“Let our lives be open books for all to study”
- Mahatma Gandhi
SIB & Enactus IIT Delhi invites applications for ‘SIB Finathon’

Mumbai/Thrissur, Sep 30 (UNI) South Indian Bank, in association with the Enactus-Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, invites applications for its Hackathon named ‘SIB Finathon’. The applications are invited from the brightest minds in the student community and are open to IIT students, engineering scholars, technology enthusiasts, and diverse professionals across the country.

SIB - Finathon extends three exciting hackathon challenges: Gamification, Virtual Branch, and Hyper-personalization of the mobile app. The deadline for submitting applications is October 10, 2023.

The SIB Finathon is in line with the Bank’s commitment to adopting cutting-edge technology in banking. SIB Finathon will take place in two phases: an online screening and shortlisting round, followed by the grand finale. A panel of experts will review the entries, and 15 teams with the most interesting and innovative ideas will be shortlisted to participate in the co-creation camp at IIT Delhi.

During the camp, participants will have the opportunity to showcase their innovative ideas and solutions with guidance and mentorship from South Indian Bank, IIT Delhi faculty, and experts from partners, Mindgate Solutions, OneCard and OSTTRA. The grand finale hosted at IIT Delhi’s prestigious campus will be held on November 4 and 5 2023, where top three winners will receive a total cash prize of Rs 6 lakhs.

Speaking on the launch of the SIB Finathon, Sony A, SGM and Chief Information Officer, South Indian Bank, said, "At South Indian Bank, we have steadfastly remained at the forefront of technological advancements in the banking sector. The SIB Finathon epitomizes our dedication to fostering innovation and collaboration. We strongly believe in nurturing young minds and providing them with the platform to showcase their exceptional talent. Through SIB Finathon, we are empowering the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs, encouraging them to think creatively and bring forward groundbreaking ideas which will not only shape the future of banking but also have a positive impact on society as a whole."

The combination of South Indian Bank’s expertise as a tech-savvy bank and the brilliance of these young minds is bound to result in cutting-edge solutions and transformative advancements, which we eagerly anticipate.

Subodh Sharma, Assistant Professor – Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Delhi said, “The collaboration with South Indian Bank has been an exhilarating experience for Enactus IIT Delhi. This partnership merges the boundless creativity and intellect of the young minds with the progressive vision of the bank. Empowering the students to think beyond boundaries, this hackathon provides a perfect platform for them to unleash their potential.
In addition to the hackathon, SIB Finathon will host an illuminating conclave featuring distinguished speakers from the BFSI and tech domains. The conclave will facilitate insightful fireside chats, engaging panel discussions, and ample networking opportunities, enriching the overall experience for participants.

The SIB Finathon warmly welcomes participants from all walks of life, irrespective of prior development experience or background. Eligibility requirements include legitimate citizenship, age of 18 years or older, and access to the internet.

The hackathon serves as an inclusive platform for aspiring tech enthusiasts to collaborate, learn, and flourish. For comprehensive information regarding the SIB Finathon, including registration details and real-time event updates, one can visit https://outhindianbank.com/finathon/.


**IIT Delhi, iHub Anubhuti inaugurate ‘Medical Cobotics Centre’ to boost innovation in healthcare**


IIT Delhi with iHub Anubhuti-IIITD inaugurated the Medical Cobotics Centre which is funded by DST under its NMICPS mission.

The medical cobotics centre has launched a proposal for young start-ups, with funding up to Rs 1 crore.
The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, technology innovation Hub with iHub Anubhuti-IIITD foundation have inaugurated their joint medical facility, ‘MCC-Medical Cobotics Centre’ on the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Delhi campus today. 

Akhilesh Gupta, secretary, science and engineering research board (SERB) and senior advisor, department of science and technology (DST), government of India, was the chief guest at the event.

According to the institute, the DST has funded this joint facility to be operated by iHub Anubhuti and IHFC under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NMICPS) mission. The Medical Cobotics Centre is India’s first state-of-the-art technology-enabled medical simulation and training facility for doctors, paramedics, technicians, engineers, biomedical researchers, and entrepreneurs as per IIT Delhi.

The centre will offer hands-on simulation training to the medical fraternity across the country. The training programmes being offered at the centre will range from basic to advanced and will be designed in consultation with doctors and experts, mainly from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

As per the institute, the centre aims to have cutting-edge technologies for advanced medical research in the areas of healthcare robotics and digital healthcare. The Centre will support start-ups in the medical field that are using AR, VR, AI, cobotics, robotics, cognitive sciences, etc.

The medical cobotics centre has launched a proposal for young start-ups, with funding up to Rs 1 crore available in digital healthcare and medical healthcare.

Akhilesh Gupta, secretary, SERB and senior advisor, DST, said," This inauguration marks a unique convergence of engineers and doctors, symbolising the deep collaboration within this MCC and the importance of simulation in testing various medical technologies. In general, most people believe that doctors have unlimited abilities. However, it is important to understand that doctors are also humans who rely on technology to deliver effective treatments.”

“IIT Delhi is delighted to announce the opening of the Medical Cobotics Centre. Healthcare and engineering combine to provide the next frontier. We believe the medical simulator will add to our existing initiatives on medical devices like mPRAGATI to create an innovative ecosystem to provide modern healthcare and create partnerships between IIT Delhi, IIIT, AIIMS and other hospitals. We look forward to our Innovation Hub in Cobotics creating new cobotics based interventions and innovations for affordable healthcare”, said Rangan Banerjee, director, IIT Delhi.
IIT-Delhi seeks to draw young engineers with new curriculum


The institute, established in 1961, is reaching out to India Inc, recruiters and education consultants to bring in more experiential ways of learning.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi is overhauling its syllabus after a decade to weave in sustainability and bring in flexibility in engineering courses to engage the younger generation.

The institute, established in 1961, is reaching out to India Inc, recruiters and education consultants to bring in more experiential ways of learning.

The publicly funded institute is concerned that its corpus of ₹600 crore falls way short of what it needs—₹10,000-12,000 crore—to build infrastructure and offer better options to grow the institute.

“We are in the midst of curriculum review. We are seeing what we can do for the first-year students to excite them. Every 10 years or so we go through a complete curriculum review. We have set up a set of goals in terms of what we want the new curriculum to be,” Rangan Banerjee, director at IIT-Delhi told Mint.

The new curriculum for different subjects taught at the college is expected to be rolled out in the 2024 academic session.

The institute’s decision to overhaul also comes on the back of new-age technologies, teaching methods and expectations of students. Banerjee said higher education all over the world is facing a “challenge" in terms of attention spans because of the impact of social media.

“Sources of information are different, expectations are different. To align to meet these things, and then to excite needs a different kind of orientation," said the director.

The institute plans to make about 13,000 students in the campus “future ready" by weaving in concepts of sustainability, flexibility and have more “project related courses". Along with the students, efforts are underway to upskill the teachers and India Inc, recruiters and education sector experts are getting consulted.

The changes in IIT-Delhi come on the back of IITs trying different ways to up their fund-raising effort. The funds from the government across the 23 IITs are often not enough to meet the expenses.
“We are a publicly funded institution that attracts best students from across the country from completely different backgrounds. Unlike IIMs we cannot recover costs from the students,” said Banerjee. Depending on the program, the tuition fee at IITs for a four-year engineering program is about ₹8 lakh. In comparison, India’s premier management colleges, the Indian Institute of Managements, can be as much as ₹30 lakh plus for a two-year MBA course.

“We need funds for infrastructure. We used to get grant for infra but now even the infra grant is relatively low...We have corpus of ₹600-700 crore. We need corpuses for IIT Delhi of the order of ₹10,000-20,000 crore. Then we can say we are making a difference," said the director detailing that the college has an annual expenditure of ₹1400 crore.

IIT-Delhi, like its peers, takes part in competitive grants, owns intellectual property rights, has stake of 2-3% in startups that are incubated within the campus, as revenue streams. It plans to take up more socially relevant projects and is coaxing its alumni and corporates to up their funding for the college. The 60-year old institute said it needs “significant amount of funds” for upkeep and better infrastructure.

IIT-Delhi is not the only one where funding is a “concern”. The IITs are worried about the lack of adequate manpower who understand the art of fundraising from corporates and alumni. The IITs are heading US for fundraising, wooing donors by showcasing the work done in science and technology but say concept of “giving back” to alma mater is very nascent in India.

According to a Mint analysis, seven of the older IITs— IIT- Delhi, IIT-Bombay, IIT-Madras, IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Kharagpur, IIT-Roorkee and IIT-Kanpur—have received more than ₹1300 crore as donations from corporates and alumni.

**IIT-Delhi plans to provide long-term aid to families in case of death of students, faculty**

*September 18, 2023*  

The move comes after the recent death of a student from the SC community, Anil Kumar, who died by suicide.

IIT-Delhi is planning to set up a committee to chalk out a mechanism to support the families of faculty and students in the event of their demise. The move comes after the recent death of a student from the SC community, Anil Kumar, who died by suicide.
Although the institute along with its alumni office has a mechanism in place to raise funds to support families in such cases, officials said they are in talks to chalk out a plan to provide aid on a long-term basis.

A few weeks ago, Kumar was found hanging in his hostel room; his family said they never suspected anything was amiss. The 21-year-old joined IIT-D in 2019 to pursue BTech in Mathematics and Computing. Officials at the institute had said Kumar was on an extension to complete his course as he did not meet the credits required to graduate which may have put him under pressure.

Talking about the institution’s efforts to support Kumar’s family, an official on condition of anonymity said the institute and the alumni office together “are trying to establish a fund to support his younger brother’s education”.

He said: “We are trying to figure a way out to support Anil’s family on a monthly basis. We intend to do this sensitively and responsibly. We are trying to raise as much money as we can and keep sharing the dividend of the sum to the family every month.”

The official added, “There are different support mechanisms that could be developed. IIT-Delhi, along with the Alumni Office, has always collected funds in cases of unfortunate demise of faculty and students of our community... we are in talks to take steps to help the student’s family collaboratively and sensitively.”

“We will have a clearer picture in the next few weeks. We want a more collaborative approach with regard to the diversity and inclusion initiative,” said the official, adding that they are looking forward to a collaborative approach with outside agencies to “build more trust into various sets of relations within the institute”

**Dipti Ranjan Sahoo, A Scientist working to reduce impact of earthquake**  
**September 14, 2023**  
Dipty Ranjan Sahoo is among the 12 scientists who have selected for the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize in science and Engineering for 2022. He has been awarded for developing Disaster Resilient-Disaster Mitigation related devices which reduce impact of earthquake on buildings to a minimal level saving life and property to a great extent from the natural calamities. He is a fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers (UK), Institute of Engineers (India), and Indian Society of Earthquake Technology. He has received INAE Young Engineer Award, IEI Young Engineering Award, SERB Young Scientist Award and BRNS Young Scientist Research Award.

Mr. Sahu is currently a professor in the department of civil engineering at IIT Delhi. Andalib Akhter spoke to him to know more about his research and devises. Here is excerpt from the interview

**Question:** How important is Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award for you?

**Answer:** This honor means a lot to me. It is definitely a pleasure to have my work recognized at the national level. In the field of engineering, I have already received the Young Scientist Award from DST, Institute of Engineering and Department of Atomic Energy. It is a most honorable thing to receive. This honor will push me further in the direction of further work in the field of engineering – especially how to develop new technologies that can save wealth and lives from natural destruction.

**Question:** You have been selected for this honor for developing Disaster Resilient-Disaster Mitigation related devices. Tell us a little more about the devices.

**Answer:** Large buildings and poles suffer more damage during earthquakes. In my research, 4-5 devices have been developed to reduce this damage. Devices fitted to large buildings, new and old poles can greatly control the extent of extensive damage to buildings and pillars in the event of an earthquake. In other words, maximum damage can be prevented. I have been working on this project for a long time. I would say this is the output of my 10 to 12 years of developing devices.
Question: Have you done any experiments with the success of the devices?

Answer: Yes, experiments have been done extensively. Experiments have been done in labs as well as on buildings and pillars. Collaboration is also underway to test it in earthquake-prone areas. The results of the experiment were very encouraging. Experiments have proven that the devices can handle or reduce extensive damage in earthquake conditions. Most importantly, the high-intensity earthquakes were controlled during the experiment. It is clear from the results of the experiment that there will be minor damage in the case of a big earthquake.

Question: Have the devices started to be used in buildings and pillars?

Answer: The experiment phase is over. A patent has also been granted, but it has not yet been installed on buildings and pillars. Discussions continue as the process begins. Fabrication, production and logistics are being discussed. Very soon this technology will be transferred to the enterprise. Then everything will depend on the industry because it will be produced by the industry.

Question: Will such a technology be costly?

Answer: This technology will be cost-effective at all. Cost effective will depend on the size of the devices.

IIT Delhi researchers claim to have conducted first national-scale mapping of soil erodibility


Being able to assess its causes and impacts at a high resolution will help us develop a national soil conservation plan that can help our vital agricultural sector, he said.

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi claim to have conducted the country's first national-scale mapping of soil erodibility.

Before this, soil erodibility assessments were conducted in specific regions or catchments but a national-scale assessment of soil erodibility was required, according to IIT Delhi officials.

The national-scale mapping of soil erodibility is aimed at highlighting specific areas where the soil is most prone to erosion.
"Soil erodibility is the susceptibility of soil particles from becoming detached and reflects the combined effect of rainfall, infiltration and runoff. It is one of the major factors used to estimate soil loss and reflects the effects of soil structure, texture, permeability and organic matter content in countering soil erosion," said Manabendra Saharia, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Delhi.

"The process of soil erosion starts when rainfall occurs on the soil or when water flow (runoff) displaces the soil particles... Now, we have developed a national-scale mapping of soil erodibility, the first of its kind in the country," he said.

The study by Saharia, his colleague Sumedha Chakma and PhD scholar Ravi Raj, exploring the spatial variation of soil erodibility and its relationship with soil properties in India, was published in scientific journal CATENA.

"Soil erosion is a significant trigger for land degradation and a major global geo-environmental issue. Being able to assess its causes and impacts at a high resolution will help us develop a national soil conservation plan that can help our vital agricultural sector," he said.

CSIR announces Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes-2022 to 12 scientists


The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awards for 2022 to be distributed to 12 young scientists across the country.

Ahead of its foundation day, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) on Monday announced the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awards for 2022 to be distributed to 12 young scientists across the country.

Immunologist Dipyaman Ganguli of CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata; microbiologist Ashwani Kumar from CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh; biologist Maddika Subba Reddy from the Hyderabad-based Centre for DNA Fingerprinting Diagnostics; Akkattu T Biju of Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru; and Debabrata Maiti of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay are among the awardees.

While Ganguli has been awarded in the field of medical sciences, Kumar and Reddy have received the prize for their contribution to biological sciences.

Biju and Maiti have been awarded for their contribution to the field of chemical sciences.

Ganguli has been awarded for important clinical and translational research in Covid-19, including a RCT.
Ashwani Kumar has been awarded for his original contributions in biofilm-induced infections involving cellulose revealing a novel mechanism in TB pathophysiology.

Reddy has been awarded for his contributions in ascribing new functions to phosphatases in the regulation of cellular protein sorting pathways.

Maiti has been awarded for contributions to developing transition-metal catalysis which has had a key impact in the agrochemicals and pharmaceuticals industry.

In the 'Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences' category, Vimal Mishra from IIIT-Gandhinagar has been selected for the prize. He is being awarded for examining the role of anthropogenic and natural factors on hydrologic extremes and water resources in India.

In the Engineering Sciences category, Dipti Ranjan Sahoo of Indian IIT-Delhi and Rajnish Kumar of IIT-Madras have received the award.

Sahoo has been awarded for his contributions to mitigate seismic effects on buildings and bridges, while Rajnish Kumar has been recognised for contributions to carbon sequestration in solid hydrates and methane recovery from marine gas hydrates.

In the field of Mathematical Sciences, Apoorva Khare of the Indian Institute of Science-Bengaluru and Neeraj Kayal from the Microsoft Research Lab India, Bengaluru have been selected for the prize.

Khare has been awarded for his contribution to the areas of representation theory, combinatorics and matrix analysis, while Kayal has been recognised for developing algorithms in algebra and number theory as well as novel techniques in arithmetic complexity.

Anindya Das of the Indian Institute of Science-Bengaluru and Basudeb Dasgupta of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research Mumbai have been selected in the Physical Sciences category.

The selectors have chosen Das for his contribution to advances in understanding the electrical and thermoelectric properties of strongly interacting 2-D atomically thin materials, while Dasgupta has been awarded for his pioneering research on coherent interactions of neutrinos in dense astrophysical environments and the nature of dark matter and the methodology for its indirect detection.

The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, instituted in memory of the first Director General of the CSIR, is usually announced on the foundation day of the institution on September 26. The winners of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for 2021 included Kanak Saha, Kanishka Biswas, Amit Singh, Arun Kumar Shukla, T Govindaraju, Binoy Kumar Saikia, Debdeep Mukhopadhyay, Anish Ghosh, Saket Saurabh, Jeemon Panniyammakal and Rohit Srivastava.
IIT-Delhi will put together the admission criteria for Abu Dhabi campus: Official


IIT Delhi is known for its strong placement process, and the Abu Dhabi campus will adopt similar best practices while capitalising on its unique strengths, says Dr Ahmed Sultan Al Shoaibi, acting executive director of Higher Education Sector, ADEK.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi is set to open a campus in Abu Dhabi and will start offering degrees from 2024 onwards. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Education and the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) in July this year.

Till now, IIT Delhi has not revealed details regarding the admission procedure or fees. However, to give more insight about this international collaboration, indianexpress.com in an email interaction with Dr Ahmed
Sultan Al Shoaibi, acting executive director of Higher Education Sector, ADEK, discussed the faculty, courses, placement process and why Abu Dhabi wants to collaborate with Indian institutions.

**Abu Dhabi has a prestigious New York University campus, INSEAD and other brands as well. Why does it need the IIT Delhi campus?**

Having IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi as part of the emirate’s higher education ecosystem was an evident choice in light of the calibre, specialisation, vast technical knowledge, and prestige of the institution. It also reaffirms Abu Dhabi’s emergence as a hub for global educational excellence. IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi’s academic offerings will pave the way for education pathways aimed at upskilling the future generation, contributing to the development of our knowledge-based economy.

**When is the campus expected to open? Also, what facilities will the Abu Dhabi government provide to IIT Delhi?**

Academic offerings will start in January 2024 at IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi’s temporary campus. The campus will operate advanced research centres related to sustainable energy and climate studies, as well as computing and data sciences.

**Who will be the director of the IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi campus? How many locals will be hired and how many will be IIT Delhi faculty?**

Appointing IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi’s faculty and administrative teams is still underway. The campus will be staffed with high-calibre professionals from the UAE, India, and the rest of the world to create a diverse and proficient team that will offer the best learning experience for students.

**What will the admission criteria be? Would a JEE score be required for local students as well?**

The admission criteria will be put together with our partners at IIT Delhi, respecting the institute’s rigorous procedures and ensuring the equitable inclusion of students from different backgrounds.

**What courses will it offer? Does it include new-age courses like data science and AI?**

IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi’s academic offerings will begin with a host of bachelor’s, master’s, and PhD programmes, including a range of emerging areas such as energy and sustainability, artificial intelligence, computer science
and engineering, mathematics and computing, and other disciplines of engineering, and sciences. These academic offerings are chosen to address the needs of the UAE’s priority sectors.

While IIT Delhi has a robust placement process, how will placements be conducted here? Also, how would your government help them in getting internships?

IIT Delhi is known for its strong placement process, and the Abu Dhabi campus will adopt similar best practices while capitalising on its unique strengths. This will involve forming significant partnerships with prominent UAE and international entities, serving as a link between academia and the professional sphere and enhancing internship opportunities.

IIT-D students seek caste sensitisation sessions

September 5, 2023  

A stronger mentorship programme to assist all B.Tech students on extension, stricter anti-ragging measures, allotment of a ‘position of responsibility’ to each hostel and mandatory caste sensitisation sessions were among key demands raised by students of IIT-D during an open house held Sunday. The meeting, attended by about 200 students, came after the campus saw suicides by two SC students, both pursuing B.Tech Mathematics, within two months. The students’ body demanded an ‘institute-level inquiry’ and a ‘public report’ to investigate academic culture within the mathematics department.

The charter of demands called for scrutiny of the high number of ‘F’ grades in certain courses. The students urged that a public report be prepared by the dean (academics), faculty advisor (SC/ST cell), and dean (office of diversity and inclusion) on performance, placements, dropouts and extensions of students from SC/ST/OBC/PwD (persons with disability) categories over the past five years. Claiming that counselling services on campus are a “joke”, Shainal Verma, a member of Ambedkar Periyar Phule Student Collective and student representative in IIT-D’s SC/ST cell, said, “Many marginalised students were afraid to speak up or identify themselves during the meeting.”

A student who attended the meeting said, “The student counselling services are so understaffed that we usually don’t get an appointment when we are under duress or feel mentally exhausted.”

Students also said the mentorship programme for B.Tech students on extension should be strengthened, insisting on individualised assistance to help them meet their credit requirements for timely degree completion. Additionally, they called for pairing of struggling students with senior mentors at an early stage.
The charter sought a revamp of anti-ragging guidelines to include discrimination based on entrance rank, caste, economic background and sexuality. It emphasised that discussing a student’s rank should not be part of academic or non-academic conversations.

Under the ‘Initiative for Caste Equity’, the charter outlined measures like allocation of physical space and budget for workshops and events, and recruitment of mental health counsellors.

“The administration must hold the departments and teachers responsible for failure to engage with specific needs of the students. Often, it is a matter of bad teaching and not the students’ inability to deal with the so-called ‘rigour’,” stated the charter. The students said the administration informally backed the charter of demands and formally cancelled Teacher’s Day celebrations.

**Poker and Rummy are games of skill, concludes IIT-Delhi study**


IIT-Delhi professor Tapan K. Gandhi says, ‘We found that both in the game of poker and rummy, the skill variables improve as the users play more and more games.’

A team from IIT-Delhi conducted a study titled ‘Online Poker and Rummy- Game of Skill or Chance?’ The findings were published on arXiv, a curated research-sharing platform. | Photo Credit: Photo for representation only

Days after cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar faced a backlash for promoting online gaming, a study by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Delhi concluded that Poker and Rummy are games of skill.

Even as the nation is engaged in a debate over the pros and cons of online gaming, Tapan K. Gandhi, Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, Cadence Chair Professor of AI and Automation, IIT Delhi, and his team conducted a study titled ‘Online Poker and Rummy- Game of Skill or Chance?’ They concluded that cognitive and other skills are required for success in Poker and Rummy. The findings of the study were published on arXiv, a curated research-sharing platform.

Prof. Gandhi said that the study debunks the myth of the games being driven by luck, and highlights the skill required in order to be successful.
'More you play, better your skills and lesser are variables’

The data for analysis was a set of users who have played a minimum of 30 games and a maximum of 100 games on 2-player, 3-players, and 6-player table.

“We found that both in Poker and Rummy, the skill variables improve as the users play more games. This is a precursor that the mean of the winning rate as the user plays more and more games is not zero, which implies that long-term success cannot be considered a random phenomenon,” according to the study. This observation lends weight to the argument that the outcomes are not purely products of random chance, but rather are influenced by the players’ skills and expertise.

The study found that the performance of a player, as they play a greater number of games, becomes consistent and the variability gets reduced.

“From the studies undertaken, we conclude that there is no difference in online and offline versions of Rummy and Poker from the perspective of requirement of skills, and in online versions of Rummy and Poker, there is preponderance of skills over chance to succeed,” the study concluded.

‘Improvement in soft skills visible’

Prof. Gandhi said, “Amidst ongoing conversations around online gaming and biased perception terming it as a taboo owing to preconceived notions, the exhaustive study examines the game play of various players to understand if the game, in reality, focuses on skill, or element of luck prevails.

“Throughout our research, we were presented with compelling cases that made it clear that these sports indeed require a level of innate understanding that aided in building the cognitive abilities of the players. Not just limiting the skill aspect to the sport, we also noticed that the player’s softer skills, like that of understanding social cues, taking decisions under high pressure situations, memory retention, amongst others, advancing throughout the time they were playing consistently,” he said.
IIT Delhi’s new exoskeleton device to help paralysed stroke patients


Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi on Friday unveiled a novel human-computer interface hand-exoskeleton device named RoboExo SMART.

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi on Friday unveiled a novel human-computer interface hand-exoskeleton device named RoboExo SMART.

Stroke is a debilitating condition that severely impacts the brain functions of the patient, making him/her paralysed for the rest of their life.

Designed and developed Dr Amit Mehndiratta and Dr. Neha Singh along with a committed team in the Centre of Biomedical Engineering (CBME) at IIT Delhi, the transformative robotic exoskeleton device for upper limb rehabilitation aims to alleviate the paralysing effects of strokes.

Conventional rehabilitation methods often fall short in treating stroke patients, with physiotherapy proving labor-intensive and subjective assessment.

But, the exoskeleton synchronises wrist and finger joint movements, significantly enhancing daily functions and minimising muscle rigidity. Its muscle activity-controlled interface, adaptable settings, and real-time performance feedback promise a journey toward swifter recovery.

The trailblazing device uniquely addresses size and cost concerns plaguing conventional robotic solutions. Portable, lightweight, and cost-effective, it opens doors for widespread accessibility, especially in resource-restricted regions.
The exoskeleton showcased remarkable enhancements in mobility and reduced muscle rigidity through successful trials involving over 60 patients at AIIMS's Neurology Department.

These results underscore the exoskeleton's potential to revolutionise the field of rehabilitation.

Meanwhile, RoboExo SMART is also poised for clinical trial studies for international acceptability in collaboration with Proxmed - an Australian entity committed to driving healthcare innovations.

"The collaboration with Proxmed Australia heralds an exciting chapter. The exoskeleton's journey to Australian shores for clinical trials marks a pivotal step towards global recognition and efficacy validation. Together, both entities will propel stroke rehabilitation into an era of unparalleled possibilities," said Prof Mehndiratta, in a statement.

The collaboration has been made possible through the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) - an industry-academia interface at IIT Delhi.