

Anandi Iyer Honoured with the German Federal Order of Merit

New Delhi, 19 June 2024 – Anandi Iyer, Director of the Fraunhofer Office, India, has been honoured with the Bundesverdienstkreuz (Federal Order of Merit) by the German government. This prestigious recognition celebrates her outstanding contributions to Indo-German relations for over 25 years, coinciding with 50 years of Indo German Science and Technology Cooperation.



Photo 1: Dr. Philipp Ackermann, German Ambassador to India and Bhutan honoring Ms. Anandi Iyer, Director, Fraunhofer Office India
Photo 2: Dr. Philipp Ackermann along with Ms. Anandi Iyer.
Photo 3: L to R: Mr. Sushil Thakur, Mr. Amitabh Kant G20 Sherpa, Govt of India, Ms. Anandi Iyer, Director, Fraunhofer Office India, Mr. Anshu Prakash Ex Chief Secretary Delhi Govt, Ms. Anna Roy Senior Adviser, Niti Aayog.

Ms. Anandi Iyer, Director, Fraunhofer Office India, has been at the helm of the Fraunhofer Office in India for over 16 years, fostering strong ties and partnerships between India and Europe in the fields of science and technology. Her work has significantly advanced collaborative efforts in innovation and applied research in various fields such as smart cities, renewable energy, smart manufacturing and digitalisation, a testament to her membership in the Indo-German Expert Group on Digitalisation, established by the heads of government of both nations.

Dr. Philipp Ackermann, German Ambassador to India and Bhutan, stated, "Ms Anandi Iyer's exemplary work has not only strengthened the Indo-German relationship but has also paved the way for significant advancements in technology and innovation between the two countries. Her dedication to empowering women in science and technology is truly inspiring. It is an honour to present her with the Bundesverdienstkreuz, acknowledging her invaluable contributions and relentless spirit. "

The Bundesverdienstkreuz, Germany's highest civilian honour, is a deep appreciation of Anandi Iyer's tireless dedication to fostering international collaboration, innovation, and the empowerment of women in science and technology. This recognition underscores her significant impact on the global stage and reaffirms the importance of her contributions to the Indo-European partnership.

Ms. Anandi Iyer said, "I am deeply honoured to receive the 'Bundesverdienstkreuz'. This recognition is not just a personal milestone but a testament to the power of international collaboration and the incredible potential we unlock when we work together across borders. I remain committed to fostering innovation and supporting women in STEM, ensuring that our future is inclusive, diverse, and driven by shared knowledge and expertise. "

In addition to her pivotal role at Fraunhofer, **Anandi Iyer** serves as the Chairperson of the Women in Science and Entrepreneurship Council (WISE) of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). She also co-chairs the Science, Innovation, and Technology Committee at FICCI, where she continues to advocate for the inclusion and advancement of women in STEM fields.

Recognising her invaluable expertise and leadership, the Government of India nominated her as "75 Women in STEAM" on the occasion of the 75th year of Indian Independence and also nominated her as a Core Member of the 'G20 Empower' initiative. She is also the Chair for the G20 Empower Working Group on STEM, contributing to global efforts to enhance women's participation in these critical areas.

About Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft:

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, headquartered in Germany is the world's leading applied research organization. Prioritizing key future-relevant technologies and commercializing its findings in business and industry, it plays a major role in the innovation process. A trailblazer and trendsetter in innovative developments and research excellence, it is helping shape our society and our future. Founded in 1949, the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft currently operates 76 institutes and research units throughout Germany. Over 30,000 employees, predominantly scientists and engineers, work with an annual research budget of €3.4 billion. Fraunhofer generates €3 billion of this from contract research. Our global footprint is very strong, with offices and research centres in the USA, Europe and Asia. Some of our renowned innovations are the MP3 software, white LED's and the smallest of cameras. Fraunhofer has been a long-time trusted innovation partner in India, collaborating with some of the major players in the field of Material Science, Energy, Environment, Automotive, Electromobility, Production Technology, Microsystems and Smart Cities, working with Industry, Government and Public Sector.