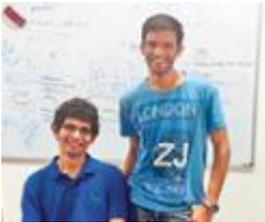




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These IITians left plush jobs to turn entrepreneurs

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Tarkeshwar Singh and Yash Kotak who designed an intelligence system to monitor electrical appliances at homes

Ahmedabad: Imagine if your home automatically lit up when you arrived or appliances that would instantly start heating up your food or turn on your favourite music. Two graduates of Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGn) are preparing to exactly deliver such services to average Indian homes very soon.

Enlarge Image

Tarkeshwar Singh, 23 and Yash Kotak, 21, recently gave up lucrative corporate jobs to return to their alma mater and start a new entrepreneurial venture called 'Lumos'.

IITGN will incubate the venture. The Institute's director, Sudhir K Jain, said: "Since 2012, we already have two ventures under incubation. This is the third project. We are more than willing to support young people coming up with innovative ideas."

The young engineers, both gold medallists, have designed an intelligence system which can monitor electrical appliances at homes and regulate them according to the user's needs. Singh, a graduate from the 2013 batch, said: "We have designed intelligent electric switches for home appliances. These switches will analyse the owner's pattern of usage and automatically control domestic electric appliances such as the lights, the sound systems, the air conditioners and so on."

The switches will have sensors to detect power consumption of every appliance, ambient conditions, human presence and so on. After mapping all the data received from the sensors, the intelligent switch will be able to optimise and significantly reduce power consumption. "The system can also be connected to a smart phone which will alert an individual on when to turn off an electrical appliance while away from home. These features will help the user cut down up to 25% power consumption per month," Singh said.

Kotak, an alumnus from the 2014 batch, said: "The existing products are not only expensive but also need to be hard-wired into the house. Our devices, however, will be five times cheaper and can easily be integrated into the existing conventional switch boards with the help of a local electrician."

They have already held talks with several builders and interior designers from Ahmedabad and Bangalore on the smart switches. "We want to become partners with current switch manufacturers who would permit the switch designs and provide them with software and cloud support." They have their Proof of Concept (POC) ready and will test it in a few selected houses and IITGn classrooms next month.

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