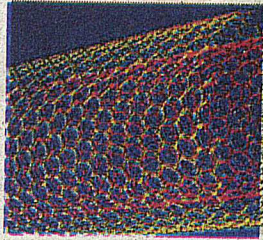


## Sci-TECH

### A new fabric to cut sweat smell

THE INDIAN INSTITUTE of Technology, Delhi's SMITA (Smart Materials and Innovative Textile Applications) research lab has developed a nano-science based innovation that lends a fabric antimicrobial property, resulting in removal of smell despite the presence of perspiration on it. The innovation, developed in partnership with an industrial firm, is based on nanosilver and counters the microbial growth responsible for the smell, thus, keeping the fabric fresh for the wearer even though he or she may still be sweating. The finished product



which has now gone commercial in India and European markets, was exhibited at the 'I2Tech Open House', organised recently at the IIT-Delhi campus. "Silver is known to have antimicrobial properties and we just took it to the nanoscale and embedded the particles (less than 1 ppm or

parts per million) so that the fabric retains its original colour and character," team member Ashwini K. Agrawal, professor at IIT-Delhi said. He worked in the project alongside fellow faculty member Manjeet Jassal and then PhD student Sangita Paul. "We did all the test for the fabric and it gives almost 100 per cent antimicrobial activity at extremely low concentrations and are durable to over 30 washes which is industry standard for lifetime of a fabric," he said. Summers may now just become a more comfortable and less smelly experience.

