"THE DIVERSITY OF INDIA, OF OUR CIVILIZATION, IS ACTUALLY A THING OF BEAUTY, WHICH IS SOMETHING WE ARE EXTREMELY PROUD OF."

–NARENDRA MODI
The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi’s Continuing Education Programme (CEP) introduces a transformative online course in Design Thinking and Innovation. This comprehensive program aims to equip professionals with design thinking skills, nurturing their creativity and innovation capabilities.

The course will cover the following topics:

- The principles of design thinking
- The different stages of the design thinking process
- How to apply design thinking to real-world problems
- How to prototype and test solutions
- How to work effectively with teams

The course will be taught by leading faculty from IIT Delhi and industry experts. It will also include a capstone project where students will have the opportunity to apply their skills to a real-world problem.

The course is open to all professionals who are interested in developing their design thinking skills. It is particularly suitable for designers, entrepreneurs, business owners, and innovation consultants.

The course will begin on December 28, 2023 and will run for 20 weeks. To apply, visit the IIT Delhi CEP website.

Here are some of the benefits of taking this course:
Participants gain invaluable insights and skills:

- Grasp the principles and applications of design thinking, a robust problem-solving methodology tailored for business, organizational, and societal innovation.
- Learn from esteemed faculty at IIT Delhi and industry veterans, providing a well-rounded and industry-relevant learning experience.
- Collaborate on real-world projects with industry partners, translating theory into practice and impact.
• Develop creative and innovative thinking abilities, a highly sought-after skill set in today's dynamic job market.
• Garner a competitive advantage by mastering design thinking, enhancing employability and professional growth.

If you are interested in developing your design thinking skills and becoming a more creative and innovative professional, then the IIT Delhi Design Thinking and Innovation programme is the perfect programme for you.

Here are the eligibility criteria for the course:
• You must have a bachelor's degree or equivalent.
• You must have a good understanding of English.
• You must be able to commit to the full 20-week duration of the course.
• To apply for the course, please visit the IIT Delhi CEP website and follow the instructions.

IIT Delhi Graduate Jatin Yadav Wins Code Gladiators 2023
August 28, 2023 https://smestreet.in/technology/cloud/iit-delhi-graduate-jatin-yadav-wins-code-gladiators-2023/

Over 315,000 programmers and IT enthusiasts from more than 80 nations competed in the Guinness World Record-holding coding competition for the most coveted title and awards worth INR 50 lakh.

TechGig concluded the 10th edition of its annual flagship coding competition, Code Gladiators. The championship ran for 121 days with the announcement of winners and prizes worth INR 50 lakh in an on-ground grand finale held in Bengaluru recently.

Jatin Yadav, an IIT Delhi graduate, won the 2023 edition of the TechGig Code Gladiators championship while defeating ex-champions and 315,000 other talented coders and took home the prize money of INR 3.5 lakh. This is the second consecutive year that the winner has emerged to be an IITian. The 2022 champion, Kalash Gupta was also an IIT Delhi graduate.
The complete list of winners can be found at – [www.techgig.com/codegladiators](http://www.techgig.com/codegladiators)

Code Gladiators 2023 hosted one open codeathon and two theme hackathons, namely the Github Copilot Hackathon powered by Microsoft and Machine Learning Hackathon powered by Doceree. Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) was the official location and recruitment partner for Code Gladiators 2023. The on-ground grand finale and prize giving ceremony was held at HPE Bengaluru campus where top industry leaders and Bengaluru-based participants attended the event to participate in panel discussions, roundtables, and fireside chats.

Overall fourteen corporates, coding communities, and three tech bloggers partnered with TechGig for this year’s edition of Code Gladiators. The list includes some of the most renowned tech brands, including – Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Microsoft, Doceree, Infogain, Allstate, Indiamart, Colruyt Group and Harris.

Sanjay Goyal, Business Head of TechGig thanked all the partners and congratulated all the winners and stated, “Technology companies have always supported TechGig’s vision to encourage innovation and bring the brightest coders and tech enthusiasts on one platform. This year again, we have got the title winner from IIT, which is a testament to the popularity of Code Gladiators among coding prodigies from premium institutions in India. Two foreign nationals made it to the winners’ list, which is another symbol of the global reach of TechGig Code Gladiators to attract coding talent, each passing year.

Code Gladiators is an annual coding competition held by TechGig, the largest online community of software developers and IT professionals in India. It is the largest coding contest in India, and has been certified by the Limca Book of World Records and the Guinness Book of World Records. The competition draws the best and the brightest coding talent from all parts of India, and is a great platform for aspiring programmers to showcase their skills and talents.

With multiple sponsored hackathons in emerging technologies and a challenging coding contest, the competition sees enthusiastic participation from techies across the globe. This was the 10th edition of TechGig Code Gladiators where, apart from India, foreign nationals from more than 80 countries participated to win the most coveted title.
Behind IITians opting for non-core jobs are structural issues of JEE Advanced, rigid curriculum, explain IIT-Delhi professors


‘Expecting students to rationally choose their branch of engineering just after Class 12 and stick to it for the rest of their lives is not practical... the ideal solution may be to have a short Bachelor's degree exploring a variety of science related courses, after which students will be in a better position to decide their professional career path.’

We need to first acknowledge that students in India choose IITs primarily due to peer or parental or societal pressure. (Express photo) 
(A Lesson from IIT is a weekly column by an IIT faculty member on learning, science and technology on campus and beyond. The column appears every Friday)

— MR Ravi, Sangeeta Kohli & Kushal Shah

IIT Madras Director V Kamakoti seems to have stirred a hornet’s nest by expressing concern over engineering students largely choosing non-engineering careers.

In a response to Professor Kamakoti, IIT Bombay’s Prof. Milind Sohoni has suggested that the primary responsibility for this situation lies with IIT faculty members who have not been able to establish any connect with the society or industry, and the IIT administrators who have not been able to design a suitable admission process that values actual engineering interest.

While these points are partially valid, they do not address the root of a complex problem.
To address the concerns raised by Professor Kamakoti, we need to first acknowledge that students in India choose IITs primarily due to peer or parental or societal pressure.

IITs usually attract students who are interested in its brand value and the potential pay package it can lead to. So, is it that students who are genuinely interested in engineering are unable to crack the IIT-JEE? Is the IIT-JEE not designed to test actual engineering talent and interest?

Engineering is a complex field with many different branches. It requires at least a couple of years of serious study for any student to know whether s/he is interested in it. Clearly, this is not possible at the +2 level.

Expecting students to rationally choose their branch of engineering just after Class 12 and stick to it for the rest of their lives is not practical. At the school level, we can surely organise a few engineering workshops, but that is far from being adequate to enable school students to make a rational career decision.

Additionally, IITs are one of the very few Indian institutions that have a global prestige value. In general, bright students would not want to miss out on this rare opportunity of being associated with the IIT tag.

Although this rat race has benefited India by putting Indian students on the forefront of the software revolution, it is now hurting Indian interests by preventing other important engineering domains from growing.

Of course, software jobs pay much better than core engineering jobs, but that scenario is slowly changing. This is mainly due to the government emphasis on manufacturing and developing global engineering products from India.

We already have some successful examples in Ola and boAt. Many more are likely to emerge in the future. This problem needs to be solved by bringing about much needed reforms in our engineering education system, as well as creating awareness among students and parents.

Regarding the engineering education system, the most important change required is to avoid forcing students to make a choice of engineering branch right after their school or Class 12.

As mentioned above, it is impractical to expect students to make a rational choice at this stage. Most students who are good at science in school tend to have a bipolar view. They are not well aware of opportunities outside of engineering and medical fields.

The ideal solution may be to have a short Bachelor’s degree exploring a variety of science related courses, after which students will be in a better position to decide their professional career path. This is similar to the education model that was followed earlier by IISc Bangalore and Madras Institute of Technology (Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam’s alma mater).
For example, in the 1980s, students could get admission into the B.E. programme of IISc Bangalore only after completing B.Sc. However, this model has fallen out of favour over the years since it took longer for students to get prepared for jobs. It may be good to reconsider this format of education in view of the serious problems created by forcing students to choose a professional path just after completing their Class 12.

A stepping stone towards this approach could perhaps be to make our existing engineering curriculum less restricted by the various branches.

In the first two years of engineering education, students should ideally do some common courses, and then be allowed to take any combination of courses to get an exposure into the basic concepts of various branches that may be of interest to them.

After this initial exposure in the first two years, a student will be in a much better position to decide his/her branch. Some people may think that all students will end up taking only computer science courses, but this is unlikely to happen since a student needs only a few computer science courses to get a software job.

With this model aimed at familiarising students with different branches of engineering, we will most likely see a good distribution of students in various courses. This can be facilitated through close engagement between faculty members and students at IITs. Even the courses with seemingly low popularity among students may see a renewed interest.

In terms of admissions, IITs could downplay the unhealthy obsession with competitive exams like JEE by also exploring non-JEE avenues for taking in students. For example, students who have excelled in one of the international olympiads could be given admission without having to clear JEE.

In line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recommendations, IITs could also consider lateral entry into higher semesters for students who have done two to three years of undergraduate studies in other science disciplines. This will help in promoting a culture of pursuing excellence in one’s own field of interest. This is a very important cultural shift needed in India where for most people, life is all about chasing the goals set by the society, family or their peers.

While these systemic changes can make a huge difference, implementation is very hard. We should surely keep pushing for them, but it is also important to see if we can facilitate a change in other ways. And this change has to begin by sensitising students in schools and their parents all across India.

There is also hardly any discussion at the school level on the contributions of various professions to the society that could enable students to start thinking rationally about their lives beyond the usual societal norms.
Open conversations can be a great change agent. IITs could take the lead in this regard and start organising regular discussions sessions between IIT faculty and students and parents at various schools.

The goal of these discussions should not reinforce the already bloated image of IITs. It should instead discuss the fundamentals of engineering.

(MR Ravi and Sangeeta Kohli are professors in the Mechanical Engineering department of IIT Delhi & Kushal Shah is a former assistant professor of electrical engineering at IIT Delhi)

IIT Delhi wins National Inter-college Crossword Expedition (NICE) 2023, SASTRA University takes second spot

August 23, 2023 [Link](https://indiaeducationdiary.in/iit-delhi-wins-national-inter-college-crossword-expedition-nice-2023-sastra-university-takes-second-spot/)

The team of Harshul Sagar and Arush Utkarsh cracked two buzzer round clues on the trot to claim the first spot in the final of the National Inter-college Crossword Expedition (NICE) 2023. SASTRA University’s team of Krishnaa G. and Madhushree N. secured the second spot, while Omkar Joshi and Yashvi Shah from Flame University claimed the third position. The Grand Finale of the second edition of NICE 23 was held over two days at the AICTE Auditorium on Nelson Mandela Marg here.
Mr. K. Sanjay Murthy, IAS, Secretary, Higher Education, Govt of India, expressed his delight at the event, and said, “Over the past couple of years, we’ve been on a transformative journey. This year marks the second edition of NICE. Elevating the prominence of regional events can significantly amplify student engagement from those areas. The fact that nearly 80,000 students have actively taken part in the competition is truly heartening. Looking ahead, our aspiration is to witness greater participation from students across the nation.”

Prof. TG Sitharam, Chairman of AICTE, commented, “The tremendous enthusiasm displayed by participants across the nation in this competition is truly remarkable. Physical and mental well-being are of utmost importance, and engaging with crosswords facilitates enhanced thinking, creativity, and a more enriched perspective.”

Congratulating the Ministry of Education and the organizers, Prof. Utpal Chattopadhyay from IIM Mumbai stated, “I wish to congratulate, on behalf of the NICE 2023 organizing team, to the Ministry of Education, with a special acknowledgment to the Secretary of Higher Education. We deeply appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this competition. Observing the enthusiastic participation of students in this event reinforces the notion that our nation should host an increasing number of similar engagements in the future.”

Shri Vivek Singh, IAS, expressed the aspirations of the organizers, saying, “In the previous edition, our participation count stood at 15,000. However, this year’s remarkable response has seen us surpassing 75,000 participants. As we set our sights on the future, our aim is to elevate this number to approximately 500,000 in the upcoming years. We are resolute in our commitment to expanding this initiative, given its engagement with crosswords and the intellect, encompassing a multitude of facets.”

The day one of the event on Tuesday witnessed a written preliminary round and an onstage G20 round for 12 shortlisted teams from across India. The top nine teams then went through three onstage quarter-finals. Six of them qualified for two semi-finals before the top three teams reached the final.

The prizes and certificates to the teams were handed over by the chief guest, Mr K. Sanjay Murthy, IAS, Secretary, Higher Education, Govt of India, and other dignitaries including Prof T. G. Sitharam, Chairman, AICTE; Mr Vivek K. Singh, IAS, Development Commissioner, Govt of Bihar; Dr Abhay Jere, Vice-Chairman, AICTE; Mr Rajive Kumar, Member-Secretary, AICTE; Prof Utpal Chattopadhyay, IIM Mumbai; and Mr Raj Narayan Singh, National Coordinator of NICE 23.

The NICE 23 competition spanned three months, encompassing three stages across five zones – North, South, West, East, and Northeast. Stage I saw 75,000 students from colleges nationwide registering for three individual online rounds. In Stage II, shortlisted participants formed teams to represent their institutions in offline zonal finals across the five zones. The top 12 teams from the zonal finals then converged in the national capital for the ongoing offline Stage III, vying for the prestigious NICE 23 Trophy.
The National Inter-college Crossword Expedition (NICE) 2023 was organized by AICTE in collaboration with NITIE, Mumbai, and Extra-C, a civil society initiative promoting learning-based co-curricular activities. With participants displaying exceptional intellect, teamwork, and a passion for problem-solving, NICE 23 has once again demonstrated the power of education to ignite young minds.

IIT-Delhi Makes ‘Caste-Based Trauma’ Sub-Category on Online Counselling Portal Amid Spate of Suicides


This year, by July itself, 20 student suicides have been reported from across top-ranking higher education institutions, of which seven are from different IITs.

An official said IIT-Delhi has also strengthened the in-house counselling cell, allowing them more powers to directly summon campus security in case they feel a student needs urgent help. (Shutterstock)

Prompted by concerns of students’ mental health, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi recently added ‘caste-based trauma and discrimination’ as one of the sub-categories under the list of problems that students may experience and seek help for on its online counselling services portal — an outsourced service being used by several IITs for 24X7 assistance to students, News18 has learnt.

According to faculty members, steps to address students’ mental health have been strengthened even more post-pandemic since it created a gap in students’ interaction with both peers and faculty to be filled up.

“In view of concerns raised by a student over caste-related trauma and discrimination not being a part of the categories under ‘areas of concern’ on the portal, we took note of it and wrote to the service provider to get it added as one of the sub-categories under the broader category of abuse,” said a senior official, who did not wish to be named.

The online counselling platform has various broad categories of concerns that students may go through, including abuse, career, academics, self-improvement, sexual wellness, family and relationships and LGBTQ,
among others. The services at the institute are besides the in-house students’ wellness centre that have psychologists/counsellors available on campus round the clock.

The online services are available 24X7 and offer support to students in various modes, including chat, tele-counselling or face-to-face sessions, depending on what they are most comfortable with. “This is just one of the many others measures that we are taking to minimise incidents of students taking the extreme step. We have also strengthened our in-house counselling cell, allowing them more powers to directly summon campus security in case they feel a student needs urgent help without having to go through other channels,” the official said.

Last month, IIT-Bombay — besides strengthening its counselling mechanisms on campus — issued a notification asking students to not ask fellow students about their JEE Advanced rank or GATE scores or any such information that may reveal caste or any related aspects. The notification pasted on hostel rooms and other areas where students gather stated that it was “inappropriate” to ask fellow students any such question that may come out as an attempt to reveal their caste. The institute came out with a new set of guidelines for students following the recent death of first-year Dalit student Darshan Solanki by suicide allegedly due to caste discrimination.

**IIT Delhi incubated startup launches ‘Tactile STEM Learning Kit’ for visually impaired children**


Raised Lines Foundation launched a ‘Tactile STEM Learning Kit’ for visually impaired children. RLF is the first non-profit start-up incubated at IIT Delhi.
Raised Lines Foundation (RLF), a non-profit start-up incubated at IIT Delhi, has launched a ‘Tactile STEM Learning Kit’ for visually impaired children.

The kit includes a GEOMKIT developed in partnership with Vistrit Gyan; a Mathematics Geometry Encyclopedia developed in partnership with XRCVC, Mumbai; a Science Primer developed in partnership with Saksham Trust; and JoJ0 blocks developed in partnership with Microsoft Research, Bengaluru, India.

With this launch, perhaps for the first time, the visually impaired in India would have access to STEM learning material and kits on par with the best in the world, Prof. M. Balakrishnan, Chairman, RLF, said.

JoJ0 blocks are tangible toys that enable children with vision impairments to absorb concepts of numeracy through play.

“Jojo blocks were conceptualized at Microsoft Research as part of their ludic design methodology and engineered to perfection by RLF: attractive, rugged, and low cost, Dr. Manohar Swaminathan, Principal Researcher, Ludic Design for Accessibility, said.

Dr. Sam Taraporevala, Executive Director, Xavier’s Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC), believes, “It is very essential for every blind and low vision person to have a clear mental visualization of the diverse geometric patterns. In the absence of this, people are placed at a distinct disadvantage. Producing
this set is our contribution to eliminating the tactile shape deficit, which is plaguing the STEM field for blind and low-vision persons.”

“GEOMKIT® (Patented) is designed such that students with visual disabilities can easily construct embossed geometrical constructions independently. In fact, all the geometrical constructions as per NCERT Classes VI – X syllabus have been successfully made using GEOMKIT,” said Mr. Anupam Garg, Founder, Vistrit Gyan.

RLF is the first non-profit start-up incubated at IIT Delhi and is based on the know-how developed through four years of research undertaken at the Center of Excellence (CoE) in Tactile Graphics. This CoE, as well as RLF’s incubation for translation into products, was sponsored by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) of the Government of India.

RLF’s goal is to provide high-quality, affordable learning and support materials for visually impaired learners. RLF converts standard textbooks, manuals, and resource books, with a focus on STEM books, into an accessible format incorporating tactile diagrams that visually impaired students can comprehend. The key objective is to enable students with visual impairments to pursue a career of their choice.

Prof. M. Balakrishnan, Chairman, RLF, shared that “It is the dedication of our young team that in this 5-year period, we have not only become self-sustaining, surviving the COVID pandemic, but also have been continuously innovating, both in terms of new titles, new partnerships, as well as production technology.”

RLF has many tactile books available from primary to senior secondary, including all the NCERT textbooks in Science and Mathematics. In addition, RLF, in partnership with different organisations, has also developed various tactile kits and accessories, including a Geometry kit, tactile blocks for numeracy education, etc.

Further, RLF has also initiated a service to convert STEM content into accessible digital formats for students with visual impairments and educational institutions. In the last five years, RLF has produced 40000+ books and aids and provided them to 12000+ beneficiaries across 27 states in India.

Through its recently launched Touch, Learn, and Shine Program, RLF has trained more than 4000 students from 60+ schools across India.
Wipro unveils Centre of Excellence on Generative AI in collaboration with IIT Delhi

Wipro is committed to develop and accelerate AI-led innovation as part of the Wipro ai360 ecosystem.

Wipro, an IT services company, announced the establishment of a new Center of Excellence on Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi. The center’s major goal will be to assist fundamental and applied research in the field of generative AI.

It will also work on R&D projects and weigh the economic potential of innovations developed by students at IIT Delhi’s Yardi School of Artificial Intelligence (ScAI).

Wipro's $1 billion commitment to develop and accelerate AI-led innovation as part of the Wipro ai360 ecosystem is reflected through this partnership.

The CoE will act as a research and development hub, that aims to bring together Wipro researchers, ScAI faculty members, and graduate students to tackle large-scale real-world issues. Wipro CoE teams closely collaborate for the development of novel solutions with the help of AI, ML (machine learning), and other technologies.

IIT Delhi Drops One Set of Mid-Sem Exams To Reduce Student Stress: Director Rangan Banerjee

We felt that the exam calendar was too packed and hence decided to reduce student burden and stress. The decision has also been approved by the Senate and will be implemented from the ongoing semester said the director

According to data shared in Parliament last month, IITs have reported the highest number of student suicide cases in the last five years. (Image: News18)
The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi has revamped its evaluation system and dropped a set of mid-semester exams to reduce students’ stress, according to institute director Rangan Banerjee. The decision comes against the backdrop of several cases of student suicides across IITs which has sparked a debate about whether the curriculum and the rigorous study schedule are impacting the mental health of students.

“Earlier we used to have two sets of exams during a semester, final exams at the end of each semester and several continuous evaluation mechanisms. We conducted an internal survey and based on feedback from all students and faculty, we have decided to drop one set of exams. So, now there will be two sets of exams besides routine evaluations,” Banerjee told PTI in an interview.

“We felt that the exam calendar was too packed and hence decided to reduce student burden and stress. The decision has also been approved by the Senate and will be implemented from the ongoing semester. A maximum cap of 80 per cent weightage has been kept for the two examinations,” he added.

The IIT Council, in its meeting in April, decided that there is a need for a robust grievance redressal system; increasing psychological counselling services; reducing pressure, fear of failure and rejection among students. The issue of student suicide, alleged discrimination, and ensuring the mental well-being of students was discussed at length during the meeting.

According to data shared in Parliament last month, IITs have reported the highest number of student suicide cases in the last five years. From 2018 to 2023, at least 39 out of the total 98 deaths by suicide in top higher education institutions of India took place at IITs.

“In addition to existing mechanisms to deal with stress and ensure mental well-being among the students, IIT Delhi is pushing to strengthen some mentorship and interactive verticals, especially to encourage interactions with students outside the classrooms, preferably at an individual level,” Banerjee said.

“We are also increasing the frequency of ‘open house’ interactions with students besides the frequency of periodic informal dinners or meals between students and faculty in small groups through the existing Student-Teacher Interaction Council,” he added.

The institute is also facilitating faculty-student interactions via academic-domain-independent and academic-domain-dependent faculty mentorships.

Talking about student suicides Banerjee said, “Students in IITs come through an extremely competitive process, they have come into a classroom where there are so many people who are very intelligent...We have to be able to tell people how to cope with failure...this is something we are focusing on.
“We have expanded our counselling set up, we have students as well as professional counsellors in our hostels. We want to track students whose performance is deteriorating so they can be mentored accordingly,” he said.

Banerjee said, “Any suicide is tragic and it’s heartbreaking for everyone. We have to create an enabling ecosystem so that whenever a student is facing any difficulty emotionally or mentally, he or she should be able to approach someone and get the right counselling and mentorship at that stage”.

A 20-year-old B.Tech final-year student at IIT Delhi died by suicide in a campus hostel last month. According to police officials investigating the case, the deceased student’s family has informed us that he was not happy with his performance in a couple of subjects in the recent final-year examinations.

25% of those who got degrees at IIT-D this year were women
At 585, women comprised 25% of the total students awarded degrees this year at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D) convocation, said director Rangan Banerjee.

In this convocation, four PhD graduates from joint PhD programme of the University of Queensland-IIT Delhi Academy of Research (UQIDAR) were awarded degrees. Even 15 international students from Finland, Sierra Leone, Russia, Bangladesh, Rwanda, Sudan, Nepal, Bhutan and Ethiopia were given their degrees.

A total of 2,357 students were awarded degrees and diplomas. Archit Babuna, a student of B.Tech. in computer science and engineering with perfect 10 CGPA, was awarded the President's gold medal.

Dr. Gagandeep Kang, an eminent virologist and director, enterics, diagnostics, genomics and epidemiology-global health, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, was the chief guest at the occasion.

Addressing the students, Kang said, "As you enter the next phase of your life, hold onto this legacy of a scientific culture and let it inspire you in all you do. You are stepping into the world equipped with the power of science and technology. Science has solutions to offer for many of the problems we face in the society and the privilege of receiving high-quality education and training from an esteemed institution like IIT Delhi comes with a responsibility to use your skills for service."
IIT Delhi celebrated its 54th Annual Convocation on Saturday, awarding 2,357 degrees and diplomas to graduates. The event took place at the Dogra Hall of the institute and was graced by Gagandeep Kang, a virologist from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, as the chief guest.

Among the notable achievements, Archit Babuna, who earned a B.Tech. in Computer Science and Engineering, received the President's Gold Medal.

Aditya Vimal, with a B.Tech. in Civil Engineering, was awarded the Director's Gold Medal. Dibya Jyoti Sarangi, M.Tech. in Applied Optics, was honoured with the Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma Gold Medal.

The convocation witnessed the graduation of the first batch of M.Tech. in Electric Mobility, Interdisciplinary M. Tech. in Cyber Security, Masters in Public Policy, Master of Science in Research (MSR) in Materials Science and Engineering, and the Joint PhD programme with the University of Queensland, Australia.
Addressing the graduates, Kang spoke about the responsibility that comes with their education, encouraging them to use their scientific skills for service. She shared her experiences in virology and public health, emphasising the impact of Indian scientists and companies on the global stage.

Kang said: “Your alma mater is a special place. IIT Delhi’s vision is to contribute to India and the world through excellence in scientific and technical education and research, to be a source of pride for all Indians and be a resource for society. In other words, you are called on to excel and to serve.

"IIT Delhi has a long-standing tradition of producing outstanding alumni who have excelled in various fields, making significant contributions to both India and the world. This culture of rigour, dedication, and pursuit of excellence has become the hallmark of an IIT graduate. As you enter the next phase of your life, hold onto this legacy of a scientific culture and let it inspire you in all you do.

"You are stepping into the world equipped with the power of science and technology. Science has solutions to offer for many of the problems we face in society, and the privilege of receiving high-quality education and training from an esteemed institution like IIT Delhi comes with responsibility to use your skills for service."

R. Chidambaram, Chairperson of the Board of Governors at IIT Delhi, highlighted the institute's global reputation and its role in advancing education and research.

Prof. Rangan Banerjee, Director of IIT Delhi, highlighted the inclusion of flexibility, sustainability, and multidisciplinarity in the institute's curriculum, aligning with the New Education Policy (NEP).

The convocation also celebrated esteemed alumni, presenting them with the Alumni Awards 2023 for their outstanding contributions across various fields.

**Forces to get lightest bullet-proof jackets designed in IIT Delhi**


*The R&D ballistic testing as per BIS standards has been conducted successfully at DRDO-TBRL Chandigarh and is ready for Technology Transfer by IIT Delhi to Indian Industry.*

Researchers at IIT Delhi, after three years, have designed a bullet-resistant jacket for Indian soldiers weighing two and a half kilograms lighter than the ones currently being used by the force.

Professor Naresh Bhatnagar, Dean of Research and Development said that currently, the bullet-proof jackets worn by the Indian soldiers weigh about 10.5 kg.
However, the researchers at the institute have designed a lighter version of the jacket weighing just 8.2 kg.

“The Advanced Ballistic High Energy Defeat (ABHED) BIS level 5 and ABHED BIS Level 6 comply with the Indian Army’s latest requirements and are capable of defeating eight AK-47 HSC and six Sniper API bullets respectively on 1000 sq cm panels after ageing with minimum back face deformation.

The R&D ballistic testing as per BIS standards has been conducted successfully at DRDO-TBRL Chandigarh and is ready for Technology Transfer by IIT Delhi to Indian Industry,” added Professor Bhatnagar.

**IIT-D plans new campuses at Jhajjar and Sonipat; Abu Dhabi in the offing**


*Banerjee also spoke about IIT Delhi’s Abu Dhabi campus, initiatives for ensuring student wellness, expansion plans of the institute and the upcoming 54th convocation.*

Referring to mental health initiatives for students, Dean of Students Affairs, Aditya Mittal, said: “We are focusing on building networks which identify students’ problems. We are also focusing on diversity, building tolerance, early identification, diagnosis and identification.”

IIT-Delhi is planning new campuses at Jhajjar and Sonipat in Haryana, said the institute’s director Rangan Banerjee at a press conference on Thursday.

“For the Jhajjar campus, M/s NBCC Ltd. has been entrusted with the responsibility of building a boundary wall along the periphery of the campus, along with the sewage system. On the Sonipat campus... work should be completed by November 2023 end. The total cost of the project is Rs 59.73 crore,” said an official statement by IIT-Delhi.
Banerjee also spoke about IIT Delhi’s Abu Dhabi campus, initiatives for ensuring student wellness, expansion plans of the institute and the upcoming 54th convocation.

Formal programmes at IIT Delhi’s Abu Dhabi campus will start in 2024, with the institute looking to hire foreign faculty as well.

“We still need internal and external approvals. We have different mechanisms for admissions in both India and UAE. We are trying a blend of both. Our aim is to have diversified classrooms,” Banerjee said.

“Our outreach programmes focus on AI, healthcare, energy and sustainability as these are global concerns,” said Professor Shantanu Roy, who is responsible for the coordination of the upcoming Abu Dhabi campus.

Referring to mental health initiatives for students, Dean of Students Affairs, Aditya Mittal, said: “We are focusing on building networks which identify students’ problems. We are also focusing on diversity, building tolerance, early identification, diagnosis and identification.”

Banerjee added: “We are enhancing counselling and faculty mentorship with the help of faculty and senior students. We used to have minors and a major which has been converted into one minor and one major. First-year students struggle with language barriers. Final-year students are also under a lot of pressure.”

About 2,350 undergraduate and postgraduate students will be awarded degrees at the 54th convocation ceremony, where degrees will also be conferred on graduates of the first batch of M.Tech in Electric Mobility, interdisciplinary M.Tech in Cyber Security, Masters in Public Policy, Masters of Science in Research (MSR) in Materials Science and Engineering, and the joint PhD programme with the University of Queensland, Australia.

**IIT Delhi’s School of Public Policy scripts success**

IIT Delhi’s School of Public Policy scripts success

Among the 21 students of the first batch who received their degrees at the 54th annual convocation of the institute, 19 participated in the placement process. Of these, 18 students received a total of 21 offers from diverse organisations and sectors. Two students of the inaugural batch have chosen to pursue academic research, with one of them enrolled in a PhD program.

During the MPP program, the students interacted with prominent organisations, such as Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, International Rice Research Institute, ID Insight and WRI, among others. These interactions contributed to their understanding of policy issues on the ground across various sectors. Established in 2018, the SPP is the first academic unit on public policy of its kind in the country.

**IIT-D to have a new campus in Jhajjar focusing on healthcare, cancer treatment and drug research**


**In association with AIIMS Jhajjar, IIT will focus on using AI in the diagnosis of diseases**

Expanding its presence and intellectual footprint, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT Delhi), is set to open new campuses in Haryana’s Sonipat and Jhajjar. While the Sonipat campus is expected to be ready by November 2023, the Jhajjar campus will take another 3-4 years to become functional.

At a press conference held on Thursday, Dr Rangan Banerjee, IIT-D director, spoke about the Institute's advent to drug development in association with AIIMS, Jhajjar. The faculty members had presented their campus expansion plans to the Haryana Chief Minister and other state government officials, who endorsed the idea.
The Jhajjar campus will have a major focus on the healthcare sector, particularly on cancer treatment and drug research. “It will be the country’s first-of-its-kind institute which will be patient-specific. It plans to work in the field of developing drugs for cancer treatments, medical implants, enhancing the performance of Paralympians. Relying on the latest technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI) will also be used for the diagnosis of diseases,” said Dr Banerjee.

On August 14, a workshop will be organised at IIT-D where medicos and healthcare industry experts will discuss the MedTech and Healthcare Ecosystem for the upcoming Jhajjar campus. The existing MoU between AIIMS and IIT-D will also be renewed to continue the research and academic collaboration in the mutually agreed terms and conditions.

IIT-D is also coming up with an international campus in Abu Dhabi in 2024. The Institute has already started conducting outreach programmes for students and will hold training programmes for stakeholders in UAE, said Professor Shantanu Roy.

Currently, the Institute is operating from a temporary campus, which will be fully operational by January 2024. “A permanent campus will be worked out in the due course of time. With the formal session starting next year, the international campus will offer both undergraduate and postgraduate Engineering programmes,” said Dr Roy.

Spearheaded by the IIT-D faculty, the institute plans to recruit new international faculty. The institute aims to have both Indian and international students at the Abu Dhabi campus, said Dr Banerjee. The Institute is in the process of finalising the curriculum and admission tests for the Abu Dhabi campus. Dr Roy will be the coordinator of the new campus.

IIT Delhi will hold its 54th convocation on August 12. Usually, the convocation is held in November every year, however, this time, it is being organised earlier to help the passing-out graduates to participate. Over 2,350 undergraduate and postgraduate students will be awarded their degrees at the convocation. “Gagandeep Kang, eminent virologist and professor of Microbiology at Christian Medical College, Vellore, will be the chief guest at the event,” said Dr. Banerjee.

The flexible options offered under NEP 2020 were beneficial for several Engineering students. “The Multiple Entry and Exit System (MEES) which is one of the key elements of the National Education Policy 2020, was opted by a few students. Instead of opting for a four-year BTech degree, a few students opted for the diplomas as they exited earlier,” said Prof Narayanan D Karur.

The Institute is also reviewing the new curriculum for various courses, which will be implemented after the convocation. A committee, comprising faculty members, was formed to design a new curriculum, which has integrated sustainability, said Prof Karur. “The interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary aspects are already part of our existing curriculum, which will be strengthened further. We give a chance to our students to expand their horizons and additional skills in other subjects,” he added.
The Indian Institute of Technology in New Delhi, a leading campus for science, technology, engineering and mathematics, has started taking steps on making its portals a safe space for LGBTQIA+ students. The change, which is nascent, became possible on a male-dominated STEM campus because of the cumulative effort of professors and a two-year-old students' collective called Indradhanu which started with 14 members but now has 250.

**TimesView**

Members of LGBTQIA community often endure discrimination in society. Such intolerance emerges from prejudices internalised over the years. Sensitisation helps change such negative behaviour. The institute has taken a progressive step which will help in creating more perceptive young men and women who understand and accept the beauty of diversity. Other educational institutes can take a similar step.

In February, Indradhanu held IIT Delhi's first queer parade, called Vibhinn. There are also infrastructure changes, such as setting up gender-neutral restrooms, happening on the campus. IIT Delhi has also made it compulsory for students and teachers to attend a sensitisation workshop on diversity.

Indradhanu organises film screenings and talks regularly on campus. On August 2, it will screen Ek Jagah Apni, a film by the Ektara Queer Collective, followed by a discussion.

Vaivab Das, a PhD scholar in the department of humanities and social sciences, is the student coordinator of the collective. "I don't want anyone to lose their prime years facing stigma and discrimination because of their gender or sexual orientation the way I did. That is why I am very motivated to work for this collective," Vaivab told TOI.

The importance of Indradhanu on an IIT campus is not lost on Vaivab or the others in the collective. The campus, like most engineering colleges, is male-dominated as many STEM institutes are. Jokes on homosexuality and gender pronouns by students are common. "LGBTQ individuals are often seen as troublemakers who disrupt traditional values. It was time to shatter those stereotypes," Vaivab said.

The collective has a website which states that they are a resource group, "raising awareness on issues relating
to the LGBTQ+ community and advocating an inclusive campus experience for all”.

It has nine core members, of whom five are from STEM departments. Vaivab, a non-STEM scholar, has two masters from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and the National Law School.

Vaivab said that the collective’s earlier informal nature made it a challenge “to engage in meaningful discussions, as people could easily dismiss our intentions and plans. Our proposal to formalise the collective received overwhelming support. We collaborated with numerous other student outfits to help the campus understand the significance of having such a student organisation." This year, when the students' orientation was held for first-year newcomers last week, Indradhanu also conducted its orientation event.

The collective's faculty co-ordinator, Arudra Burra from the department of philosophy, said: "Indradhanu has been conducting queer film screenings, virtual art projects, pride parades, webinar conversations on themes like urban queer panellists and social media campaigns to initiate dialogue."

However, there is still a long way to go.

Meghna Hooda, a third-year humanities and social sciences student who prefers the pronouns they/them for reference, said the campus was still rigid on gender segregated hostel accommodation. "Segregation between male and female and not allowing inter-hostel movement is triggering for some queer students who are struggling with their identities," Meghna said. She was quick to add, though, that her fondest campus memory was a "our first queer fest and picnic", which she described as "great fun and empowering."

Indradhanu has managed to get 11 gender-neutral restrooms made near lecture halls. They now wish to cover all residential hostels and create gender-neutral accommodation.

Angelie Multani, the dean of diversity and inclusion, said: "Indradhanu in collaboration with IGES (Initiative for Gender Equity and Sensitization) carried out a restroom accessibility assessment of all major segments of the campus and concluded that only one out of the seven segments had unisex washrooms."

Vaivab, who prefers they/them as pronouns, pointed out that an area where work was required was bringing
gender-sensitive psychological counselling to the campus. "LGBTQ+ students complain that counsellors ignore their grievances or are ill-equipped to deal with them," the student coordinator said.

Jitendra Yadav, a member of Indradhanu and a fourth-year computer science engineering student, said the collective "hasn't changed attitudes. We have changed approaches. Faculty members have started acknowledging and addressing gender discrimination on sexual orientation. Indradhanu is reaching a point where students may not necessarily agree but they cannot disregard the ongoing dialogue, which is a crucial aspect of campus culture."

**Govt. Plans to Setup Research Parks at 8 IITs, IISc**

August 9, 2023  https://bweducation.businessworld.in/article/Govt-Plans-To-Setup-Research-Parks-At-8-IITs-IISc/09-08-2023-487154/

*These upcoming research parks will join the ranks of operational ones at IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur and IIT Delhi*

The Indian Government has given the green light for the establishment of research parks at eight Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) along with IISc Bangalore, with the aim of fostering scientific and technological advancements and enhancing the research landscape, as per an official announcement.

These upcoming research parks will join the ranks of operational ones at IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur and IIT Delhi. Simultaneously, other parks are progressing well in their development, according to government sources.

The selected institutions, which include IIT Madras, IIT Bombay, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kanpur, IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati, IIT Hyderabad, and IIT Gandhinagar, are slated to house these research parks. The government also emphasizes that the active collaboration between research and industry, the facilitation of student entrepreneurship and incubation, and the reinforcement of academic ties constitute the main objectives of these research parks.

The establishment of research parks at premier educational institutions is anticipated to create a platform for high-level interaction between academia and industries, thereby fostering innovation, knowledge exchange, and skill development. This initiative reflects the country's broader aspirations of leveraging its academic prowess to drive technological advancements and economic growth.
For Kanpur boy Amar Srivastava, studying at IIT Delhi was a dream come true and it did not disappoint him. From the facilities at the campus to the professors, everything at IIT Delhi was better than Amar's imagination.

Studying at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) was a dream. However, I didn’t get a rank in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) that could get me into an IIT. I completed my graduation from Uttar Pradesh Textile Technology Institute (UPTTI) in Textile Chemistry in 2018. I began working with a private company. Since I had a keen interest in the research field and wanted to pursue a Master’s.

So, after working there for about seven months, I resigned and shifted my complete focus to studying for the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE). I cleared GATE and secured an India rank of 49 in Textile Engineering and Fibre Science paper.

**Dreams do come true**

I pursued my MTech from IIT Delhi. My life in the institute was better than I expected. IIT-Delhi had some of the brightest minds in the country, a 24 hour functional library, professors who help you with everything and guide you in your career, a lush green campus and excellent food. There is great diversity on the campus with
people coming from across the country. The institute had mental well-being and support facilities like counsellors and psychiatrists. Sports facilities for students such as swimming, basketball and whatnot. I was finally living my dream and was happy beyond imagination.

All said and done, master’s is a little hectic. During my master’s, we mainly had to complete the coursework in the first year with 3 to 4 lab periods in a week. And, from the second year onwards we had to focus mainly on project work. In the third semester, we had 3 to 4 theoretical subjects and in the final semester, it was only project work.

However, things didn’t go as smoothly as I would have wanted them to. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the colleges were shut from March 2020 to December 2020, while we were in the middle of our programme. My project work suffered because of it but somehow we managed to complete it.

Hostel days and college life
At IIT Delhi, I used to live in the Jwalamukhi Hostel at IIT Delhi. Hostel life was amazing — late night strolls, hanging out with friends, night canteen, staying up till late while talking to friends and so on.

I was a part of the Rendezvous (IIT-Delhi festival) team and enjoyed organising it.

Currently, I am a senior researcher at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). I work in the technical textile domain.

IIT Delhi shaped my career and personality
IIT helped me shape my career, my research interest as well as my personality. It works towards the holistic development of a student. You get connected with so many people who can help you in your life. It is home to some of the best minds in the country whose level of thinking is beyond people’s expectations. When you meet like-minded people, you can learn about various career options that you didn’t know earlier and so much more. I used to be very shy and didn’t know how to interact with people. IIT boosted my confidence and improved my social skills.
IIT Delhi Signs MoU With Abu Dhabi Education Dept to Set up International Campus
August 7, 2023

IIT Delhi has collaborated with the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) and the Ministry of Education in India to launch a new campus in Abu Dhabi

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) and the Ministry of Education in India. The partnership aims to establish an international campus of IIT Delhi in Abu Dhabi. This comes after IIT Madras recently launched its first-ever global campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania, East Africa.

“This strategic collaboration marks a significant milestone for both India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), bringing together two leading educational entities to foster academic excellence and promote cultural exchange. By extending IIT Delhi’s renowned educational expertise to Abu Dhabi, the new campus will provide an unparalleled opportunity for students in the region to access world-class education and cutting-edge research facilities," reads the official press release.

“We are looking to explore an interview opportunity with HE Sara Musallam - Chairman of Abu Dhabi Education and Knowledge (ADEK). She can further delve into the significance of this collaboration and what it means for Indian students in Abu Dhabi," it added.

Meanwhile, the new international campus will be headed by a woman director for the first time. Prof Preeti Aghalayam, dean of the School of Science and Engineering at IIT Madras will take charge of the Zanzibar campus as its director. The institute will initially be offering 50 seats for the BS course and 20 seats for the M Tech course.

The selection process for admission to IIT Madras’ Zanzibar will include a screening test — which is an aptitude test, covering mathematics, science, English, and analytical ability. Those who clear the exam will be called for interviews with faculty. Students who have cleared class 12, or equivalent in the past three years are eligible to apply to the BS programme while those with a four-year UG degree in any engineering or science discipline may apply to the MTech programme.
Partnership of GRID-INDIA, FITT, IIT Delhi

GRID-INDIA has partnered with the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi, to launch the 12th Edition of Grid-India Power System Awards (formerly known as POSOCO Power System Awards), these awards aim to recognise excellence in Power System research. Under these awards, 15 Post-graduate student and 15 doctoral students will be awarded. The students will be shortlisted by an elite committee comprising of academicians and industry experts.

Shri Paresh Ranpara, Director (HR) of GRID-INDIA, and Prof. (Dr.) Preeti Ranjan Panda, Dean (Corporate Relations) / Managing Director of FITT signed the agreement on 3rd August 2023 to further encourage research and innovation in the Power System Domain.

IIT-Delhi to audit structural safety of Noida Authority’s under-construction admin building

Noida Authority's CEO, has taken swift action to ensure the safety of an under-construction administrative office building in Sector 96, Noida. After personally inspecting the site on August 2, he expressed concerns about the design structure and immediately directed officials to conduct a structural safety audit.

Lokesh M, Noida Authority’s CEO, has taken swift action to ensure the safety of an under-construction administrative office building in Sector 96, Noida. After personally inspecting the site on August 2, he expressed concerns about the design structure and immediately directed officials to conduct a structural safety audit.

To address the issues identified, the Noida Authority has invited the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi to perform the audit and recommend necessary changes to the building’s design.
The new administrative building, covering an area of approximately 24,000 square meters, will boast parking space for around 1,200 cars.

Construction on the project began in 2015 but faced delays. Subsequent inspections raised safety concerns related to the building’s structural integrity, prompting the need for a detailed audit by IIT Delhi. Already, a memorandum of understanding has been signed with IIT Delhi for this purpose.

Despite the challenges, progress on the project has reached over 70 percent completion, and officials anticipate the office premises to be ready by January 2024. The estimated cost of the project stands at around Rs 230 crore.

IIT-D designs simulation tool for planning operational response during health crisis


Researchers formulated a pandemic response strategy in collaboration with AIIMS New Delhi and the University of Exeter, United Kingdom (UK)

The SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) pandemic has resulted in severely stressed healthcare systems across the world, and in many countries, the capacity of existing infrastructure has proven to be inadequate for managing the COVID-19 caseload.

In this context, there is a need for analytical tools capable of providing quantitative assessments of the extent to which the existing healthcare infrastructure, which is often composed of multiple tiers, in a given region can respond adequately to pandemic caseloads. This is important for planning the capacity of makeshift COVID-19 care facilities.

Such a tool must also be able to handle the substantial uncertainty associated with these situations, including the uncertainty around the care provision process, the caseload, patient progression, and patient flow across the network.
A team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D); All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS); University of Exeter Business School (UK) have developed a probabilistic discrete-event simulation of the operations of a public healthcare network in a north Indian district and demonstrated its use for planning the capacity of the network for a single wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall, while the simulation tool was demonstrated using COVID-19 as a case study, it can be used to plan the operational response of the public health network in a given region to any health crisis, such as a dengue or cholera outbreak. It can even be used to evaluate changes in operational policy during routine care conditions, such as when a new referral policy from lower-tier to higher-tier facilities is introduced.