Health Minister Inaugurates Awareness Event for Scheme Promoting Innovation at IIT Delhi

March 30, 2021

The scheme has been named as Alignment and Awareness Event for Publicity of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research - Promoting Innovations in Individuals, Startups and MSMEs (DSIR-PRISM).

Awareness event launched for new scheme promoting innovations at IIT Delhi

Union Science and Technology Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated a awareness event for a new scheme promoting innovations at Indian Institute of Technology, (IIT) Delhi. It is aimed at supporting innovators through direct bank transfer. The scheme has been named as Alignment and Awareness Event for Publicity of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research - Promoting Innovations in Individuals, Startups and MSMEs (DSIR-PRISM).

Union Minister of State for Education Sanjay Dhotre was the Guest of Honour.
The scheme has been launched for core technology areas such as affordable healthcare, water, sewage management, green technology, clean energy, industrially utilizable smart materials and waste to wealth.

The intellectual property of the product will belong to the innovator. The grant will be given in two phases: Phase I and Phase II, catering to both the initial innovation stage and the advanced enterprise setup phase through DSIR outreach-cum-cluster innovation centres available throughout India. The grant amount in Phase I is around Rs 2 Lakhs to Rs 20 Lakhs and in Phase II maximum of Rs 50 Lakhs.

Mr Vardhan explained about the initiative as he said, “PRISM scheme of the DSIR has been instrumental in supporting individual innovators enabling inclusive development of India. The innovation movement by DSIR-PRISM making synergy with three National Initiatives like Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Smart India Hackathon and Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG) is unique”.

“It has been noticed that many innovators have graduated as successful entrepreneurs through this scheme and many of them have made extreme socio-economic or techno commercial impact. I am hopeful the concept of alignment of PRISM with three major national initiatives will give a concrete direction for DSIR-PRISM to make way-forward towards Unnat Bharat and Aatma Nirbhar Bharat”, he added.

Mr Dhotre said, “For our innovators, 1.3 billion people is a big market enough to work for. Start-Up Incubation Centres and Tech Parks should be a part of every institution’s ecosystem. Just like placement officers, we must have startup and entrepreneur officers in every institution to guide and mentor our students”.

Around 35, 00 institutions and 50,000 innovators, technocrats attended the event through online mode.

**IIT-Delhi Establishes 'Ramchandran Jaikumar Chair for Decision Sciences'**


Prof Ramchandran taught that success was ultimately a matter of luck, which meant successful people were duty-bound to give back and help the less fortunate.
The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi alumnus, Dr Manas Fuloria, 1993 batch BTech in manufacturing science and engineering and PhD in mechanical engineering- 2004, has endowed the “Ramchandran Jaikumar Chair for Decision Sciences” at IIT Delhi. The Chair is being set up in the honour of Prof. Ramchandran “Jai” Jaikumar, who was an India-born, US-based decision scientist and the Daewoo Professor of Business Administration at the Harvard Business School.

Prof Ramchandran was an expert in computer-aided manufacturing, robots, and operating systems and won several awards for his research, including the prestigious Frederick Winslow Taylor Medal from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He taught that success was ultimately a matter of luck, which meant successful professionals were duty-bound to give back and help the less fortunate, said the IIT-Delhi.

Dr Manas Fuloria is a co-founder and custodian of entrepreneurship at Nagarro, a digital engineering services company listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. He refers to himself as a “lifelong entrepreneur with some successful and several failed ventures”. He is also active in social topics like air pollution, walkable and cyclable cities, public transport, reducing road crash fatalities and higher education.

While speaking about Prof Ramchandran, Dr Manas Fuloria said, “He taught us how a childlike curiosity and common sense could be coupled with decision sciences for breakthrough results in companies and potentially even in societies. His brand of operations management consulting was much sought after worldwide. But he was especially passionate about making positive change in India and was close friends with leading Indian business leaders like Narayanan Vaghul. Prof Ramchandran documented how the many stages of manufacturing’s conceptual development from artisanship to flexible manufacturing had passed India by and had reduced India from contributing a quarter of the world’s GDP in 1700 to where it stood today. He funded my return to India saying, ‘If you achieve even a fraction of what you intend to do for India, my money will have been well-spent’. I owe a lot to him and I hope everyone who hears of this chair is inspired by his thoughts and by his body of work.”

Speaking of the Chair endowed by Dr Manas Fuloria, Prof Naveen Garg, Dean, Alumni Affairs and International Programmes, IIT Delhi said “This is a wonderful way of honoring the memory of Jai and supporting research in decision sciences and operations management at IIT Delhi. I thank Manas for his generosity and support to his alma mater.”

**IIT Delhi to build atmospheric observatory at a cost of Rs.125 crore**


This first of its kind observatory in the heart of the Indo-Gangetic belt will enable researchers to make new discoveries and help find sustainable solutions to some of the country's pressing problems such as severe air pollution, erratic monsoon, IIT Delhi said.

The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-Delhi) Thursday announced that it is setting up an atmospheric observatory to do research, track atmospheric problems like air pollution, and suggest.
solutions to mitigate pollution, erratic monsoon and extreme weather events associated with climate change.

The observatory will be established in its research campus in Sonepat at a cost of ₹125 crore. The IIT said Sonipat, which is located “upwind” of Delhi NCR, is an ideal location for measurements not only of the transport of dust and air pollution, but also various meteorological, radiation and cloud observations as these are key to understanding daily variations in weather and long-term climate changes.

“This first of its kind observatory in the heart of the Indo-Gangetic belt will enable researchers to make new discoveries and help find sustainable solutions to some of the country's pressing problems such as severe air pollution, erratic monsoon and extreme weather events associated with climate change,” the IIT Delhi said.

The ministry of earth sciences is supporting the initiative, Madhavan Nair Rajeevan, secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences said the observatory is “an ambitious initiative" and it complements the efforts made by the ministry for improving the capability in the country to better predict air pollution, weather and climate through observations and modelling.

“The observatory will be open for researchers from across the country as well as international collaborators to develop instrumentation technologies, measurement techniques, develop better satellite retrieval algorithms and using data to improve weather and climate models. We are reaching out to various stakeholders to generate support and funding required to make this a unique atmospheric observatory in the country,” said V. Ramgopal Rao, director, IIT Delhi.

The observatory will be equipped with state-of-the-art equipment such as radars, mass spectrometers, and a satellite ground station. By observing air pollutants, greenhouse gases, clouds, radiation and meteorology simultaneously, the facility will transform science-based action, said Krishna AchutaRao, head of the Centre for Atmospheric Sciences at the IIT.

**IIT-Delhi Begins Registrations for Postgraduate, PhD Courses**

IIT-Delhi PG, PhD admissions: Apply at iitd.ac.in

The entrance exam and interviews will be conducted between May 10 and April 23, as per the schedule released by IIT Delhi.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has commenced the registration process for PG and PhD programmes on its official website, iitd.ac.in. Candidates seeking admission in master’s and doctoral courses can submit an application form by 4 pm on April 24. The entrance exam and interviews will be conducted between May 10 and April 23, as per the schedule released by IIT-Delhi. The entire application process will be conducted online this year. “Candidates are not required to send a hard copy of the application form and fee receipt,” the institute said in its statement.

Candidates can apply for various programmes including applied mechanics, chemical engineering, chemistry, civil engineering, computer science and engineering, electrical engineering, material science and engineering, mechanical engineering, and textile and fibre engineering, interdisciplinary MTech and MS (Research), Interdisciplinary MTech, MDes and MSc.

They will have to pay an application fee of Rs 200 (Rs 50 for candidates belonging to the reserved category).

IIT Delhi Admission 2021: Steps to Fill Application Form

Candidates who wish to register for IIT Delhi Admissions 2021 can follow the steps mentioned below to fill in their application form.

Step 1: Visit the official website of IIT Delhi, home.iitd.ac.in
Step 2: On the homepage, click on the registration link
Step 3: Register yourself by entering personal and academic details
Step 4: Fill the application form and submit the registration fee
Step 5: Click on the ‘Submit’ button
Step 6: Download the application form and take its print out for future reference

Eligibility Criteria

PhD, MTech, MS (Research), and MDes candidates must have scored a CGPA of 6 or 60 per cent marks in graduation. Full-time PhD, MTech, and MS (Research) candidates must have qualified GATE. For M.DeS candidates require a CEED score, MSc (Cognitive Science) must have a valid COGJET, GATE, JAM score or have qualified CSIR, JRF or NET.

Check out: This IITD innovation is cost effective solution for all the delivery problems

‘HOPE’ is a cost-effective scooter for delivery and local commuting. It gives a top speed of 25 km. Along with this; it also falls in the discount category available for e-vehicles and does not require a driving license or registration for driving.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi incubated startup, Geliose Mobility, has launched an electric scooter ‘HOPE’. The running cost of this scooter is only 20 paise per kilometre.

‘HOPE’ is a cost-effective scooter for delivery and local commuting. It gives a top speed of 25 km. Along with this, it also falls in the discount category available for the e-vehicles and does not require a driving license or registration for driving.

‘HOPE’ comes with a portable charger and portable lithium-ion battery, which can be fully charged in common sockets used at home. This battery is fully charged in 4 hours. The customers have the option to select two different ranges of 50 km and 75 km of battery capacity.

IIT Delhi said that this scooter is equipped with modern technology like battery management system, data monitoring system and pedal-assist unit. It comprises IoT which always informs customers about their scooters through data analytics. Due to such features, ‘HOPE’ falls into the category of smart and connected scooters of the future.

Geliose Mobility is one of the few companies which provides special features such as the pedal-assist system present in the scooter. During the journey, customers can choose the option of pedal or throttle as per their convenience. ‘HOPE’ is equipped with special reverse mode technology for convenient parking, with the help of which the scooter can be parked even in difficult places.

‘HOPE’ has a strong and lightweight frame built for ultra-modern usage. The structure of the scooter and its lean design gives it the ability to easily move through dense traffic. The vehicle has a revolutionary slide and rides feature that allows riders to attach different load carrying accessories or rear seat depending on the requirement.

Geliose Mobility is collaborating with logistics and delivery companies to meet local delivery requirements in food, e-commerce, grocery, essentials and other distribution applications.
Hubs for charging and maintenance of the scooters will be set up by the company on frequent routes of the delivery partners. In case of an emergency, contingency services such as roadside assistance and roadside battery replacement will be provided by the company.

Aditya Tiwari, Founder and CEO, Geliose Mobility, said, “We are going through an era of increasing pollution and climate change every day, and there is a need for sustained efforts in all the industries, especially in the field of automobiles. We started Geliose Mobility three years ago. ‘HOPE’ is our flagship step in the effort to build the vehicle ecosystem. The starting price of ‘HOPE’ is Rs 46,999, which makes it the most affordable Internet connected scooter in the market.”

**IIT Delhi halts return of students due to rise in COVID-19 cases**


IIT Delhi COVID Committee has also issued fresh instructions and those not wearing masks on campus will be fined.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi’s administration has temporarily halted the “onboarding” of its students, or their return to campus, due to the surge in COVID-19 cases. “No new permissions will be granted to students for onboarding in the hostels or labs till further notice,” an IIT Delhi official told Careers360.

The decision, communicated to students on Monday, was taken on the advice of IIT Delhi’s COVID Committee which, according to a letter from the registrar issued today, is “very concerned about the laxity on the part of many in the campus” about following the government’s COVID-19 guidelines.

A system of fines and penalties has thus been instituted for those violating the guidelines. Those not wearing masks properly will be fined Rs 500 and those not wearing one at all, Rs 2,000. Repeat defaulters -- whether staff-member or student -- will face other penalties and disciplinary action.

**IIT Delhi halts ‘onboarding’**

“We regret to inform you that given the rising Covid cases in Delhi and the occupancy in the hostels, the Institute Covid Committee has decided to temporarily halt any further onboarding,” says the March 22 letter to students from the dean of students’ affairs, IIT Delhi. “We understand that some requests have been pending since early March, but there is little that we can do right now.” The letter further says: "Those whose requests are pending at the ADSW [associate dean, student’s affairs] will remain stuck there until it seems safe to resume onboarding.”

Last year, IIT Delhi had shut its campus, cancelling all classes and exams, on March 13, 2020, and asked its students to vacate the hostels by March 15, 2020 to control the spread of coronavirus. It resumed classes online from July and once the lockdown was lifted, researchers and other students were being allowed back to campus in small numbers.

**IIT Delhi: Fines and penalties**

For those already on campus, the IIT Delhi administration has reiterated the guidelines and warned of punitive action. The Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 fines “will be applicable uniformly to all residents of the
whole campus and to all stakeholders’, says the registrar’s email, adding that “the security guards have been authorized to collect the fines on-the-spot from the defaulters”. A repeat offender might find themselves “debarred from entering the campus” if they are day-scholar or have their hostel allocation cancelled if they reside on campus. Disciplinary action will be taken against staff as well if they or their family members break the rules.

“We have been advising and requesting all students, faculty, staff, campus residents and workers on campus to be more careful and follow the guidelines of the government strictly.... However, it has been observed that the required seriousness towards the preventive measures has reduced, despite repeated requests and reminders. People are seen in groups, not socially distanced and without masks,” said the registrar’s email explaining the measures being taken. “The Covid Committee at IIT Delhi ... has taken a very serious note of the same.”

The email reminds students and staff to wear masks at all times, maintain social distance, wash hands frequently, use sanitisers and avoid crowds. “If any symptoms are observed, the concerned person should immediately isolate, get tested and inform authorities,” says the note. It also reassures that housekeeping, mess and construction workers will be made to comply with the mask rules as well.

**IIT-D develops smart charging station for EVs with built-in solar capability**

*March 20, 2021*  

The 20 kW smart charging station is a multi-functional charger with the capability of charging a wide range of EVs like cars, three-wheelers and two-wheelers.

![Image](image.jpg)

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi has developed a modular, scalable, and environmentally friendly smart Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station with in-built solar photovoltaic interface capability. This multi-functional charger will save energy and reduce pollution.
The 20 kW smart charging station is multi-functional with capability of charging a wide range of EVs.

The 20 kW smart charging station is a multi-functional charger with the capability of charging a wide range of EVs like cars, three-wheelers and two-wheelers. “The scalable multi-functional charger caters to the emerging EV charging needs of both today’s and tomorrow’s electric vehicles.

There has been a demand from both the automobile industry and EV charger operators for ease of scalability in their charging units,” said Professor Sukumar Mishra from the Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Delhi. He is the Principal Investigator of the project. Mishra said the built-in Modularity of the developed charging platform allows charge operators to scale-up basis requirements with minimal expenses.

“We also have a solar interface, which works in tandem with the electrical grid for energy sharing. In future, the solar panels’ capacity can be increased and finally a totally green EV charger can be built that can act as an independent infrastructure not taking any power from the conventional grid,” said Mishra. Researchers said the charging current can also be modulated based on the grid frequency, which allows a more stable operation leading to a reduction in grid failure.

Besides, the charger operators can purchase a 2 kW charger and scale-up depending on their financial capability and demand, as and when required. Currently, in India, the EV charger operators can only choose from a set of pre-fabricated charging options and incur significant unnecessary costs if they want to scale-up their charging output as the entire set-up needs to be revamped in order to cater to higher power vehicles.

The charging power in the IIT Delhi charger can be increased in increments of 2 kW, starting at 2 kW up to a maximum of 20 kW. Besides offering ease of scalability through a modular approach, the platform also has a slim design with low maintenance requirements and a user-friendly interface, said the official.
The project is an outcome of the ‘Demonstration of Grid Supportive EV Charger and Charging Infrastructure at LT Level (D-EVCI)’ project funded by the central government.

**MG Motors India Partners With IIT Delhi for Research in EVs & Automotives**


The Indian subsidiary of Chinese automotive manufacturer, MG Motors India has announced its extended partnership with IIT Delhi. The partnership will facilitate the research at the Centre for Automotive Research and Tribology (CART) for ground-breaking research in the field of electric and autonomous vehicles.

The partnership through Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi aims at furthering MG’s focus on CASE (Connected – Autonomous – Shared – Electric) mobility; through enabling supporting research for the deployment of electric and autonomous vehicles in the urban landscape in India.

MG, who claims of introducing the first internet electric SUV – the MG ZS EV and the first autonomous Level 1 premium SUV – Gloster, now aims to use the research for developing its future autonomous vehicles.

According to the carmaker, the research will also include Connected Mobility for areas including Route Planning and Navigation, Obstacle Detection, Seamless and Natural Human Interaction, and AI for Inferring and Decision-making.

MG also donated its ZS EV vehicle to IIT Delhi, which MG has launched recently in February 2021, priced at Rs. 20.99 lakhs.

In the past, MG has conducted grand innovation challenges, Hackathons in partnership with IIT Delhi amongst students and startups to make automobiles and transportation services safer and greener.

Speaking about the association, Rajeev Chaba, President & MD, MG Motor India, said, “At MG, our focus has always been around bringing ground-breaking innovations in the automotive space. We are extremely honored to partner with IIT-Delhi, a force to reckon with in the global technology space. We are confident this initiative will bring significant value to IIT Delhi students in researching autonomous technology in city conditions.”

Speaking of the research partnership with MG Motor India, Prof V. Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi said, “IIT Delhi has always been at the forefront of innovation and technology. Our association with MG Motor India gives us a perfect platform to test autonomous vehicles. We believe that the future of e-mobility has a great scope for autonomous and connected vehicles.”

Centre for Automotive Research and Tribology (CART) actively participates to conduct high-end research and development in the areas of battery-operated electric vehicles, hybrid electric vehicles, storage and alternate energy sources, autonomous and connected vehicles.
MG ZS Electric Car Donated To IIT Delhi – Will Help Students Research Autonomous Tech


The alliance will help to further the research being conducted in the field of electric and autonomous vehicles

MG Motor India has formed an alliance with IIT Delhi – Centre for Automotive Research and Tribology (CART). This partnership is being forged for extensive research in the field of electric and autonomous vehicles.

The focus of IIT Delhi will be in furthering the MG Motor endeavor on Connected – Autonomous – Shared – Electric (CASE) through research in deployment of electric and autonomous vehicles through urban India.

In keeping with the new research subject, MG Motor has also donated a ZS EV to IIT Delhi and the research will also include Connected Mobility in terms of Route Planning and Navigation, Obstacle Detection, Seamless and Natural Human Interaction and AI for Inferring and Decision-making.

Child Car Safety Seat Project

This is not the first such study conducted by IIT Delhi for MG Motor. Earlier the automaker had worked with IIT Delhi to boost in-car child safety seat project via geofencing. The study also extended to innovation challenge Hackathons in partnership with IIT Delhi for a safer and greener most of travel.
It may be recalled that the MG ZS EV is the first internet electric SUV while the Gloster is the first autonomous Level 1 premium SUV. Both these cars make ideal case studies in developing the future of autonomous vehicles, especially so in an institute that is ranked among the top in terms of technology in the world.

CART offers high end research into areas such as battery operated electric vehicles and hybrid electric vehicles along with storage and alternate energy sources and autonomous and connected vehicles.

**MG ZS EV and Gloster**

With electric vehicles becoming popular in our markers, the MG ZS EV competes with the Tata Nexon EV and Hyundai Kona EV. More recently, at the Green Car Award by ICOTY, the Tata Nexon, Hyundai Kona and ZS EV were in the top 3 spots, scoring 106 points, 99 points and 93 points respectively.

MG ZS Electric Car Donated To IIT Delhi The MG Gloster and ZS EV have also been contributing heavily to company sales. In Feb 21, MG Motor India recorded their highest production, booking and sales with 4,329 units sold relating to a 214 percent YoY growth. The company attributed this growth to the ZS EV and Gloster.
MG Motor India is now working on extending their charging infrastructure and localization of powertrains. MG Motor recently clocked its 50,000th unit production milestone with the Hector and plans to produce 1 lakh units annually by 2022 from its Halol plant. Current production stands at 80,000 units with the Hector 6 and 7 seater, Gloster and EV while the company also plans a fourth car – Model K in the third quarter of this year.

**IIT Delhi establishes Chair for photonics, endowed by alumnus**


IIT Delhi alumnus endows ‘Prof. Ajoy K. Ghatak Chair’ for Photonics

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has established the “Prof Ajoy K. Ghatak Chair” for Photonics, a statement from the institute said. Ghatak had joined IIT Delhi in 1966 and retired as an Emeritus Professor of Physics in 2007.

The Chair was endowed by Ramadas Pillai, president, Nuphoton Technologies. Pillai is an MTech in applied optics.

“This extraordinary news is truly overwhelming, and I am filled with extreme gratitude towards Dr Pillai for his amazing generosity and to IIT Delhi for honouring me with this wonderful gift”, Ghatak said while accepting the honour.

Defining the endowment as a gurudakshina, Pillai said, “I am fortunate to represent all those students over generations who got inspired and influenced by professor Ghatak as a teacher and mentor. This is a humble gurudakshina from all of us.”

Anurag Sharma, professor of physics at IIT Delhi said: “An outstanding teacher and researcher, professor Ghatak has inspired generations of students and scientists. I have been fortunate to have him as my mentor for over four and a half decades and continue to learn from him.”

Ghatak completed his MSc from the University of Delhi, PhD from Cornell University and was a research associate at Brookhaven National Laboratory. He also received the 2008 SPIE Educator Award in recognition of “his unparalleled global contributions to the field of fiber optics research, and his tireless dedication to optics education worldwide”, the statement said.

He is also a recipient of the SS Bhatnagar Award, 16th Khwarizmi International Award, the International Commission for Optics Galileo Galilei Award, IETE Wadhwa Gold Medal and the UGC Meghnad Saha Award for his research in fiber optics and related areas.

The Chair will focus on "Photonics", the physical science of light generation, its detection, and manipulation.
IIT-Delhi, Hebrew University of Jerusalem partner to support for interdisciplinary research


Student exchange is another key partnership priority, which will help students get benefitted from the academic and entrepreneurial environments of the two institutions.

Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi today announced its partnership with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel (HUJI) to support collaborative and interdisciplinary education and research initiatives. Student exchange is another key partnership priority, which will help students get benefitted from the academic and entrepreneurial environments of the two institutions, said IIT-D.

Prof V Ramgopal Rao, director, IIT-Delhi said, “At IIT Delhi, we lay great emphasis on international collaborations. We are happy to sign this MoU with the Hebrew University and both the institutions have agreed to seed fund researchers in their respective institutions to collaborate with each other. I am sure these interactions will lead to long term partnerships between the two institutions benefiting the two countries.”

Speaking of the partnership with IIT-Delhi, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem’s Vice President for International Affairs, Prof Oron Shagrir said, “This agreement will bring about opportunities for joint research and exchange of students and ideas with one of India’s leading research institutions. It is part of the University’s strategy to expand our collaborations with India.”

Prof Sunil Kumar Khare, Dean (R&D), IIT-Delhi said, “The collaboration with HUJI is aimed at impactful research outcomes in the field of Computer Science, Biomedical Science, Life science, Environment, and Chemistry.”

IIT Delhi: Students complain about hostel fee hike, new charges


IIT Delhi: The pandemic, HEFA loan and decision to not subsidise hostels have contributed to the increase.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi slowly raised the fee for its hostels, and students have begun complaining about it. Most of the increase occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

The IIT Delhi campus was closed due to the coronavirus outbreak in March 2020, but from July onwards, it started letting some students back in. However, all students were asked to pay an additional Rs 50 per day as hostel fees apart from the regular admission and semester fees from October. This was ultimately implemented from December.

An email from the dean, student affairs, on November 20, said: "Students have the choice to vacate the hostel by December 10, 2020, if they do not want to pay the mess rebate charges." Students who would not be willing to pay the additional fee were asked to vacate the hostel with their belongings.
Also from July 2020, every student who had returned to the hostel was asked to pay Rs 200 per day as mess charges.

Again, through another email from the dean of student affairs on February 12, 2021, the institute asked the students to make an advance payment for the current semester by February 25, 2021. "Caretakers must make sure that any student getting on-boarded should be allotted hostel rooms only after the student has paid all remaining dues if any, and an advance of INR 25,000," said the email.

Plus, research scholars fear that the rent will go up for A-type houses allotted to them after they are renovated. Originally for employees, A-type houses were later allotted to married research scholars. As per another letter to researchers, a “whopping amount” is being spent on renovating these flats for which the institute has taken a loan from the Higher Education Finance Agency.

**IIT Delhi: Explaining the hike**

When the students approached the administration, they were given multiple reasons for the sudden hike in fees to start with the pandemic.

"One circular came saying that in many months, no salary etc had been given and it is very difficult to survive [for the employees and daily wage earners]", said a research scholar. Students believe 300 daily-wagers were sacked during the pandemic but IIT Delhi director, V Ramgopal Rao said, “No one has been sacked. All the daily wage earners are still working with us.”

The mess’ functioning with a limited number of students on board during the lockdown period added to the problems with expenses. The institute has thus decided to collect advance payment for the next semester. A notification circulated on February 12 said that hostel accommodation will be cancelled for students who will fail to pay the advance hostel fee by March 20.

However, the increase in the cost of student residences on the IIT Delhi campus is also linked to other, larger policy decisions on funding and expansion. In another email to researcher scholars and student representatives on hostel facilities and cost, the administration said: "The institute has spent a whopping amount on renovating the A-type houses and the HEFA loan taken for the purpose has to be paid back.” The Higher Education Finance Agency was set up by the education ministry (then, ministry of human resource development) in 2017 to extend infrastructure loans to public institutions, replacing capital grants. The institution would have to repay the principal amount while the government would pay the interest. Much promoted initially, the Centre drastically reduced funding to the agency in the Union Budget 2021 for the forthcoming financial year. IIT Delhi had taken a loan of Rs 580 crore.

The letter further said: “The institute is trying to rationalise the fee structure of hostels as per the directive from the government of India to make BHM [Board for Hostel Management] into a cost centre which means that institute will no longer subsidise the facilities they are currently providing.” It also said that rental charges of new facilities will be “much higher” as these are “dictated by market forces and the fact that we are extremely short of accommodation on campus”. The letter also pointed out that one section of students sharing rooms pay far more than some research scholars occupying flats with kitchens attached.
IIT Delhi Student Affairs Council

Rao told Careers360 that the issue will be taken up in the students' affairs council (SAC) meeting.

"We received an email. I told them we can discuss it in the students' affairs council meeting when all the student representatives will be there. I asked them to put it up as an agenda item for discussion," he said. “As a policy, if we decide not to take fees, we can return the amount." The meeting will be held next week.

**IIT-Delhi to provide digital support to students from economically weaker backgrounds**


As part of the initiative, IIT-Delhi will provide devices like laptop, smartphone, tablet and high-speed internet connection. To bolster this effort, the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation will fund the initiative.

IIT-Delhi and the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation (MSDF) have collaborated to provide digital support to students from economically weaker backgrounds and help them complete their education amid the Covid-19 pandemic. As per the institute, the remaining semester two of 2019-20 and the upcoming semester one and semester two of 2020-21 will be held online.

As part of the initiative, IIT-Delhi will provide devices like laptop, smartphone, tablet and high-speed internet connection. To bolster this effort, the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation will fund the initiative. Prof V Ramgopal Rao, director, IIT Delhi, said, “IIT Delhi, as a student-friendly institution, believes that students in need must get all the necessary support. In several discussions in the Covid-19 working group and other forums, it was proposed that we support as many students as possible to overcome the challenges they face due to the pandemic.”

Geeta Goel, country director, India, Michael and Susan Dell Foundation said lack of access to a device can be the biggest hindrance to continued learning. “Our partnership with IIT Delhi is anchored around our core principle of everyone deserves opportunity, and that resources should
not limit the success of students who have displayed academic excellence and tremendous grit in securing their seats at a premier institute like IIT Delhi,” she said.

Elaborating upon this initiative, Prof Reetika Khera, associate dean, students welfare, IIT-Delhi said Covid-19 has placed students under all kinds of pressures ranging from “lack of personal space, strain on their mental and physical well-being, economic distress to personal losses.” Collaborations like this will help in bridging the digital divide, she said.

**Four IIT Delhi Programmes Achieve Top 100 Ranks In QS World University Rankings By Subject 2021**


The four IIT Delhi programmes, which achieved top-100 ranks globally are Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering and Civil Engineering.

Four academic programmes of the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi achieve top 100 ranks in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021. The four IIT Delhi programmes, which achieved top-100 ranks globally are Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering and Civil Engineering.

IIT Delhi’s Electrical Engineering programme achieved 54th rank (overall score 73.9), Computer Science 70th (overall score 71.3), Mechanical Engineering 79th (overall score 69.3) and the Civil Engineering was ranked in the 51-100 bracket.

The Institute was also ranked among India’s top institutions for Electrical and Electronic (1st rank), Mechanical (1st), Mathematics (1st), Statistics and Operations Research (1st), Linguistics (2nd), Computer Science and Information Systems (2nd), Civil and Structural (2nd), Physics and Astronomy (3rd) and, Business and Management Studies (3rd), read an official statement.

Engineering and Technology is IIT Delhi’s strongest field and the Institute has been consistently ranked among the top 70 education institutions globally and top 3 domestically in this category, it further added.

While commenting on the QS Rankings by Subject 2021, IIT Delhi Director Professor V Ramgopal Rao said: “IITs are best known for their engineering disciplines... Subjects such as Humanities, Social Sciences, Biology, Mathematics, Design and Chemistry are fast gaining ground and are becoming mainstream areas in a highly technology focused institution such as IIT Delhi. We consider these areas as integral to engineering and have taken steps to further scale them in terms of student intake and high quality faculty.”

**JNU, DU, IIT-D programmes rank among top 100 in world**

A total of 25 programmes, mostly engineering courses, taught in these 12 universities have been ranked globally in the top 100 list.

The Delhi University (DU), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Delhi) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) situated in the national capital are among the 12 Indian institutions that made it to the top 100 in the latest QS World University Rankings by Subjects 2021.

The number of Indian institutions featured in the list has increased to 12 from eight last year. The other institutions in the list include IIT Bombay, IIT Madras, IIT Guwahati, IIT Kharagpur, Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru, Anna University, OP Jindal Global University, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore and IIM Ahmedabad.

A total of 25 programmes, mostly engineering courses, taught in these 12 universities have been ranked globally in the top 100 list. Out of these 25 programmes, 17 are related to the Engineering stream. The development studies programme the Delhi University was ranked 50th in the world. In the anthropology category, JNU came in the 51-100 ranking cohort while the University of Cambridge took the top spot.

In electrical/electronic engineering, IIT Delhi is placed at number 50. IIT Bombay and IIT Madras also feature in the list of top 100 colleges for this course. IIT-Delhi also featured in the list of top 100 colleges in the computer science category at 70. IIT Bombay ranked 67 while MIT took the top spot again. The law programme of OP Jindal university has been ranked 76th.

Education Minister Ramesh Pokriyal ‘Nishank’ congratulated the 12 Institutions. He said that over the last few years the Government’s continuous focus on improvement and reform in Indian higher education has resulted in significant improvement in the representation of Indian institutions in globally acclaimed and reputed rankings like QS.

IIT Delhi, Ashoka University to Establish Collaborative Research Platform
The platform will undertake joint activities on academic research and human resource development. Ashoka University and IIT Delhi will contribute matching funds to support research initiatives.

IIT Delhi, Ashoka University to Establish Collaborative Research Platform

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi and Ashoka University have signed an agreement to establish “Ashoka University-IITD Collaborative Research Platform”, the two institutes said on February 4.

The platform will undertake joint activities on academic research and human resource development. Ashoka University and IIT Delhi will contribute matching funds to support research initiatives.

Proposals will be invited for joint research projects in interdisciplinary areas such as air pollution, sustainable mobility, AMR/MDR infectious bacteria, epidemiology, immunology, Artificial intelligence/Machine Learning in healthcare, economic data, socio-economic, gender inequality and policy issues among others, an official statement said.

Professor V Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi, while welcoming the agreement with Ashoka University said: “The Ashoka University researchers will get our full support in the projects they would like to pursue in collaboration with IIT Delhi. The Department of Science and Technology (DST), had selected IIT Delhi for setting up a shared, professionally managed, Science and Technology infrastructure facility, SATHI (Sophisticated Analytical and Technical Help Institute). This facility along with a few more high end research facilities will come up on our Sonipat campus. We invite faculty and students of the Ashoka University to come and utilise those facilities also.”

The interdisciplinary research groups will also attract support from external funding agencies and catalyze the ‘cross-research activity’ between the two institutes, leading to joint research publications, patents etc., an official statement said.

Speaking on the association Ashoka University Vice Chancellor Dr Malabika Sarkar said: “Both Ashoka and IIT Delhi are committed to serving the society and helping it in tackling wide ranging issues in the fields of environment, gender, biology etc. Ashoka and IIT Delhi recognize each other’s strengths in research and education in various disciplines of science and social science.”

“This partnership for academic cooperation will enable exchange of knowledge and lead to impactful research outcomes,” Dr Sarkar added.

IIT-Delhi wants to set up campus abroad, asks for ‘clear directions’ from education ministry


Under UGC regulations, IIT-Delhi will have to submit a 5-yr and a 10-yr strategic plans to set up a foreign campus, with details on infrastructure, staff recruitment, student admissions.
The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Delhi is considering opening a campus outside India and has written to the education ministry seeking “clear directions” on this, ThePrint has learnt.

Sources in IIT-Delhi said the premier technology institute is interested in opening a campus abroad but there have been no proper directions from the government so far.

“We have written a letter to the ministry asking them for clear directions on how to proceed to set up an international campus. We are interested to know whether the government will step in to hold government-to-government dialogue or if institute-to-institute collaboration is what is expected,” a source in IIT-Delhi told ThePrint.

ThePrint reached the education ministry’s additional secretary via email and WhatsApp for a comment on the proposal but had not received a response until the time of publishing this report.

ThePrint also reached IIT-Delhi Director V. Rajgopal Rao over phone but he refused to comment.

According to the latest regulations of the University Grants Commission (UGC), released earlier this year, Institutes of Eminence (IoE), such as IIT-Delhi, are allowed to start a maximum of three offshore centres in five years, but not more than one in an academic year. The UGC, under the education ministry, is responsible for determining and maintaining the standard of higher education in India.

Clarity needed to figure out process, funds

Sources in IIT-Delhi said the institute is waiting for clarity on how to proceed with the plans, which could require the government’s intervention.

UGC regulations state that an institution willing to establish an offshore campus will have to submit an application to the education ministry, which should include a 10-year “strategic vision plan” and a five-year “rolling implementation plan”. These must spell out the plans for academics, faculty recruitment, student admissions, research, infrastructure development, finance and administration, etc.

The offshore campus is expected to have an initial teacher-to-student ratio of 1:20, and 1:10 by the end of five years. In addition to this, at least 60 per cent of the appointed faculty members must be on permanent basis.
“As a public-funded university, IITs do not have enough funds to set up a campus abroad worth crores of rupees. It is only when the government sheds some light on this issue can IoEs start some kind of process. If the government lays the onus on just the institutes, then some kind of help will be sought from private industry players. With the concept of endowment funds being in their nascent stages, it is unlikely that IITs will have enough funds to start an offshore campus on its own,” another source at the institute told ThePrint.

IIT-Delhi Director Rao had earlier told ThePrint that a discussion in this regard had already started with top institutes such as the other IITs.

“The NEP also talks about this (internationalisation of education)... while they are inviting international universities to come and set up campuses here, they are also encouraging our leading institutions to go out and start campuses elsewhere. In fact, MHRD (education ministry) has already written to us, asking ‘are you interested in taking this up and how do you plan to do that’,” he said.

**IIT-Delhi researchers develop technology to recycle e-waste**


To deal with one of the fastest growing waste streams, researchers at Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi have developed a zero-emission technology to manage and recycle e-waste to wealth, the institute said on Monday.

It said a team led by K.K. Pant and his research group in the Catalytic Reaction Engineering Laboratory at Chemical Engineering Department have adopted a methodology that uses e-waste as an “Urban Mine” for metal recovery and energy production. Researchers said using their method, e-waste is shredded and pyrolyzed to yield liquid and gaseous fuels, leaving behind a metal-rich solid fraction. On further separation using a novel technique, the leftover solid residue yields a 90-95% pure metal mixture and some carbonaceous materials. The carbonaceous material is further converted to aerogel for oil spillage cleaning, dye removal, carbon dioxide capture, and use in supercapacitors. The technology is an outcome of a Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, funded project and developed technology will cater to the need of “Smart Cities,” “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan,” and “Atmanirbhar Bharat” initiatives of the government, IIT-Delhi said.