant responsible of the super green-house effect, causing global warming and climate change. In this concern, to avoid more dangerous consequences, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21, Paris, 2015) have emphasized the need to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by at least one half of the current value by 2050, aiming at limiting the global average temperature increase to a maximum of 2°C.

This project aims to convert CO<sub>2</sub> into valuable synthetic, non-conventional and non-renewable fuels for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and boosting the deficient energy sector. The team at Ontario Tech University designed a unique photo-electrochemical reactor (PEC) for simultaneous wastewater treatment and H<sub>2</sub> production. The PEC reactor experiments have been conducted under solar simulator (artificial light) illumination (Figure 3). Production of H<sub>2</sub> via water splitting by using solar energy using two unique methods and production of ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) as another carbon-free fuel will aid in the development of smart city roadmaps for Indian and Canadian cities to help expedite moving toward sustainable future.



PEC System with the Solar Simulator

## Safe and Sustainable Infrastructure

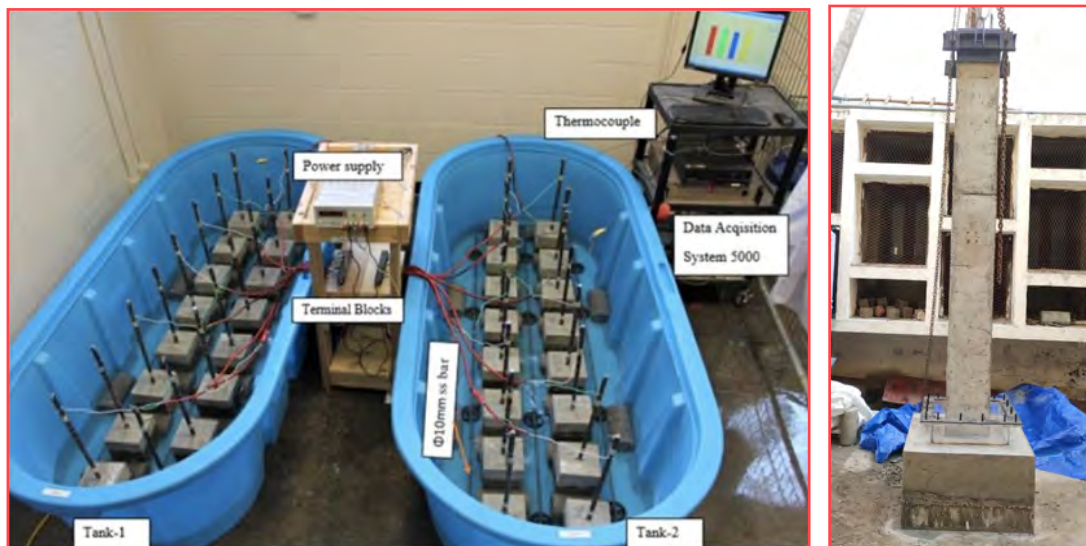
### ***Fire Performance of Aged Reinforced Concrete Structures***

Indian Lead: Dr. Umesh Kumar Sharma, Indian Institute of Technology - Roorkee

Canadian Lead: Dr. Mark Green, Queen's University

Throughout the world, reinforced concrete structures are crumbling due to the effects of age and corrosion. In both India and Canada, these structures could potentially collapse with great impact to human safety. One particularly important risk is the lack of understanding of how the strength and durability of aged and corroded reinforced concrete structures are impacted by fire. Current design codes are often developed using pristine specimens developed and tested in a laboratory setting with no exposure to corrosion or the impacts of ageing. This project brings together researchers in the areas of reinforced concrete corrosion, fire performance of structures, and numerical modelling to tackle this complex issue.

The research is largely application-based because of the focus on developing an understanding of the performance of corroded reinforced concrete columns in fire. The practical objectives are to enable the design of new reinforced concrete structures for better fire performance despite age related deterioration and to help to develop suitable fire-resistant repair strategies for corroded/aged existing structures.



Overall Test Setup and Casting Process



### ***Large Area Microbolometer Uncooled Focal Plane Arrays for Thermal Imaging***

Indian Lead: Dr. Madhusudan Singh, Indian Institute of Technology - Delhi

Canadian Lead: Dr. Ghassan Jabbour, University of Ottawa

The team is developing the needed designs and process technologies for application of low-cost thermographic imaging for reliable, retrofittable and real-time monitoring of potential hot spots (such as utilities) for the tell-tale rise in temperatures that usually presages outbreaks of fires. Researchers will develop VOx materials and printed deposition technology at IIT-Delhi, integrating it at University of Ottawa, with a large feature size read out integrated circuits (ROIC). The research team is shifting focus now, due to COVID-19 and the constraints of social distancing in the laboratories, to study the aspects of the project that can be undertaken without affecting the outcomes. The primary focus in this regard is on setting up and testing all of the required materials in printing, processing, and patterning protocols.



High Vacuum Train Deposition System



**Smart Infrastructure with High Fracture Toughness, Durable Concrete  
Employing Large Amounts of Industrial Wastes**

Canadian Lead: Dr. Nemkumar Banthia, The University of British Columbia

Repairing aged and deteriorated infrastructure is an ongoing challenge for many municipalities. This is complicated by the fact that aging infrastructure is often located in crowded and developed areas that have changed significantly since the original design and installation. Cement-based repair materials have been historically used to repair damaged and deteriorated infrastructure, however, production of cement is responsible for nearly 8% of the global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This project looks at sustainable repair materials that can be used by the construction industry to efficiently repair deteriorated infrastructure.

Over the past years, the research team developed and tested a novel cement-free, corrosion-resistant multiphase composite coating material. In early 2021, and in a collaboration with Metro Vancouver, the team successfully demonstrated the application of this novel coating material at a sewer chamber in Delta, BC.

This project is a great example of how IC-IMPACTS researchers are transferring technologies from laboratories to communities.

Metro Vancouver currently has around 9,000 kilometres of sewer pipes which will at some point in the near future need to be repaired.



Metro Vancouver Demonstration Site

# PARTNERSHIPS AND SOCIAL IMPACT

## Continuing the Dialogue with First Nation Communities

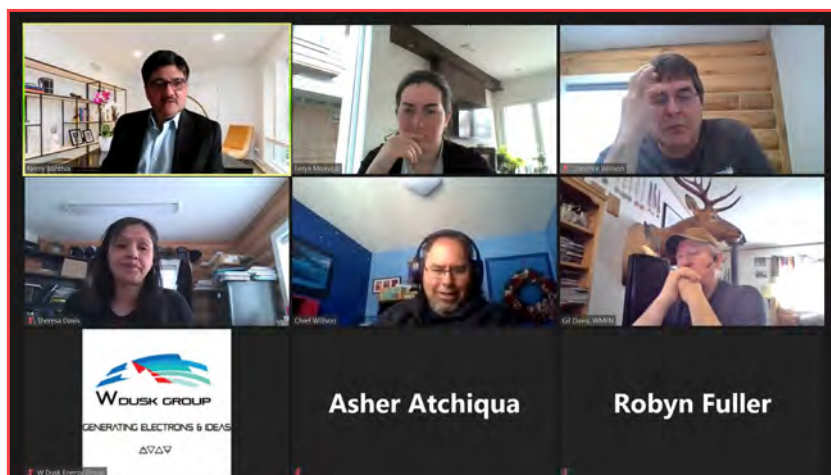
IC-IMPACTS is developing 3D printing technology for rapid housing construction in First Nation Communities. Researchers are looking at target communities to build a demonstration house using 3D Concrete Printing (3DPC).

3DPC will provide design flexibility, faster construction speed, enhanced sustainability, greater product quality, reduction in cost, while significantly reducing waste. In addition, through consultation with the target community at the planning stage, the design of each unit can uniquely incorporate the needs of those who will reside in the house.

When compared to traditional construction, 3DPC presents numerous opportunities for collaborative and innovative solutions, especially in communities facing challenges such as severe winter weather.



3D Concrete Printer



Discussing 3DPC House Prototype with West Moberly First Nation Community

# FUTURE LEADERS

## Bringing Canadian and Indian Skills Together

IC-IMPACTS remains committed to training the next generation of leaders for a fast-changing future. Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) at IC-IMPACTS are exposed to unique training and learning opportunities. HQPs, including graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research associates and research staff, get to work with both Canadian and Indian researchers, exchange ideas and are able to broaden their field of knowledge and develop new international connections.

Since 2013, IC-IMPACTS has trained a total of 1,163 HQPs (reported here as HQP-Years), 32% of whom are female. Working on an IC-IMPACTS demonstration project enables HQPs to get involved with the community and observe the impact of scientific research and its deployment on the society. In addition to what HQPs gain through involvement in research projects, IC-IMPACTS diverse programs provide further opportunities for HQPs to learn through volunteering.

### Start-ups and non-profit foundations launched:

1. Raah Health & Social Development Foundation, Delhi, India
2. INpact, Ontario, Canada
3. Buyuanxiar Inc., Ontario, Canada
4. Mithra Sustainable Solutions, British Columbia, Canada
5. Boost Environmental Systems Inc., British Columbia, Canada
6. HRG Infrastructure, British Columbia, Canada
7. ChipCare, Ontario, Canada
8. Tricca Technologies Inc., Alberta, Canada

THE IMPACT THAT IC-IMPACTS IS HAVING ON THE GROUND IN INDIA IS SIGNIFICANT, FROM CREATING NETWORKS OF PARTNERSHIPS THAT WORK ON INNOVATIVE PROJECTS AND HARNESS TECHNOLOGY, TO THE CREATION OF START-UPS THAT MARK THE FUTURE OF THE CANADA-INDIA RELATIONSHIP.

HIS EXCELLENCY AJAY BISARIA  
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA IN CANADA



# ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY, RESILIENCE AND GROWRTH

With a solid foundation and growing support from the Government of Canada and the Government of India, IC-IMPACTS is now also focusing on the Centre's sustainability and growth, to deliver technologies more effectively and ultimately help create a strong economy that is good for all sectors. Working with esteemed scientists, community members, industry leaders and government offices in Canada and India, IC-IMPACTS has consistently exceeded its established targets. With the guidance received from our partners, IC-IMPACTS will continue to systematically identify critical challenges and develop cutting-edge technologies to address those challenges.



Meeting with MP Nelly Shin



IC-IMPACTS BEING THE GATEWAY FOR SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND INDIA, IS TAKING STUDENT TRAINING AND MOBILITY TO A NEW LEVEL. UBC IS PROUD OF BEING THE HOST INSTITUTE OF THIS GREAT ORGANIZATION.

PROFESSOR SANTA J. ONO  
PRESIDENT, UBC

# PARTNER UNIVERSITIES INVOLVED IN GOVERNANCE

All universities in Canada and India can avail funds from IC-IMPACTS on a competitive basis. However, IC-IMPACTS has several exclusive partnerships with prominent universities (listed here) that steer IC-IMPACTS research program, lead research themes, adjudicate Calls for Proposals and serve in prominent governance positions including IC-IMPACTS Board of Directors and Research Management Committee.

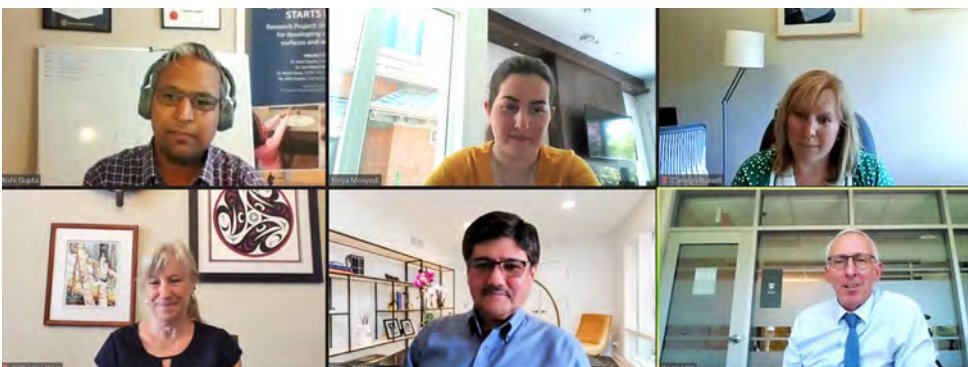
These sustaining university partners also advise the Network on community engagement, business partnerships, student programs, engagement with Indian and Canadian Governments and future research directions.



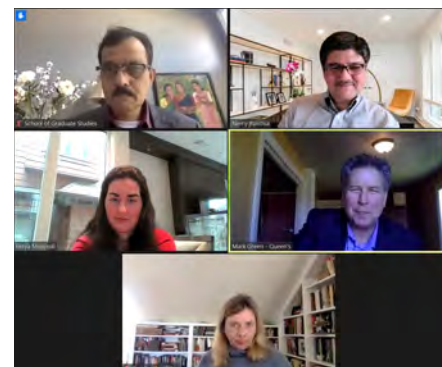
IC-IMPACTS and SFU Signing Ceremony



IC-IMPACTS India Week: Panel Discussion with Delegates



Meeting with University of Victoria



Meeting with Queen's University

# EMERGING CANADA-INDIA OPPORTUNITIES

## Knowledge, Mobility and Technology Exchange

Providing demonstration and field-testing opportunities on community-driven projects, IC-IMPACTS will continue to facilitate knowledge exchange between Canadian and Indian networks, focusing on technology deployment and commercialization. IC-IMPACTS will continue to help provide real-world experiences for graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. Canadian and Indian graduate students will continue to take their research skills and apply them in each other’s respective countries. From providing clean water and self-healing roads in First Nation communities to engaging pharmacists in India, IC-IMPACTS researchers are gaining global perspectives of community challenges and needs and train to become tomorrow’s global leaders.



Location of IC-IMPACTS Webinar Participants

**INNOVATION**

**DEMONSTRATION**

**COMMERCIALIZATION**

**CURRENT THEMES**

 **PUBLIC HEALTH**

 **INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT**

 **SAFE & SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE**

**NEW THEMES**

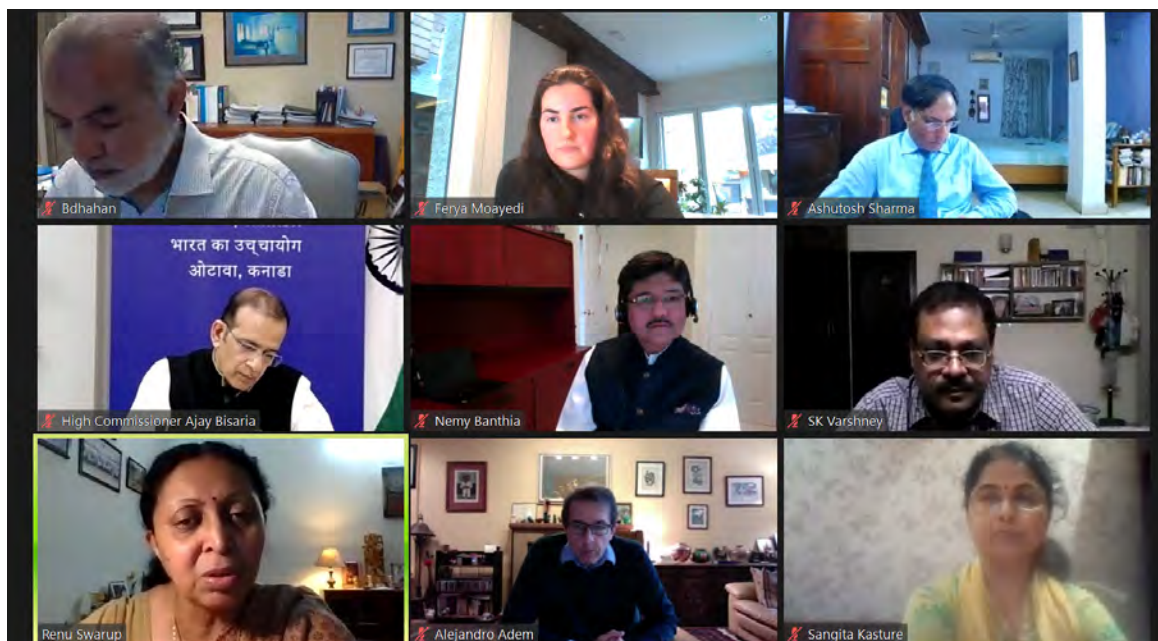
 **FOOD SECURITY**

 **CLEAN ENERGY**

## Launch of New Calls for Proposals

IC-IMPACTS, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) plan to have new joint calls for proposals in the coming years. One such call which was jointly announced in November 2020, is titled '**Ideas to Prototyping and Commercialization (I2PC)**'. I2PC is a joint initiative to facilitate deployment of technologies in communities as operational prototypes to fast-track commercialization.

Additionally, IC-IMPACTS is broadening its sectors of interest by focusing on new themes such as Food Security and Housing, in efforts to enhance community transformation and sustainability.



Invited Speakers at IC-IMPACTS 2020 Annual Research Conference

## Commitment to the Principles of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

IC-IMPACTS respects, honours, and celebrates the diversity of its network and as an international research centre, is fully aware of the benefits brought on by having a diverse team. IC-IMPACTS remains committed to fostering and maintaining an inclusive environment that brings together diverse perspectives from our students, researchers, partners, and members of the community. Throughout the past year, we have continued to develop and promote equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives in our programs and online events.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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CEO, Sandhurst Group

**Dr. Nemy Banthia (CEO & Scientific Director)**  
Professor, The University of British Columbia

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Professor, Mathematics,  
The University of British Columbia

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Engineering, The University of Toronto

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Senior Program Manager, Networks  
of Centres of Excellence (NCE)

**Dr. Chris Kelly**  
Deputy Director, Networks  
of Centres of Excellence (NCE)

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Professor, The University of Toronto

**Dr. Sujatha Ramdorai**  
Professor, The University of British Columbia

**Dr. Christopher Yip**  
Dean, Faculty of Applied Science &  
Engineering, The University of Toronto

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**Mr. Barj S. Dhahan (Chair)**  
CEO, Sandhurst Group

**Dr. Nemy Banthia**  
Professor, The University of British Columbia

**Dr. Arvind Gupta**  
Professor, The University of Toronto

**SCIENTIFIC TEAM**

**Dr. Nemy Banthia**  
Scientific Director and Theme Lead, Safe and Sustainable  
Infrastructure, The University of British Columbia

**Dr. Stewart Aitchison**  
Theme Lead, Public Health: Disease Prevention  
and Treatment, Professor, Electrical & Computer  
Engineering, The University of Toronto

**Dr. Damase Khasa**  
Theme Lead, Integrated Water Management,  
Professor, Department of Wood and  
Forest Sciences, Université Laval

**RESEARCH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (RMC)**

**Dr. Nemy Banthia (Chair)**  
Professor, The University of British Columbia

**Dr. Stewart Aitchison**  
Professor, The University of Toronto

**Dr. Reed Ellis**  
Vice President, Bridges, Stantec Inc.

**Dr. Rishi Gupta**  
Associate Professor, The University of Victoria

**Dr. Kevin Kane**  
Professor, The University of Alberta

**Dr. Damase Khasa**  
Professor, Université Laval

**Dr. Madjid Mohseni**  
Professor, The University of British Columbia

**Dr. Daman Panesar**  
Professor, The University of Toronto

**Dr. Ash Parameswaran**  
Professor, Simon Fraser University

**Dr. Stephanie Yanow**  
Professor, The University of Alberta

**STUDENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE****Mr. Anurag Krishna (Chair)**

PhD Student, The University of British Columbia

**Ms. Afreen Anwar**

Country Representative – India  
Women Scientist B, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

**Ms. Archita Borah**

Outreach and Social Media Coordinator  
Masters of Applied Science Student, The University of British Columbia

**Mr. Shashank Chandra**

Event Coordinator – India  
PhD Student, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

**Mr. Jaskaran Dhiman**

Outreach and Alumni Coordinator  
Postdoctoral fellow, McGill University

**Mr. Fuhar Dixit**

Co-Chair & Graduate Seminar Coordinator  
PhD Candidate, The University of British Columbia

**Mr. Abhishek Dutta**

Graduate Seminar Coordinator  
PhD Student, The University of British Columbia

**Mr. Mohammed Farooq**

Webinar Coordinator  
PhD Candidate, The University of British Columbia

**Mr. Hiroki Fukuda**

PhD Student, The University of British Columbia

**Mr. Timir Baran Roy**

PhD Candidate, Concordia University

**Mr. Karl Zimmermann**

Webinar Coordinator  
PhD Student, The University of British Columbia

# FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

## PUBLIC HEALTH

### A High-Quality Serotype Discriminating Dengue Virus Diagnostic Test Adapted for Field Investigation

Canadian Lead: Dr. Sachdev Sidhu, The University of Toronto  
Indian Lead: Dr. Amitabha Chaudhuri, SciGenom Labs

### A Point-of-Care Device for Malaria Diagnosis And Drug Resistance Genotyping

Canadian Lead: Dr. Stephanie Yanow, The University of Alberta  
Indian Lead: Dr. Aparup Das, National Institute of Malaria Research

### A Portable Fever Kit for Dengue and Chikungunya

Canadian Lead: Dr. Stewart Aitchison, The University of Toronto  
Indian Lead: Dr. Manoj Varma, Indian Institute of Science

### Agent-Based Simulation of COVID-19: Estimating the Spread and Disease Burden using Advanced Epidemiological Modelling

Canadian Lead: Dr. Raja Sengupta, McGill University  
Indian Lead: Dr. Deepak Saxena, Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinaga

### Citizen-lead Evaluation of the Public Health Response to COVID-19 in India: Harnessing Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to Promote Real-Time Learning, Human Rights and Good Governance

Canadian Lead: Dr. Mira Johri, Université de Montréal  
Indian Lead: Dr. Aaditeshwar Seth, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

### COPE: Community Health Outcomes and Personalized Education/Exercises for Spinal Injured Individuals

Canadian Lead: Dr. Andrei Krassioukov, The University of British Columbia  
Indian Lead: Dr. Nishu Tyagi, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre

### Design2Impact: Uniting Researchers, Makers and Spinal Injury Survivors Through Open-Source Technology

Canadian Leads: Dr. Aaron Yurkewich, The University of Toronto, and Stewart Russell, Makers Making Change at Neil Squire Society

### Development of a Hand-Held Molecular Point-Of-Care Test Device for Infectious Diseases

Canadian Lead: Dr. James Mahony, McMaster University  
Indian Lead: Professor Daman Saluja, The University of Delhi

### Development of a Portable Device for Early Detection of Eye Infection and Dry Eye Disease

Canadian Lead: Dr. James Feng, The University of British Columbia  
Indian Lead: Dr. Ashutosh Richhariya, L.V. Prasad Eye Institute

### Development of Portable Spine MEG Scanner for Real-Time Spinal Functional Evaluation and Data Acquisition

Canadian Lead: Dr. Teresa Cheung, Simon Fraser University,  
Indian Lead: Dr. Rohit Sharma, Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar

### Development of Wearable Artificial Muscle for a Tetraplegic Hand

Indian Leads: Dr. Harvinder Chhabra, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, India and Dr. Sitikantha Roy, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

### Dialled In: Tapping Community Voice to Improve Child Immunization Services in India

Canadian Lead: Dr. Mira Johri, Université de Montréal  
Indian Lead: Dr. Alok Kumar Mathur, Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) University

### Engaging Community Pharmacists in India to Enhance Early Detection of Tuberculosis

Canadian Lead: Dr. Madhukar Pai, McGill University  
Indian Lead: Dr. Nita Jha, World Health Partners

### Identification of High Affinity Ligands Against Dengue Virus NS1 for the Development of an Affordable Point-of-Care Diagnostic Kit

Canadian Lead: Dr. Tom Hobman, The University of Alberta  
Indian Lead: Dr. Easwaran Sreekumar, Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology

**Next Generation Molecular Diagnostics  
for Emerging Viral Diseases**

Canadian Lead: Dr. Francois Jean, The  
University of British Columbia  
Indian Lead: Dr. Santanu Chattopadhyay,  
Nationwide the Family Doctors

**Smart App-Based Rapid Multiplex Screening of HIV  
Associated Co-Infections of at Risk Populations at the  
Point-of-Care: A Demonstration Study in India**

Canadian Lead: Dr. Nitika Pant Pai, McGill University  
Indian Lead: Dr. Suma Nair, Manipal  
Academy of Higher Education

**Surface Modulation of CuS Quantum Dots using Biginelli  
Compounds for Construction of a Portable Fluorescence  
Sensor for Bacteria**

Canadian Lead: Dr. Jan J. Dubowski, Université de Sherbrooke  
Indian Lead: Dr. Narinder Singh, Indian  
Institute of Technology, Ropar

**Wearable Technology to Monitor Sitting Posture  
and Reduce the Pressure Injury Risk**

Canadian Lead: Dr. Hossein Rouhani, The University of Alberta

# FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

## INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT

**A Floating Treatment Wetland System for Removing Contaminants from Rivers and Streams using a Biomimicry Approach**  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Shiv Prasher, McGill University  
Indian Lead: Dr. Ramesh Kanwar, Lovely Professional University

**A High-Performance Advanced Septic (HPAS) System for Villages and Roadside Restaurants**  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Edward McBean, The University of Guelph  
Indian Lead: Dr. Y. R. Satyaji Rao, National Institute of Hydrology

**A Nanotechnology Enabled Device for the Detection of Harmful Bacteria in Drinking Water**  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Michael Serpe, The University of Alberta  
Indian Lead: Dr. Soumyo Mukherji, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay

**A Study of Technology and Financial Appropriateness of Water and Wastewater Infrastructure in Selected Cities of India**  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Govind Gopakumar, Concordia University  
Indian Lead: Dr. N.C. Narayanan, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay

**An Innovative Green Technology for Treating Municipal and Industrial Wastewater Entering Rivers and Streams**  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Shiv Prasher, McGill University  
Indian Lead: Prof. Rameshwar Kanwar, Lovely Professional University

**An Innovative Sustainable Biotechnology for Resource Recovery from Wastewater Streams using Microwave Enhanced Advanced Oxidation with Algae**  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Victor Lo, The University of British Columbia  
Indian Lead: Dr. Pradeep Kumar, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

**Application of Emerging Biotechnology for Non-point Source Pollution Control of River Ganga, India**  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Onita Basu, Carleton University  
Indian Lead: Dr. Anirban Gupta, IEST Shibpur

**Biovalorization of Lignin**  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Vikramaditya G. Yadav, The University of British Columbia  
Indian Lead: Dr. Syed S. Yazdani, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology

**Biomonitoring of Water Quality in Relation to Human Health Using Biosensors and Improvements through Nanoparticle-Based Purification Systems**  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Damase P. Khasa, Université Laval  
Indian Lead: Dr. Manzoor Shah, The University of Kashmir

**Compact High-Rate Water Treatment Systems for Small Communities**  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Ramin Farnood, The University of Toronto  
Indian Lead: Dr. Vivek Kumar, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

**Contaminated Land Reclamation Using Hybrid Absorbable Landscape and Native Plant Species**  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Rishi Gupta, The University of Victoria  
Indian Lead: Dr. Neeta Raj Sharma, Lovely Professional University

**Development of A Low-Cost Water Monitoring Kit for Multiplex Heavy Metal Detection Based on Aptamer Sensors**  
Canadian Lead: Dr. David Juncker, McGill University  
Indian Lead: Dr. Rohit Srivastava, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay

**Development of an ICT Platform for Water Quality Monitoring**  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Clarence de Silva, The University of British Columbia  
Indian Lead: Dr. Sandhya Shrivastava, Bhavan's Research Centre, Mumbai University

**Development and Scale-Up of Technology for Microbial Extraction of Xylose from Agro-Waste Materials and Subsequent Conversion into Xylitol**  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Tatjana Stevanovic, Université Laval  
Indian Lead: Dr. Baljinder Kuar, Punjabi University

#### Development of Capacitive Deionization Technology for Point-of-Use Water Purification

Canadian Lead: Dr. Madjid Mohseni, The University of British Columbia

Indian Lead: Dr. Sathish Kumar, Eureka Forbes Ltd.

#### Direct Cryptosporidium Detection for Developed and Developing Nations

Canadian Lead: Dr. Mina Hoorfar, The University of British Columbia

Indian Lead: Dr. Krishna Khairnar, CSIR – National Environmental Engineering Research Institute

#### Handheld P-Laps Pathogen Detector

Canadian Lead: Dr. Thomas Thundat, The University of Alberta

Indian Lead: Dr. Bhaskaran Muralidharan, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay

#### High Quality Potable Water for Small/Remote Communities in Canada And India

Canadian Lead: Dr. Pierre Bérubé, The University of British Columbia

Indian Lead: Dr. Anand Krishnamurthy, GE India

#### Microfabricated, Low-Cost, High-Sensitivity Chlorine and PH Sensor Systems for Water Quality Monitoring

Canadian Lead: Dr. Jamal Deen, McMaster University

#### Passive UF Membrane Demonstration

Canadian Lead: Dr. Pierre Bérubé, The University of British Columbia

#### Quantum Dot Solar Panels for Water Treatment In Remote Settings

Canadian Lead: Dr. Edward Sargent The University of Toronto

#### Sensors 4 People / 3 Drops

Canadian Lead: Dr. Michael Serpe, The University of Alberta

#### Sewage Contaminated Lake Water Quality Restoration through Aeration and Floating Wetland Plants

Canadian Lead: Dr. Rajesh Seth, The University of Windsor

Indian Lead: Dr. Rakesh Kumar, CSIR-NEERI

#### Testing and Upscaling Phytoremediation Technology in Real-World Conditions

Canadian Lead: Dr. Damase Khasa, Université Laval

Indian Lead: Dr. Manzoor Shah, The University of Kashmir

#### Thondebhavi Water Quality Assessment

Canadian Lead: Dr. Pierre Bérubé, The University of British Columbia

#### Thorsby Water Quality Assessment

Canadian Lead: Dr. Michael J. Serpe, The University of Alberta

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Application of Precast Products Made Using Bottom Ash and Fly Ash for Rural Pavements and other Infrastructure in India  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Rishi Gupta, The University of Victoria  
Indian Lead: Dr. Urmil Dave, Institute of Technology, Nirma University

Assessment of Fire Performance of Structural Elements and Structural Systems through Conventional Fire Tests and Hybrid Fire Simulation  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Oh-Sung Kwon, The University of Toronto  
Indian Lead: Dr. Dipti Ranjan Sahoo, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

Carbon Neutrality through Combined CO<sub>2</sub> Capture And Novel H<sub>2</sub> Technology With Production Of Non-Conventional Fuels For Smart Cities  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Ibrahim Dincer, Ontario Tech University  
Indian Lead: Dr. Subrata Borgohain Gogoi, Dibrugarh University Assam

Characterization and Use Of Industrial Fly Ash  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Daman Panesar, The University of Toronto  
Indian Lead: Dr. Bhupinder Singh, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

Conservation of Heritage Masonry Structures within Cauvery Basin Waterworks  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Vivek Bindiganavile, The University of Alberta  
Indian Lead: Dr. Narayana Suresh, National Institute of Engineering

Development of Cost-Effective, Energy-Efficient, and Resilient Housing Technologies for First Nations Communities  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Ashutosh Bagchi, Concordia University

Energy and Water Disaggregation for Non-Intrusive Load Monitoring in Buildings  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Ivan Bajic, Simon Fraser University  
Indian Lead: Dr. Angshul Majumdar, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology - Delhi

Evaluating the Integrity of Railways Infrastructure in India and Canada with an Emphasis on Bridges and Tracks  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Mustafa Gul, The University of Alberta  
Indian Lead: Dr. Banerji, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

Fire Performance of Aged Reinforced Concrete Structures  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Mark F. Green, Queen's University  
Indian Lead: Dr. Umesh Kumar Sharma, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

Full Field Non-Contact SHM Protocols for Long Span Railway Bridges and Heritage Structures  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Rishi Gupta, The University of Victoria  
Indian Lead: Dr. Balasubramanian Esakki, Vel Tech University

Harnessing the Potential of Renewable Energy (Solar / Wind) for Sustainable Building Energy Management through Compressed Air Energy Storage  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Fariborz Haghighat, Concordia University  
Indian Lead: Dr. V Gayathri, Vellore Institute of Technology

High Fracture Toughness, Durable Concrete with Minimized Carbon Footprint Employing Large Amounts of Industrial Waste  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Nemkumar Banthia, The University of British Columbia

Improving Building Energy Demand Predictions in Smart Cities through Sensor Observations and Considerations of Landscape Characteristics  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Fitsum Tariku, British Columbia Institute of Technology  
Indian Lead: Dr. Prasad Avinash Pathak, FLAME University

Improving Fire Safety of Structures Through the Development of Fire Retardant Laminated Glass Glazing  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Maged Youssef, Western University  
Indian Lead: Dr. Ajitanshu Vedrtnam, Invertis University

India-Canada Initiative for Resilient Global Urban Shelter  
Canadian Lead: Dr. Constantin Christopoulos, The University of Toronto  
Indian Lead: Dr. Ravi Sinha, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay

**Innovative Field Demonstration of Sustainable Infrastructure**

Canadian Lead: Dr. Shamim Sheikh, The University of Toronto  
 Indian Lead: Dr. Umesh Kumar Sharma, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

**Large Area Microbolometer Uncooled Focal Plane Arrays for Thermal Imaging**

Canadian Lead: Dr. Ghassan Jabbour, The University of Ottawa  
 Indian Lead: Dr. Madhusudan Singh, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

**Metamaterial Walls for Improved Acoustic Performance in Green Building**

Canadian Lead: Dr. Umberto Berardi, Ryerson University  
 Indian Lead: Dr. Arpan Gupta, Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi

**Metawall: Metamaterial Based Lightweight Panel Wall For Enhanced Building Acoustic And Seismic Resistance**

Canadian Lead: Dr. Sreekanta Das, The University of Windsor  
 Indian lead: Dr. Arnab Banerjee, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

**Mobile App for Improving Survival in Fires Through Efficient Egress: The Role of Impromptu Indoor WiFi Localization and Georeferenced Building Maps**

Canadian Lead: Dr. Raja Sengupta, McGill University  
 Indian Lead: Dr. Ashwin Srinivasan, BITS Pilani KK Birla Goa Campus

**Modelling and Assessment of Deficient and Repaired Structures**

Canadian Lead: Dr. Frank Vecchio, The University of Toronto  
 Indian Lead: Dr. Umesh Kumar Sharma, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

**Scour Monitoring of an Overwater Bridge in Manitoba Using Dissolved Oxygen (DO) Probes**

Canadian Lead: Dr. Faezeh Azhari, The University of Toronto

**Smart Sensor Deployment in Buildings: Evacuation Planning and Energy Management**

Canadian Lead: Dr. Mark S. Fox, The University of Toronto  
 Indian Lead: Dr. Krithi Ramamritham, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay

**Solar Energy Powered Net-Zero Energy Smart Buildings**

Canadian Lead: Dr. Bruno Lee, Concordia University  
 Indian Lead: Dr. K. Srinivas Reddy, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras

**Structural Health Monitoring of Tall Buildings Using Vibration-Based Techniques**

Canadian Lead: Dr. Lucia Tirca, Concordia University  
 Indian Lead: Dr. S.K. Panigrahi, CSIR-CBRI, Roorkee

**Sustainable Infrastructure Using Smart FRPs**

Canadian Lead: Dr. Shamim Sheikh, The University of Toronto  
 Indian Leads: Dr. Umesh Sharma, & Dr. Pradeep Bhargava, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

**Urban Heat Island Effect and Building Energy Demand: Linkages Explained Using a Dense, Low Cost Sensor Network**

Canadian Lead: Dr. Raja Sengupta, McGill University  
 Indian Lead: Dr. Prasad A. Pathak, Shiv Nadar University

**Wildfire House**

Canadian Lead: John Bass, The University of British Columbia

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- Canada-India Network Society
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- Canada-India Education Society (CIES), Richmond
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- Chawathil First Nations Community
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- City of Kelowna
- City of Rouyn-Noranda
- Clean Air Partnership, Toronto
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- District of Lake Country
- District of West Vancouver
- Fort McKay First Nation Community
- Glenmore Ellison Irrigation District, Kelowna
- Hupacasath First Nation
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