

● THE NEXT FRONTIER

IIT KGP to boost AI research

The first IIT is setting up a Centre of Excellence in AI, supported by Capillary Technologies

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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF Technology Kharagpur (IIT KGP) is setting up a first of its kind centre of excellence in Artificial Intelligence research. This covers education, training, research, projects, incubation and entrepreneurship in AI and related domains. The centre will be seed funded by Capillary Technologies, for an amount ₹5.64 crore for setting up computing infrastructure, hardware simulation platforms, software and designing the coursework.

"IIT KGP has developed a deep expertise in the overall area of artificial intelligence, machine learning, data sciences

and its applications in several critical domains over a long period of time, among others. It is time that we lead this initiative in AI to fulfill the need of AI technologies in the 21st century," said PP Chakrabarti, director, IIT Kharagpur.

IIT KGP would start the centre with teaching and learning and knowledge dissemination programme. Faculty from the Institute, Capillary specialist and deep-learning industry experts would work together to prepare the curricula. The well-planned curriculum will include short-term credit courses and certificate programme for internal and external students and industrial training programs. The institute has already taken initiative to create infrastructural facilities and programs for the centre.

"The way we look at AI, it is the future not just in our industry but in every aspect of life. We wish to support the envisaged programmes of the AI centre in various ways. Over the last few years, we have invested over ₹40 lakh annually



in various research projects that hold the promise of shaping the future of our industry. We wish to continue our association with IIT KGP by investing a similar amount over a period of time to make this AI centre a truly industry-leading

one," said Aneesh Reddy, co-founder and CEO, Capillary Technologies.

Capillary Technologies was incubated at IIT KGP and has worked towards becoming a leading player in the domain of cloud-based customer engagement, e-commerce platforms and related services. It has already supported such activities in IIT KGP through funded projects for developing AI applications in retail sector, manpower training modules, internships, recruitment and enabling industry as well as government engagement.

"The institute already has AI experts in the domains of digital healthcare, industrial automation, intelligent transportation system, intelligent urban infrastructure, financial analytics, agricultural Internet of Things and analytics, safety critical cyber physical systems, Big Data analytics for rural development, climate studies and oil and gas. These experts will work towards developing new AI technologies for various domains and also aligning them with these domains through custom applications, interfacing, training etc." explained Pallab Dasgupta, Dean—sponsored research and industrial consultancy, IIT Kharagpur.