“Science and everyday life cannot and should not be separated.”
— Rosalind Franklin
At IIT workshop, experts share insights on students’ mental health
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The workshop was divided into four verticals: Importance of Communication; Psychiatry, counselling, accessibility and event organisation; Governance reforms; and Curricular reforms and Implementation.

Providing inclusive environment to the students, addressing their grievances in a humane instead of mechanical manner, roping in senior students and families, and taking steps to aid the mental health of both the teachers and the students – these were some of the suggestion made at a workshop organised by IIT, Delhi Tuesday.

The institute held the workshop on Mental Wellness and Stress Management along with the Ministry of Education weeks after organising a discussion with the students belonging to different backgrounds to understand the challenges they face at the premiere institute.

“We held a discussion for about three hours. About 100 students attended the session. We found out many things such as students being asked their ranks constantly...such things made us realise how sensitisation is required, especially in the first year,” said an official on the condition of anonymity. Several institutes, including other IITs, IISCs, IISERs, BITS, AIIMS, NITs and IIMs from across the country took part in the workshop.
“We all have a very diverse group of students...with the kind of pressures and expectations in today’s society, we need to provide an inclusive environment and support,” said IIT Delhi director Rangan Bannerjee. “In our institute, the counsellor, deans and wardens are there 24×7 for the students. Despite this, it’s not enough. We need to take support of senior students, look at mechanisms, understand causes of problems and the kind of anxieties people face,” he added.

The workshop was divided into four verticals: Importance of Communication; Psychiatry, counselling, accessibility and event organisation; Governance reforms; and Curricular reforms and Implementation.

“While there are numerous examples of directors, deans and HODs who are caring individuals...our request is to set up a system which also responds when the people at the helm of affairs are not up to the mark ... grievances should be attended in not a mechanical manner but in a much more humane manner and every student finds his/her voice,” said Saumya Gupta, Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education.

Noida asks IIT Delhi to vet cost escalation of Bhangel elevated road

**According to officials, the decision comes after the construction agency, Uttar Pradesh Bridge Corporation, raised the budget by ₹150 crore, citing increased prices of construction materials.**

The Noida authority has sought the assistance of the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi to review the budget of the Bhangel elevated road project, officials said on Sunday.

The under-construction work at the Bhangel elevated road. (Sunil Ghosh/HT Photo)
According to officials, the decision comes after the construction agency, Uttar Pradesh Bridge Corporation, raised the budget by ₹150 crore, citing increased prices of construction materials.

Initially, the authority had approved a budget of ₹467 crore for the project when construction began on this vital link, which aims to provide a smoother commute for thousands of commuters. However, the Noida authority has rejected this budget increase, arguing that the hike is excessive.

“We cannot allow such a significant budget increase for this project, and therefore we have rejected the agency’s proposal. We have also notified the UP government about the rejection of the ₹150 crore hike. Furthermore, we have requested the IIT Delhi to conduct a thorough review of the budget escalation. Once we receive the report from IIT Delhi, detailing the feasible budget increase, we will make a decision regarding this project,” said Ritu Maheshwari, the chief executive officer of the Noida authority.

The agency justifies the budget increase by pointing out the rising costs of construction materials, particularly steel, since the start of the project.

The Bhangel elevated road, spanning 5.5 km, began in 2020 but has been plagued by delays, resulting in traffic congestion on Dadri road and significant inconvenience for daily commuters. In November of last year, the Noida authority extended the project deadline from December 2022 to December 2023. Officials attributed this delay to the Covid-19 pandemic. While the authority has completed 75% of the work on the project, progress has slowed due to the budget revision issue.

During rush hour, the Noida authority has closed off traffic junctions in Sector 107, Sector 49, Sector 82, as well as several internal roads, redirecting traffic to alternate routes. Consequently, this has caused significant chaos for commuters.

“We have been hearing that the work will be completed soon. However, for a long time, commuters have been inconvenienced due to traffic diversions. Now, the budget issue will further delay the project, causing immense problems for those who use this stretch. We hope that the authority will promptly address the budget and any other issues to complete the project as soon as possible,” said Deepak Mittal, a daily commuter.
Jivika Healthcare, a social enterprise and IIT Delhi collaborated for a dissemination workshop on furthering conversations around equitable, qualitative, and inclusive healthcare service delivery in India. The workshop brought together experts from the healthcare industry that included government, private sector, non-government organizations, donor organizations, community-based organizations and the academia to discuss and showcase ideas, learnings, challenges and way forward for sustainable primary healthcare programs. The day long workshop was an eclectic mix of various events like panel discussions, expert views, book launch and photo exhibition.

The two panel discussions together sought to deliberate and find means for greater collaborations and partnerships for an equitable, qualitative, and inclusive healthcare service delivery in India. “Efficient collaborations for a sustainable impact” echoed in both panel discussions. The panelists included Dr M K Agarwal (CHAI), Dr Mangala Gomare (BMC, Mumbai), Dr Mainak Chatterjee (UNICEF), Dr Gunjan Taneja (BMGF), Dr Devendra Khandiat (BMGF), Dr Sachin Desai (Govt of Maharashtra), Dr Anuradha Jain (USAID), Dr Nirmalya Mukherjee (MANT), Prof Sanjay Dhir (IIT Delhi), Ms Arti Mishra, Dr. Raj Shankar Ghosh (Public Health Expert) alongside Sangita More and Jignesh Patel (Jivika Healthcare).

During a thought-provoking panel discussion themed “Collaborations and Coalitions of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Community-based Organizations (CBOs) for Sustainability and Impact,” Professor Sanjay Dhir from DMS, IIT Delhi shared his valuable insights on the vital role of NGOs and CBOs in enhancing healthcare delivery in India. He underscored the significance of the “4Cs” — Coordination, Collaboration, Capability, and Connection in ensuring impactful and sustainable healthcare services. According to him, both internal and external coordination are crucial for the seamless functioning of organizations. Additionally, he emphasized that formal collaboration between entities must be directed towards achieving common goals. Professor Dhir’s views were enlightening and shed new light on the importance of collaboration for improving healthcare delivery.

At the event, the DMS, IIT Delhi team also presented their groundbreaking research on the impact of Vaccine On Wheels, an initiative of Jivika Healthcare. Their findings showcased the significant positive influence of the initiative on the ground, aiming to provide a replicable model for government and private entities to
ensure last-mile healthcare accessibility. The team’s insightful presentation left the audience deeply impressed and inspired.

Dr. Raj Shankar Ghosh, Public Health expert and Advisory Board Member of Jivika Healthcare said, ‘I am delighted to see such a diverse range of experts come together to discuss such a critical issue. The insights shared today by a wide range of stakeholders will help in designing and delivering high quality primary healthcare in the farthest corners of the country. The focus on equity, quality and inclusiveness is essential in ensuring that no one is left behind in accessing primary health care in India.”

Partner organization, Jivika Healthcare’s CEO, Mr. Jignesh Patel said, ‘We are delighted to have partnered with IIT Delhi to organize this important workshop aimed at promoting equitable and inclusive healthcare services across India. Our objective is to drive meaningful change by identifying innovative solutions to improve healthcare access in remote areas. The VaccineOnWheels initiative, spearheaded by Jivika Healthcare, has produced insightful findings that can serve as a blueprint for both organizations and donor groups seeking to make a measurable impact in the healthcare sector. We are proud to have contributed to this vital conversation and remain committed to advancing our mission of bringing quality healthcare services to all corners of our country.”

Participation from frontline workforce, academic institutions, grassroots level community-based organizations, research organizations, country-based development partners and donor organizations helped create a cohesive and holistic conversation among all stakeholders.

The event concluded with the launch of a book titled ‘Beyond Boundaries’ and a photo exhibition showcasing Jivika’s outstanding work towards inclusivity at the grassroots level. The exhibition became an instant hit among the attendees, who were thoroughly mesmerized by the poignant visuals and inspiring stories on display.

**IIT Delhi Celebrates World Telecommunication Day; India’s G20 Sherpa, Mr. Amitabh Kant, Delivers Annual Bharti Lecture**

The Bharti School of Telecommunication Technology and Management (BSTTM) at IIT Delhi celebrated the World Telecommunication Day on Wednesday, May 17. On this occasion, Shri Amitabh Kant, India’s G20 Sherpa and former CEO of NITI Aayog, delivered the Annual Bharti Lecture titled “India’s G20 Presidency: Building Consensus in a Fractured World - Frontier for Digital Cooperation”.

Shri Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Vice Chairman, Bharti Enterprises, and Prof. Rangan Banerjee, Director, IIT Delhi, were also present on this occasion.

Shri Amitabh Kant expressed his admiration for the Bharti Group and its contribution to public causes and IIT Delhi’s premier education and R&D initiatives. Mr Kant informed the audience that it was India that created India Stack, a Digital public infrastructure on Open Source software for a set of Open APIs aiming to unlock the economic primitives of identity, data, and payments at population scale. This initiative ensured India’s continued growth and offered opportunities to accelerate Inclusiveness, Resilience, Sustainable Growth and have a new Green Development pact. As the India Stack is open and scalable, it can be applied by other countries to accelerate their digital transformation.

Mr Kant stressed on the fact that IMF and World Bank policies were designed for post-World War 2 conditions and are not agile enough to handle digital transformations. Today, in India, the mobile phone is a virtual Bank offering endless Business opportunities, possible because of the deployed digital Infrastructure and this has led to cost of acquisition for customer to be lowest in comparison. A record number of unicorns and entrepreneurs have been created in this era of digital transformation. India demonstrated Big Tech Innovation with the Government initiatives providing the public layer and applied by private entities.

Addressing the gathering at IIT Delhi, Shri Amitabh Kant said, “We are actually now getting into global value chains in a very big way. And that will enable us to penetrate global markets. It is very important that whatever we do, we do it at a global scale to enable us to penetrate global markets. I am truly delighted
that I am speaking on what I think has been India’s huge achievement in our ability to become a technology layer and a technology leader in many ways. When we started the digital India movement in 2015, we were 123rd in data consumption. Last year, we were number one in the world in data consumption. From 123rd, we have jumped to the number one position. And I think that is what we need to do in all areas of technological growth. That will enable us to become the global leader in education because all these sectors, whether you look at education, health, logistics, transport, or urbanisation, will all be a function of our ability to become a telecom leader. Telecom will fuel digitization, and digitization will process and fuel all transformations in all these areas. And therefore, the Bharti School of Telecom (at IIT Delhi) will have to be the key driver of this transformation in India. And I really wish it all success and progress in the days to come. I take this opportunity to congratulate IIT Delhi and the Bharti Group for this very innovative partnership in creating this wonderful school here”.

Shri Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Vice Chairman, Bharti Enterprises, said, “India’s G20 Presidency is focused on accelerating the benefits of digital transformation to bridge the global digital divide globally, through consensus among nations and by bolstering efforts of both the government and the private sector. At the Bharti School of Telecommunication Technology and Management, our endeavour is to develop futuristic telecom leaders through world-class education, innovation and research while supporting efforts to drive industry-academia collaboration in bridging the connectivity gap and thus contributing towards an inclusive digital economy.”

The Bharti School was set up in 2000 through a joint initiative of IIT Delhi and Bharti Enterprises to further Education & Research in emerging technological as well as managerial aspects of telecom sector. The school offers PhD, MS (Research), M.Tech., and MBA programmes. BSTTM, IIT Delhi, was actively involved in the project to develop India’s first indigenous 5G test bed as part of a multi-institutional project. In order to help startups and industry players test and validate their products locally and lessen reliance on foreign facilities, the Hon’ble PM, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated the test bed last May 2022.

Speaking of the Bharti School of Telecommunication Technology and Management, Prof. Rangan Banerjee, Director, IIT Delhi, said, “We have been fortunate to have had the Bharti School at our institute as an example of an Industry-Academia partnership for more than two decades. Through this school we have created future ready specialised professionals for the Telecom sector. The school has also been responsible for catalysing research projects and innovation in 5G/6G. We have created 5G test beds use cases and
believe that we can play a role in providing leadership in education and research in the telecom sector. We are inspired by Mr. Kant’s vision of India’s leadership of ideas through the G20 and look forward to contributing to this vision.”

A wide array of activities of the school include research on telecom security, use of private 5G technologies for enhancement of Industry 4.0 application, open source OpenRAN, visual light based communication, smart Internet of Things technologies for environmental monitoring & energy optimization, smart haptic and remote control technologies with potential applications to remotely piloted vehicles/autonomous robots, analysis & growth prediction and technology adaptation to the Indian context, and application development using emerging technologies.

**IIT Delhi Hosts 3rd Semicon India Future DESIGN Road Show**

**May 15, 2023** [https://www.eetindia.co.in/iit-delhi-hosts-3rd-semicon-india-future-design-road-show/](https://www.eetindia.co.in/iit-delhi-hosts-3rd-semicon-india-future-design-road-show/)

The Semicon India Future Design roadshow aims to encourage innovation, facilitate investment, and catalyze the startup ecosystem in the semiconductor design and manufacturing space in the country.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi hosted the 3rd Semicon India Future Design roadshow last week. Launched by Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, the roadshow aims to encourage innovation, facilitate investment and catalyze the startup ecosystem in the semiconductor design and manufacturing space in the country.

“The primary objective of this initiative is to attract investments from across the world and help build a vibrant semiconductor design and manufacturing ecosystem. PM Modi has announced INR76,000 crores as outlay for semiconductor sector to fulfil the vision of AtmaNirbhar Bharat. Already there are 27-28 semiconductor startups and the number will soon go up to 100, with the Government’s policy support,” Chandrasekhar said in his speech.
A slew of measures for the semiconductor sector have been put in place by the Government, he said. These include setting up an Indian Semiconductor Research Center (ISRC) that will work in collaboration with top institutions like the IITs for coming up with cutting edge semiconductor research, modernization of Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) implementation of the VLSI/ semiconductor curriculum that will deliver a talent pool of 85,000 who will create innovative designs and solutions.

The digital economy has now expanded from one being centred around IT/ITES to one that covers entire spectrum of technology—deep tech, AI, space, and semiconductors. The Government is working in collaboration with the industry, startups and academia to transform India from a consumer of technology to a producer of technology, and for achieving its $1 trillion digital economy goal, according to the minister.

During the roadshow, global semiconductor leaders like Hidetoshi Shibata, President and CEO of Renesas Technology, and Dr. Vivek Lall, Chief Executive of General Atomics, also shared their vision and expressed interest in collaboration with Indian startups.

“India is a critical part of Renesas’ business. There are plenty of opportunities for collaboration. If you have an opportunity, why not think of Renesas. Let’s design the Future together with Renesas,” said Shibata.

IIT Delhi Director Rangan Banerjee and a large number of industry leaders, startups and members of the academia were present at the launch event. The 3rd Semicon India future design roadshow is part of a series of roadshows organised by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology across the country.
At the 3rd Roadshow, announcement on following futureDESIGN Start-ups (viz. Morphing Machines and Netrasemi) approved under the Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme was made with a belief that the next unicorn will be from fabless chip design area:

- **Morphing machines** focuses on a dynamic runtime reconfigurable RISC-V many cores accelerator, with near ASIC performance across diverse domains & heterogeneous applications, all on the same homogeneous fabric.

- **Netrasemi** provides edge AI chipsets, platforms enabling smart vision and domain specific SoC solutions with advanced AI/ML and hardware acceleration capabilities.

During the 2nd Roadshow, announcement on following futureDESIGN Start-ups approved under the DLI Scheme was made:

- **Vervesemi Microelectronics** focuses on reconfigurable analog and high-performance ADC. Vervesemi proposes to develop mixed-signal MCU Integrated Circuit.

- **Fermionic Design** develops beamformer integrated circuits (IC) for 5G, satnav, and industrial small-cell-arrays.

- **DV2JS Innovation** develops CMOS image sensor for security, surveillance, automobile cameras.

Sequoia Capital India pledged investment support to two DIR-V startups—InCore Semiconductors and Mindgrove Technologies.

As part of the DIR-V program, C-DAC has successfully completed the design and development of the VEGA series of microprocessors comprising of 32/64-bit single-/dual-/quad-core processors based on RISC-V ISA. A development platform based on THEAJS32 ASIC, named ARIES, has been developed comprising four different developer’s kits: ARIES V2, ARIES Micro, ARIES IoT and ARIES V3.

The MeitY has set up ChipIN Centre at C-DAC Bangalore to dedicate its services to semiconductor design community of the country. The facility acts as one-stop centre to provide semiconductor design tools, fab access, virtual prototyping hardware lab access to fabless chip designers from startups and academia. The MoUs exchanged between C-DAC Bangalore and Ansys to nurture chip design using Ansys EDA tools was hosted at ChipIN Centre.

Renesas Electronics, a premier supplier of advanced semiconductor solutions, introduced an NB-IoT (Narrowband Internet of Things) chipset specifically for the Indian market. The new chipset also can be used in asset tracking, lighting, security and numerous other applications.
IIT Delhi study finds brain structures to help treat blindness

The team included 23 congenitally blind patients (aged 7-17 years) from Uttar Pradesh with dense bilateral cataracts, who received cataract surgery at different stages of adolescence.

A team of international researchers, including from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, has found evidence of brain structures that underlie sight recovery in people born blind, and may help treat the condition.

The team included 23 congenitally blind patients (aged 7-17 years) from Uttar Pradesh with dense bilateral cataracts, who received cataract surgery at different stages of adolescence.

The findings, published in the journal The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), showed that improvements in visual functions are linked to changes in white matter pathways, which connect neurons in different brain regions.

The team studied many pathways, but only those involved in high-order visual functions, such as face recognition, were directly linked to the visual improvement.

Moreover, researchers saw that the patient's amount of change in late visual pathways, specifically the posterior callosum forceps, predicted the amount of behavioural improvement. This is a new result that identifies the location of brain changes responsible for behavioural improvement.
They also confirmed that cataract surgery has a greater impact on visual function and brain plasticity if received at younger age, but recovery is still possible even if the eye surgery is received later in adolescence.

The results suggest that sufficient plasticity remains in adolescence beyond the critical period for visual development, allowing patients to partially overcome abnormal visual development and help localise the sites of neural change underlying recovery in blind teenagers.

There is therefore a window of time wider than previously thought, during which sight-recovery surgeries can be useful to improve visual perception by altering structural brain plasticity.

"There is a general notion known as 'critical period for sensory development' that kids who are born visually impaired (due to cataract) and continue in that same condition for a few months or years, can't get back their visual function later part of life, even if they get back their sight by miracle. But this appears not to be true in many cases," said Prof. Tapan K. Gandhi, Professor of AI, Department of Electrical Engineering at IIT Delhi.

"Current medical facilities can treat defects in lenses and corneas, and the brain can then begin to learn about the visual world," he said.

The research sheds light on the definition of the sites of neural change related to sight-recovery, which can guide the development of treatments that attempt to induce neural plasticity through behavioural and surgical interventions.

"The new insights uncovered by our team challenge accepted limitations of sight-recovery surgeries, creating an opportunity for the expanded use of these surgeries that will make many more cases of blindness treatable, worldwide," said Bas Rokers, director at Neuroimaging Centre at New York University- Abu Dhabi.

"Our work also offers evidence to support the call for the scientific community to reassess the critical period for visual development in adolescents," he added.

IIT Delhi Alumni Vishal Gaur Named Dean of Cornell University’s Management School

Indian-American professor and IIT-Delhi alumni Vishal Gaur has been named the Anne and Elmer Lindseth Dean of the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management in Cornell University.
Indian-American professor and IIT-Delhi alumni Vishal Gaur has been named the Anne and Elmer Lindseth Dean of the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management in Cornell University. Gaur, who is the Emerson Professor of Manufacturing Management and professor of operations, technology and information management, will begin his role from July 1, a University statement said.

Gaur joined the Cornell faculty in 2007 and previously served as associate dean for MBA programs at the Johnson School.

"Vishal has demonstrated his outstanding commitment to the Johnson School time and again, as a distinguished scholar, as an award-winning educator and especially as an effective leader. I couldn't be more pleased that he'll lead the school into its next phase," Cornell SC Johnson College of Business Dean, Andrew Karolyi, said.

Gaur's research focuses on data-driven analysis of problems in supply chains, retailing, e-commerce and marketplace operations.

He created a method for benchmarking inventory turnover performance of firms, and his current projects involve the reduction of food waste and supply chain risk, according to the University statement.

"The Johnson School is a leader in graduate business education and scholarship. I am really excited to work towards the mission of the school," Gaur said in a statement.
As associate dean for MBA programs from 2014-19, he launched the Digital Technology Immersion, in which MBA candidates and students earning their M.P.S. in data science or applied statistics develop skills in coding, databases and advanced analytics and learn to leverage them to tackle challenges faced by leading companies.

He also created the Master of Science in Business Analytics program offered through eCornell, which provides working professionals a hands-on opportunity to learn about data analytics tools essential to analyzing and optimising business decisions.

"The creation of these programs represents Vishal's forward-thinking leadership, which will continue to serve students well into the future," Karolyi said.

Gaur is the 2022 recipient of the Class of 1992 Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching, the 2020 recipient of the Stephen Russell Distinguished Teaching Award and a three-time winner of the Johnson School's Core Faculty Award.

A Ph.D. from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, Gaur is an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, and a B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering from IIT-Delhi.

Founded in 1946, the Johnson School enrolls nearly 1,600 students in MBA, executive MBA and advanced degree programs in management, accounting, business analytics and more.

**Why are fewer girls chasing the IIT dream**


There are altogether 16,500 seats in the 23 IITs, out of which 3,300 supernumerary seats (20%) for girls qualifying JEE Advanced do not lie vacant.
Even though lakhs of students aspire to crack the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main and Advanced every year to secure a seat in one of the 23 IITs, the number of girls who appear for JEE Main and qualify for JEE Advanced is significantly less than that of the boys. As per the National Testing Agency (NTA) which conducts JEE Main, out of the 22.5 lakh candidates who registered for JEE Main 2023, around 30% were girls. Moreover, out of the 11,13,325 candidates who appeared for both the sessions, the number of girls taking the exam was 338963, as opposed to the boys who accounted for 774359. On the whole, out of the 43 candidates who scored 100 percentile in JEE Main 2023 (both sessions), only one candidate, Ridhi K Maheshwari (AIR 23) from Karnataka, was the all-India topper among girls. A Lekhashree, also from Karnataka, secured second rank in the same category with 99.99 percentile.

The previous years too indicate a similar pattern. In JEE Main 2022, among the 24 candidates who secured 100 percentile, there were only two girls Palli Jalajakshi from Andhra Pradesh and Sneha Pareek from Assam, while in 2021, Delhi’s Kavya Chopra and Maharashtra’s Bakshi Gargi were among the 13 students who scored 100 percentile.

As aspirants get busy registering for JEE Advanced 2023, Bishnupada Mandal, organising chairman, JEE Advanced 2023, IIT Guwahati, says the statistics should not come as a surprise. He explains, out of the total 2.5 lakh candidates who are eligible for JEE Advanced 2023, around 1,90,000 candidates are males, while 60,000 candidates approximately are females. “There are altogether 16,500 seats in the 23 IITs, out of which 20% (3,300) are supernumerary seats for girls qualifying JEE Advanced. “Past experience shows, none of these seats lie vacant with girls showing as much interest in pursuing Computer Science, as Engineering Physics, Biotechnology, Maths and Computing, or even Data Science,” Mandal says.

It is a misconception, he adds, that girls do not have access to quality coaching, and hence do not match up to the boys, as there are ample opportunities for online coaching which eliminates the need to attend physical classes. “However, if their numbers are less in Main or Advanced, it is simply because they are willing to explore opportunities in other STEM subjects and not necessarily drawn towards engineering per se. A large percentage of girls are inclined towards the medical profession, and going by the recent NEET UG 2023 registrations, out of the nearly 21 lakh candidates who registered, 12 lakh candidates approximately are girls which puts them in a majority over the boys,” Mandal explains.

The skewed ratio in Main and Advanced, however, points to a different story with factors, ranging from gender stereotypes to a lack of awareness, peer pressure and parental expectations. As Ridhi herself corroborates, “There is a general perception among boys that girls secure their preferred streams due to the supernumerary seats. I would like to prove them wrong, and hope to improve my rank with JEE Advanced. However, even as supernumerary seats may help girls in the rural belts, it is not being fair to the boys who lack that advantage.” Backed by her IITian brother Raghav, Ridhi dreams of being a computer engineer by
taking admission in IIT Bombay, busting the myth that girls are weak in Maths, a subject close to her heart. Girls, she says, tend to shy away from fields that are male dominated, and engineering may be one of them. They need to set aside biases that undermine their confidence and abilities in Maths and Physics, which are the core subjects for JEE, she affirms.

While the supernumerary seats are just one step towards increasing gender diversity in the IITs, the institutes, for their part, are making efforts to make their campuses more inclusive. “At IIT Delhi, for instance, the Office of Academic Outreach and New Initiatives (ADONI) launched a STEM mentorship programme for high school girls to encourage them to choose science as their career,” says Angelie Multani, dean, Diversity and Inclusion, IIT Delhi where there is also a new Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI), led by a woman dean to address the barriers faced by women and persons from marginalised backgrounds in their education and professional journey. The ODI conducts post-JEE counselling for female students and their parents to integrate girls within the IIT ecosystem. These, and other initiatives, may help create a conducive environment for girls to crack the JEE and make engineering their calling.

**Why you must level up your sales and marketing skills with this IIT Delhi course**


It’s well known that excellent marketing can drive an upsurge in sales or cause sales to plummet. Companies today can easily lose market share by ignoring customer preferences or forgetting to cater to customer needs. Be it digital marketing or direct selling, understanding the customer and developing a relationship of trust is the key to business success. As digital marketing matures around the world, there is no longer competition between the two channels. They are, in fact, two sides of the same coin.

If digital marketing can bring virality and scale, direct selling can facilitate easy sales of high-value personal products, industrial goods, plant and machinery, automobiles, services, customised products and many more. It’s no wonder then that the Indian Direct Selling industry registered a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 13%, growing from Rs 11,650 crores in 2017-18 to Rs 19,020 crores in 2021-22. Similarly, according to the World Federation of Direct Selling Associations (WFDSA), India saw its total number of direct sellers rise to 5.7 million in 2018-19 and is likely to grow to 18 million by 2025.
As businesses explore new and alternative sources of revenue streams, an amalgamation of both direct selling and digital marketing strategies has become essential. If negotiations are the domain of a skilled salesperson, it is now vital to look at a business’s marketing function holistically to ensure brand creation, recall and loyalty. How can you integrate direct selling with technology to drive superior business outcomes? Through IIT Delhi’s Certificate Programme in Sales and Marketing, which can empower you with those contemporary sales and marketing skills that are required to drive organisational growth smartly. This six-month programme is conceptualised to help you grasp the powerful link between sales and marketing, gain exposure to successful and emerging frameworks, and reshape your career in a disruptive market.

Why opt for this programme?

Organised into 34 high-impact modules, this programme is meant to help you build superior value propositions and unlock growth. It will help you embark on a journey of learning how to devise and implement sharp and measurable sales and marketing strategies in the following ways:

1. You will learn how to create winning sales techniques which include lessons on closing the deal, increasing personal influence as well as using proven, repeatable frameworks

2. You will learn how to master the sales journey by managing pre-sales, brand building, conversion, account management, after-sales and scaling up. You will also learn how to generate, nurture, convert and delight customers

3. You will gain expertise in aligning sales to business drivers by learning how to hire and manage high-performance teams, fostering a sales culture and synergising the sales team with business goals

4. You will sharpen data-driven customer focus by using customer-focused insights in B2B and B2C sales and integrating digital marketing for targeted campaigns

5. You will balance strategy with operations by crafting an opportunity-centric sales strategy and staying conscious of the evolving daily role of a sales manager.

Not just this, towards the end of the programme, you will work on a group capstone project where you will apply course learning by working on critical analyses of the market, business, and organisation from a sales and marketing lens.
How will IIT Delhi facilitate learning?

Learning at one of India’s top-ranked Institutes of national importance is a life-changing experience. This six-month programme, taught via live online sessions and recorded videos with real-world case studies, will introduce you to world-class sales and marketing frameworks, strategies, tools, and ideas that will be easily transferable to your workplace. Through industry-oriented insights from eminent IIT Delhi faculty and peer-to-peer discussions, you will reorient your mindset towards leading practices that drive long-term business growth. Finally, you will expand your professional network and benefit from an IIT Delhi successful completion certificate in Sales and Marketing.

Is this the right programme for you?

This programme is valuable for any professional who wants to benefit from the direct selling and digital marketing boom in India. Here’s who would benefit the most from this course:

- Early-career Sales and Marketing professionals looking to advance their capabilities will gain a relevant, results-oriented grasp of the subject
- Professionals looking to launch their career in Sales and Marketing will find the structured insights invaluable to build a strong foundation
- Entrepreneurs and Managers looking to develop the sales function will learn how to build and grow high-performance teams

You can take this programme to grasp a variety of high-impact topics that will help you navigate a complex market, understand customer sentiment, and deliver and capture maximum value. Key details are below:

- Start date: June 17, 2023
- Fees: Rs 65,000 + GST
- Duration: 6 months, live online sessions with faculty
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has instituted an eight week summer research fellowship programme for postgraduate students who are pursuing their engineering degrees from universities and institutes apart from the IITs. Under the programme, selected candidates will be able to pursue research and development projects during the summer vacation under the IIT Delhi faculty. The application process will be open till May 4 and the list of selected fellows will be announced by May 17.

“IIT Delhi has instituted the fellowship for providing opportunity to exceptionally good MTech or ME students to execute an innovative research and development project under the guidance of the IIT Delhi faculty. IIT students are not eligible to apply,” an official said. MTech or ME students who have completed at least one year of study within the top 10 ranks of their programme and secured at least 70% marks at the end of the first year will be eligible to apply, said officials.

Interested students should first contact a faculty member at IIT Delhi in his or her area of interest and obtain their consent to guide. Following this, they will be required to submit the application form,” officials explained. The selected fellows will be required to register at IIT Delhi as visiting students, but won’t be required to pay the institute registration fee, they added.

Yogananda College of Engineering & Technology (YCET), in partnership with IIT Delhi, inaugurated a virtual lab and conducted workshop for the students and the faculty members of YCET.
This initiative provides an opportunity for all students from 1st semester to 8th semester to understand and perform online laboratory experimentation free of cost. The aim is to provide high quality laboratory access in Science and Engineering discipline for students and teachers. The lab will host virtual experiments for the students of all branches. They enable hands-on training whenever and wherever needed.

Er Prateek Sharma, Sr Field Officer, was the representative from IIT Delhi and he inaugurated the virtual lab. Special guests for the ceremony were J R Dhotra, Prof IMS and Dr Meenakshi Sharma, Director IMS. The program commenced with the formal welcome address by Er Dinesh Gupta, Dean Academics YCET. Further Er Rajnish Magotra, HoD Civil Engineering Department, briefed about the detailed profile of the resource person Er Prateek Sharma. He also gave brief introduction on the virtual lab and enlightened the audience with the benefits of virtual lab in current scenario.

The event was followed by disquisition and presentation through Er Prateek Sharma. He introduced the audience with the procedure of using virtual labs. He apprised everyone with the basic steps including website: www.vlab.co.in, three basic requisites: Smartphone, laptop and internet connection, etc. He added that Virtual lab is free of cost; there are 11 participating institutes in virtual lab and over 1300 nodal centers.

The event was summed up with a vote of thanks delivered by Er Lovneesh Talwar, Nodal Coordinator, IIT Delhi. Er BR Verma Chief Coordinator and RS Dalpatia, Dy Registrar were also present. Jamwal Group of Educational Institutions (JGEI), Jammu Chairman Er Vidhi S Singh Jamwal; Vice-Chairman Shiv Dev Singh Jamwal and Managing Director Er Renu Bangroo congratulated YCET Officials for this great and innovative achievement.

Pertinent to mention that Virtual lab is an initiative of the Ministry of Education, Government of India under NME-ICT, which provides an opportunity for all students to use virtual labs free of cost. This aims to provide high quality remote laboratory access in Science and Engineering disciplines.
IIT Delhi Establishes Bhandari-Sankhla Chair to Promote Research in the Area of Clean Energy


The shift to sustainable energy is critical and Bhandari contends that India has tremendous potential to lead this change to minimise our carbon footprints

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has set up the Bhandari-Sankhla Chair in the subject of clean energy. Sandeep Bhandari, an IIT Delhi alumni from the 1994 batch, is the person behind this initiative. Bhandari established the chair in order to foster quality and leadership in clean energy education, research, and development. The chair will promote research in the areas of environmentally conscious green hydrogen generation, the development of hydrogen infrastructure, and carbon dioxide management technology, according to the press release.

In response to the setting up of the chair, Bhandari stated that it was an honour to collaborate with the institute that had a significant influence on his life. He continued, “It’s also an honour to dedicate this chair to my Nani (maternal grandmother), who has been a true inspiration to me from early childhood, and my parents, who have always sparked a joy of learning sciences.”

He emphasised the desire for the chair to help create a more sustainable and clean environment while dedicating it to his parents and his maternal grandmother. Bhandari is a close observer of all the research and development taking place at IIT Delhi and believes that the university can be a leader in this area of clean energy.
The shift to sustainable energy is critical for the world, and Bhandari contends that India has tremendous potential to lead this change to minimise our carbon footprints. A significant economic opportunity for the nation may also arise from this transformation.

In the meantime, IIT Delhi’s FITT and Pune-based SVR InfoTech signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the exclusive authorised selling and technical support of domestically produced software called “MechAnalyzer” in the Indian and global markets.

Students in engineering colleges will benefit from the MechAnalyzer (MA) as they study mechanisms and construct useful machines and robotic gadgets. The software has animation elements for comprehending the motions of systems like 4/5/6-bar linkages, cams, and gears as well as other features to get students interested in studying concepts like inversions.

IIT Delhi’s Ashok Kumar Ganguli is new IISER Berhampur director


IISER Berhampur: Ashok K Ganguli is from IIT Delhi’s chemistry department and was a deputy director.

The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Behrampur has appointed Ashok Kumar Ganguli from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi. Ganguli took over from former director Yogendra Sharma on May 2.

Before this, Ganguli was the N K Jha Chair Professor in the department of chemistry at IIT Delhi and the joint professor in the department of materials science and engineering. He has held the position of deputy
director, IIT Delhi, institute chair professor, and head of chemistry department. He was also the founding director of Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST) Mohali.

**IISER Berhampur Director**

As per his profile on the IIT Delhi website, Ganguli specialises in the design of nanostructured materials for applications in water purification, solar energy conversion and microfluidic devices, and high temperature superconductivity. He has over 350 papers published and five patents under his name. He finished his PhD degree from the solid state and structural chemistry unit (SSCU) of Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore in 1990.

Ganguli has been awarded various honours including National Award of Nano Science and Nanotechnology conferred by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Chemical Research Society of India (CRSI) silver medal, Materials Research Society of India (MRSI) medal, the CNR Rao CRSI national award, among others.