I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved.

- B. R. Ambedkar
Zomato Withdraws Rs 1.6 Cr Placement Offer At IIT Delhi, Internet Applauds its Marketing Move


Zomato, renowned for its quirky marketing antics both in the digital realm and beyond, has once again thrust itself into the spotlight for a tale that seems straight out of the ‘corporate drama’ playbook. As asserted by a research intern at IIT Delhi, Zomato purportedly extended a staggering offer of Rs. 1.6 crore during campus placements, only to retract it later. shared a screenshot of his college’s notice on the micro-blogging site ‘X,’ notifying students that certain companies, including Zomato for the position of ‘Algorithms Manager,’ would no longer be participating in the placement process.

Talwar captioned the snapshot, “Zomato came to the campus, offered 1.6 cr salary, got the hype, and left,” causing a stir on the internet.

Some users questioned the authenticity of the high-paying role, while others speculated that it might be a Zomato marketing tactic.

Here’s the Viral Post:

![Hrithik Talwar](https://twitter.com/ApsHrithik)

Zomato came to the campus, offered 1.6 cr salary, got the hype, and left.

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**OCS Notifications • 1m**

**General Notification**

Update about application withdrawal: Students who have used their applications for applying in below profiles can withdraw their applications as these profiles won’t be visiting due to company’s constraints:

1. Zomato Limited (Algorithms Engineer)

12:41 AM • Nov 27, 2023 • 180.1K Views
One user mused, “1.6 crore package or 1.6 crore salary cause salary is a bit insane,” while another, in disbelief, wondered if it was a typo, asking, “Wasn’t it supposed to be 16L and it got mistyped as 1.6 cr bruh.”

Amidst the confusion, those who perceived it as Zomato’s masterstroke in the realm of marketing banter had their own narratives. “Zomato got bored of trolling just on notifications,” quipped one observer. “That was actually the gameplan – of creating hype,” chuckled another.

However, not everyone was in on the laughter. Some slammed Zomato, labelling it a ‘low move.’ “If zomato did this as a marketing stunt, they should be ashamed of themselves” commented one critic. Another chimed in with, “If it was actually a marketing hack, low move even by Zomatos desperate standards. I actually defended that ctc infront of my colleagues I j know this is being thrown on my face tomorrow at work.”
While News18 couldn’t independently verify the authenticity of the claim, the original poster stood by their ground in the comment section of the now-viral post that has amassed over 180K views on the site.

**IIT Delhi Invites Applications For MTech Programme At Abu Dhabi Campus**


The programme offers candidates the opportunity to specialise in two areas: 'Technologies for Decarbonization' and 'Economics, Policy, and Planning for Energy Transition.'
The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-Delhi), is currently accepting applications for its newly launched MTech programme focused on Energy Transition and Sustainability at its Abu Dhabi campus. The application deadline for this programme is November 27, 2023. The proposed master's programme, set to commence in January 2024, aims to equip professionals and scholars in the energy industry with a comprehensive understanding of technology, public policy, and environmental sustainability issues.

The programme offers candidates the opportunity to specialise in two areas: 'Technologies for Decarbonization' and 'Economics, Policy, and Planning for Energy Transition.'

This two-year, in-person programme at IIT-Delhi Abu Dhabi's temporary campus requires prospective candidates to undergo a rigorous selection process in line with IIT Delhi’s academic standards.

Eligibility criteria include a four-year bachelor’s degree in engineering or certain science disciplines, and a master's degree in relevant science disciplines is also acceptable. The selected meritorious candidates will receive full sponsorship, covering their fees and associated expenses.

IIT Delhi and the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) have collaborated with ADNOC to offer a scholarship for students enrolling in the inaugural Master's program in Energy Transition and Sustainability at the upcoming Abu Dhabi campus.
"IIT Delhi Abu Dhabi reflects the shared vision of the two countries, focusing on areas of educational excellence, innovation, knowledge exchange, and investment in human capital. As its inaugural academic offering, we anticipate that the Master's in Energy Transition and Sustainability will bring exciting opportunities to our graduates as they pursue careers in this field," said professor Rangan Banerjee, director of IIT Delhi.

**Why are IITs losing so many students and will they be able to plug the leak?**

**November 19, 2023** https://theleaflet.in/why-are-iits-losing-so-many-students-and-will-they-be-able-to-plug-the-leak/2023

*Multiple factors are responsible for the high dropout rates among the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). Together with suicides among students, the problem needs to be addressed urgently if the IITs have to secure their future.*

EVERY year, lakhs of students appear in a two-tiered entrance process to secure admission into one of the most prestigious institutions in India, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

After years of hard work and preparation, around 10,000 students make it to the IITs every year. However, as per government data, at least 20 percent of the students who qualify end up dropping out before they complete their degree. The increasing dropout rates indicate that all is not well at the IITs.

More than 4,400 students dropped out of IITs between 2018 and 2023, as per data shared by Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar in the Rajya Sabha in July this year.

The parliamentary report states that B.Tech students primarily drop out due to academic pressure, while M.Tech students are lured by promising job opportunities offered by the institutes and the thriving startup culture.

The highest dropout rates are observed among PhD students. The report attributes uncertainties in job prospects and conflicts between professors and students as key reasons influencing dropouts.

*A multi-dimensional problem*

Saurabh Tewari, assistant professor of design at IIT Delhi, said that several barriers and factors compel students to drop out of the institution.
“Students face challenges in adapting to the new system. After taking admission, they realise that the course is quite rigorous. Another factor driving dropouts is the initiation of entrepreneurial ventures by students. They quit the course once they start working on their startups,” he said.

A student from the 2017 batch of the B.Tech programme in textile technology, who dropped out of IIT Delhi during his final year cited academic pressure and an overwhelming workload as the primary reasons prompting students to discontinue their IIT journey.

“If academic performance falls short, it can lead to restrictions on participation in clubs, societies and extracurricular competitions, creating a sense of failure,” said the 25-year-old, who chose to remain anonymous.

He added that the demanding nature of the programme made it difficult for students to make academic recovery.

“If we don’t perform in academics for two–three semesters continuously, then recovery becomes almost impossible. I completed the majority of the portion of my degree, but there were four–five courses that I couldn’t complete. I had two options in the end: getting a degree extended or dropping out. I chose the latter,” he said.

While these reasons may not apply to students pursuing master’s degrees at the IITs, the allure of more lucrative and promising opportunities often leads them to drop out. A former M.Tech student who left IIT Delhi cited his primary goal as securing a position in a public sector undertaking (PSU).

“I got a call from a PSU and decided to leave the IIT. Many students who discontinue their master’s at an IIT do so because they secure a job offer or a PSU opportunity,” said the 23-year-old, a native of Maharashtra, on the promise of anonymity.

Farukh (name changed on request) joined a PhD programme at IIT Delhi this year. He quit the course within six months. The Srinagar native said that the environment at the institute often overwhelms students.

He explained that while working on one task, additional responsibilities are continually assigned, causing an excessive workload. This, in turn, proves challenging for most students, paving the way for their dropping out.
The data presented in Rajya Sabha shows that PhD programmes have seen a significant number of dropout cases over the years.

Farukh, while sharing his experience, said, “After doing a rigorous course for five to six years, there is no certainty that a PhD might lead to a job. This concern about the job prospects at the IITs was a significant factor in my decision to drop out of my PhD programme.”

Farukh mentioned that at the institute, students frequently encounter caste-related discrimination. “Professors often discriminate against students from Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe communities. A professor in my class asked a girl from Bihar, who belonged to a marginalised community, a question. When the girl couldn’t answer, the professor made a comment, saying, ‘You wouldn’t know; you’re from a Dalit background,’” Farukh said.

With the rising cases of suicides among students in elite institutions, questions about caste discrimination have been consistently raised. Farukh added that the caste system has always been a part and parcel of the IITs.

**Institutional responses**

Saurabh Tewari said that certain social factors are beyond the control of the IITs. “Multiple layers of caste exist nowadays. Technology illiteracy, the background of a person and finances are some of them. The sense of being excluded or the pervasive feeling of ‘not belonging here’ contributes to students developing an inferiority complex,” he added.

A report published on September 3 by the Board for Student Publication (BSP), a student-run media organisation at IIT Delhi, highlighted concerns about several student issues, including the unreliability of the grading system.

Naveen Kumar Singh, assistant professor of biomedical engineering at IIT Delhi, acknowledged the existence of such practices but emphasised the role of student participation in addressing them.

He explained, “At the IITs, grading practices vary because there are no standardised rules; it often depends on individual faculty members. However, it is a two-way system. At the end of each semester, students receive feedback forms. Unfortunately, most students do not complete these feedback forms, making it challenging for us to draw conclusive insights.”

Whether it is academic pressure, caste discrimination, an unreliable grading system, better job opportunities or numerous other factors contributing to the increasing dropouts, concerns from professors and students now encourage a call for a more student-centric approach.
Naveen sympathised with the challenges faced by students and gave an assurance that corrective steps are being taken to address these issues. “We receive a lot of feedback. Now, only one mid-term and end-term exam is conducted. We have also reduced the weightage. If a student is a part of some extracurricular activities, they get marks for that as well,” he added.

Students stated that entering the IITs with the hope of securing better jobs and opportunities, they often find themselves struggling with the competition they encounter inside.

Harsh Kumar Singh, a B.Tech student at IIT Delhi, said that while people know IITs as institutes with good placement records, they are often unaware that the journey within IITs is equally challenging.

“Every IITian will agree that the journey is not easy. Surviving inside an IIT is more difficult than getting in. Outside, our competition is with regular people, but inside, our competition is with other IITians,” said Singh.

**The way forward**

Droupadi Murmu, the President of India, in the inaugural address at the Visitor’s Awards in July, expressed concern over the rising number of dropouts and suicide cases.

“It should be the priority of educational institutions to protect and support their students against stress, humiliation, or neglect on their campuses. Just like the sensible and responsive head of a family, all the heads, teachers, and staff of institutions should be sensitive to the needs of the students. They are the guides as well as the parents of the students,” Murmu said.

A former student of IIT, now an expert of education policy, shared that steps are being taken by the government in this direction, “With the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 rolled out, government policy makers have done enough to help the students to develop their professional career from an early age.”

“Other supporting mechanisms are also on paper, all we need is implementation at local teaching level to deliver the benefits of the policies to the students,” he said.

**IIT-D’s first academic offering in Abu Dhabi: M Tech in Energy Transition and Sustainability**


The M Tech ET&S programme comprises a two-year in-person course at IIT Delhi Abu Dhabi’s temporary campus.
The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi Friday announced its first academic offering — an M Tech in Energy Transition and Sustainability (ET & S) – at its upcoming Abu Dhabi campus. The proposed ET& S Masters, for which up to 15 scholarships will be on offer, is scheduled to kick off in January 2024 and aims to prepare professionals and scholars in the energy industry, the institute said.

The M Tech ET&S programme comprises a two-year in-person course at IIT Delhi Abu Dhabi’s temporary campus.

IIT Delhi and the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) have partnered with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) to “reinforce the significance of this newly introduced master’s program and underscores all partners’ joint commitment in nurturing skilled talent in the UAE”, according to an official statement by the institute on Friday.

IIT Delhi is set to open a campus in Abu Dhabi where it will start offering degrees 2024 onwards. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Education and ADEK in this regard earlier in July this year.

“The transformative partnership, coinciding with the country’s ‘Year of Sustainability’, will offer up to 15 scholarship places in the master’s program. The proposed program is the first academic offering of the upcoming campus of IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi in the UAE capital,” the statement added.

It further said that “additionally, 10 more fully sponsored scholarship positions along with scholarships will be available for selected students from India-Abu Dhabi in the UAE capital.”
Director of IIT Delhi Rangan Banerjee said Friday, “IIT Delhi Abu Dhabi reflects the shared vision of the two countries in focusing on areas of educational excellence, innovation, knowledge exchange and investment in human capital. As its first academic offering, we expect the Masters in Energy Transition and Sustainability to bring exciting opportunities to our graduates as they pursue careers in this space.”

Banerjee further said, “We are excited about the unwavering support we have received from ADEK, along with the invaluable partnership of industry leader ADNOC, who have joined forces with us to provide comprehensive sponsorship to our students. We also expect this programme to become a cornerstone of the research and development in the space of renewable energy and energy transition, which we expect to become one of the focus areas of the Abu Dhabi campus.”

This will be IIT’s second international campus. Earlier, IIT Madras had signed an MoU on July 16 to set up a campus in Zanzibar.

The decision to set up an international IIT campus in the UAE was announced in August 2022.

As per a statement by IIT Delhi earlier this year: “IIT Delhi- Abu Dhabi will complement the academic, research and innovation ecosystem in Abu Dhabi through collaboration with key players such as Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence, Khalifa University, New York University, Abu Dhabi; Technology Innovation Institute; and Hub71 to offer complementary programmes, conduct cutting-edge research and advance local startup ecosystem.”

IIT Delhi and IIM Ahmedabad win top spots in Accenture Innovation Challenge


The competition was aimed at developing innovative technology-led solutions for real world problems. The 3.5 month-long competition saw participation from over 182,000 students from 6600+ colleges, of which 37 per cent were women.
SUMMARY

- More than 182,000 students from 6600+ colleges participated
- They developed technology-led solutions for real-world problems
- Teams from IIT Delhi and IIM Ahmedabad won the top spots

Students from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT Delhi) and Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A) won the top spots at the 2023 edition of the Accenture Innovation Challenge in the engineering and the business schools’ category, respectively.

The competition was aimed at developing innovative technology-led solutions for real world problems. The 3.5 month-long competition saw participation from over 182,000 students from 6600+ colleges, of which 37 per cent were women.

Raghavan Iyer, senior managing director and Innovation lead, Advanced Technology Centers at Accenture said, “Advanced technologies have the potential to not just solve business challenges but also address critical challenges facing society such as climate change, clean energy, and responsible consumption.”
“They can play a vital role in enabling equitable access to education, skilling, healthcare, and accelerate advances in agriculture, financial inclusion, and governance. Through the annual Accenture Innovation Challenge, our aim is to inspire technology-led creative thinking among young minds to address real world problems with affordable and scalable solutions,” Iyer added.

Accenture said in a press release that the theme of the challenge was ‘Reinvent businesses and accelerate change with the power of technology’. Participants were asked to leverage emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, automation, the cloud, blockchain, the internet of things and digital twins to develop and present novel solutions.

The delegation from IIT Delhi that won the competition in the technology category, Team Svar, developed an AI and machine learning-based mobile app that automates and personalizes speech therapy for children with speech impairments. Currently available in English and Hindi, the app plans to add more regional languages, and offers a 24×7 virtual speech therapist. It rewards children who pronounce words correctly, thereby motivating them to continue their therapy.

In the business school track, the all-women TARS team from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad put together a virtual stylist app that can curate fresh new looks and outfits from people’s existing wardrobe, promoting thriftiness and responsible consumption. Based on AI, machine learning and digital twin technology, it promotes a sustainable way of expanding one’s wardrobe through sharing.
IIT Delhi to Start Programme in December to Bolster India Semiconductor Mission, Empower Workforce


The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi is all set to host an intensive ‘Semiconductor Device Technology: Fabrication and Characterisation’ training programme from December 18 to 22 to support the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), dedicated to fostering a skilled workforce.

Designed as a part of the Continuing Education Programme (CEP) and conducted at the Nanoscale Research Facility (NRF), IIT Delhi, the hands-on course will immerse participants in the intricacies of microelectronic device design, fabrication techniques, and the exploration of current and future applications across diverse sectors.

The NRF at IIT Delhi stands as a hub for cutting-edge research in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, boasting state-of-the-art clean rooms and advanced fabrication instruments. Additionally, IIT Delhi’s CEP has expanded its outreach through certificate programs, ensuring accessibility to quality education across various domains.

The core objectives of the announced programme revolve around equipping participants with a comprehensive understanding of device design, Metal Oxide Semiconductor (MOS) device fabrication, and clean room protocols. It further stresses the importance of precise measurements and parameter extraction techniques vital for fabricated devices.
In terms of eligibility, this semiconductor-specific programme is accessible to individuals with B. Tech, M.Sc, M.Tech, PhD, and PDF qualifications, as well as scientists and faculty affiliated with AICTE-approved institutions and national laboratories. However, with limited slots for 30 participants available on a first come first served basis, interested individuals are encouraged to register before the December 1 deadline.

Led by experts from IIT Delhi’s renowned research departments including the Centre for Applied Research in Electronics, Physics, and Electrical Engineering, the programme spans a comprehensive curriculum. From silicon wafer processing to future perspectives in Microelectronics devices, the sessions are crafted to offer a holistic understanding of semiconductor technology.

Certificates will be awarded upon meeting the minimum evaluation criteria and maintaining consistent attendance throughout the programme. The NRF serves as the organising department and certificates will be issued in an e-format by CEP, IIT Delhi.

This news comes at a time when the US company Micron, which began work in Gujarat’s Sanand to make an Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) plant, has made its first round of recruitments from local campuses, with around 30 students receiving job offers or internship-cum-employment opportunities at the firm.

However, it should be noted that there is a dire need for a skilled workforce in the semiconductor industry. The industry is rapidly growing and becoming increasingly complex, and there is a shortage of workers with the skills and knowledge to keep up with demand. In India, with the government anticipating further positive developments in the semiconductor industry, initiatives like IIT Delhi would contribute to laying the groundwork at the grassroots level.

**Girls make up 26% of new entrants at 4 southern IITs, above national average of 20%**


The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad zone has the best gender ratio among all IIT campuses with close to 1,200 girls joining tech colleges there—IITs of Hyderabad, Madras, Tirupati and Palakkad—this year. While the average percentage of females who joined the IITs stands at 19.7%, the southern zone has 26% young women.

Their journey begins early. Not only have as many bagged a seat, but the proportion of girls who register from this zone are also almost 50% of the total aspirants. This zone comprises Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.
Five years after the supernumerary female quota was introduced in the IITs, almost every campus has an average of 19.7% girls.

In the latest batch of 2023, there are 3,411 girls, more than triple compared to 995 in 2017, a year before supernumerary seats were created for women. And, of those, a third is in IIT Hyderabad zone.

In 2018, the quota for women was 14%, which was increased to 17% the next year and 20% thereafter. A senior professor from IIT Madras said, "The gender mix has improved. Importantly, it has become better course-wise too. There used to be just about one or two girls in CS (computer science), but with the horizontal reservation (in every course), we have over 20 girls and about 70 boys."

IIT Delhi now aims to move towards a 50:50 gender ratio on its campus. The institutes have come a long way from the 1990s, when the ratio was close to 10:1 in favour of boys, which decreased to 7:1 in the early 2000s.

'Ve want to change mindset towards science & engineering’

Women are performing well academically. As we are moving towards becoming multi-disciplinary and opening more programmes like design and public policy, we are seeing that a good diverse mix adds so much to the richness of the educational experience,” said IIT Delhi director Rangan Banerjee. “While there is already an ecosystem to make everyone comfortable, we want to change the mindset towards science and engineering in a way that our campus’s gender ratio is reflective of India’s population numbers.

The ultimate goal is that gender becomes a non-issue,” added Banerjee. The supernumerary quota is hailed as an experiment that has brought much positivity on the Indian Institutes of Technology campuses that has distressingly low number of women. “Socially, this is going to have a long-term profound impact. IITs are creating leaders of tomorrow. So, a lot of these women who will graduate from the IITs will go on to occupy the top echelons — the country will see many women CEOs, several top bankers will be women,” said IIT Bombay director Subhasis Chaudhuri.

These additional reserved seats were the recommendation of a committee headed by Timothy A Gonsalves, former director, IIT Mandi. The institutes have come a long way from the 1990s, when the ratio was close to 10:1 in favour of boys, which decreased to 7:1 in the early 2000s, and then to 4:1 in the mid- and late-2000s. But later it deteriorated. In 2014, most IITs had anywhere between 5% and 12% of the girl
student population on their campuses. A year before the supernumerary seats were allotted to females, the IITs admitted 995 girls and 9,883 boys.

**JEE Advanced: IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi emerge as top choices**


In the top choices, IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi and IIT Madras have been the main contenders. IIT Delhi was the top choice for two JEE Advanced toppers (from top 50) in 2023 and only one student from top 50 picked IIT Madras in the 2023 session.

![Representative image. Express photo](image)

In the top choices, IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi and IIT Madras have been the main contenders.

The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT B) has been the most preferred IIT for JEE aspirants for the past few years. As per data analysed by the indianexpress.com, IIT Bombay has been the top choice for nearly 90 per cent of top 50 JEE Advanced rankers.

In 2018, 47 out of top 50 rankers chose IIT Bombay, and even though the number fell to 42 in 2019 and 2021, it has once again increased to 46 in 2022 and 2023.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institute Name</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tr>
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<td>42</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
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</table>
In the top choices, IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi and IIT Madras have been the main contenders. IIT Delhi was the top choice for two JEE Advanced toppers (from top 50) in 2023 and only one student from top 50 picked IIT Madras in the 2023 session.

IIT Bombay consistently ranks high across the years, securing positions within the top 50 and top 100. Even among the top 100 rankers, IIT Bombay has emerged as the most popular choice, as 67 students chose IIT Bombay in 2023, 68 in 2022, 62 in 2021, 58 in 2020, 62 in 2019 and 59 in 2018.

Additionally, IIT Delhi also maintains a strong performance, consistently ranking within the top 50 and top 100.

While IIT Madras — which has been securing rank 1 in the NIRF under the engineering category — has emerged as the third top choice. It has only managed to attract one student among the top 50 in 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020. The institute has received more interest among the top 100 rankers, as it attracted 8 students in 2023, 2 in 2022, 3 in 2021, 6 in 2020 and 2018 and 1 in 2019.

IIT Roorkee also featured in the wish list of 1 top 50 and top 100 candidate in 2021, and IIT Kanpur and IIT Kharagpur attracted students from top 100 in 2019 and 2018 respectively.

There are some newer IITs such as IIT Hyderabad, IIT (BHU) Varanasi which have emerged as popular IITs among the top 1000 candidates in the past few years. Other popular IITs are IIT Indore, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kanpur, IIT Roorkee and IIT Guwahati.

**IIT Bombay Secures Top Spot; IIT Delhi Stands Strong in QS Asia University Rankings 2024!**

Quacquarelli Symonds has announced the QS Asia University Rankings 2024 on November 8, highlighting remarkable achievements by Indian institutions.

Amongst the public institutions, IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi emerged as standout performers, securing positions within the premier top 50 list.

The ranking methodology mirrors that of the QS World University Rankings, as detailed on the official website. The 11 indicators include academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty/student ratio, international research network, citations per paper, papers per faculty, staff with a PhD, proportion of international faculty, proportion of international students, and proportion of inbound and outbound exchange students.
Amongst the public institutions, IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi emerged as standout performers, securing positions within the premier top 50 list. Additionally, Chandigarh University (CU) secured top spot among the private universities in India.

**IIT Bombay Leads the Way:**

Securing the top position in India and an impressive 40th rank in the overall Asia standings, IIT Bombay stands as a beacon of academic excellence.

**IIT Delhi’s Strong Presence:**

Not far behind, IIT Delhi claimed the second spot among Indian institutes, securing a commendable 46th rank in the overall QS Asia University Rankings.

### Indian Institutes in Top 100:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall Rank</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>City/State</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)</td>
<td>Mumbai, Maharashtra</td>
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<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>IIT Delhi (IITD)</td>
<td>New Delhi, Delhi</td>
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<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>IIT Madras</td>
<td>Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Indian Institute of Science (IISc)</td>
<td>Bengaluru, Karnataka</td>
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<tr>
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<td>IIT Kharagpur (IIT-KGP)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>IIT Kanpur</td>
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<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>University of Delhi</td>
<td>New Delhi, Delhi</td>
<td>45.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Global Leaders in the Limelight:

**Peking University of China** clinched the top spot in the Asia rankings, with the **University of Hong Kong** and the **National University of Singapore** following closely in second and third positions, respectively. Other global contenders include **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and Tsinghua University, China**, claiming the 4th spot.

In a significant stride towards inclusivity, this year's rankings included **856 universities from across Asia**, reflecting the diverse and dynamic landscape of higher education in the region.

**IIT Delhi Reserchers Develop 'Ultra Scratch-Resistant' Glasses for Smartphones, Tablets**


Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Delhi) have demonstrated a simple approach to developing ultra-scratch-resistant glass surfaces with the help of graphene nanocoatings for multi-functional “new-gen” devices and applications. It can be adopted for commercial applications in next-generation touch-screen displays in smartphones and tablets for longer service life and durability.

Sourav Sahoo (Prime Minister’s Research Fellow) demonstrated that the deposition of atomically thin two-dimensional material like graphene can make glasses scratch-resistant by leveraging its two fundamental characteristics – slipperiness and rigidity, the institute said. He was working under the supervision of Prof
Nitya Nand Gosvami from the Materials Science and Engineering Department, and Prof NM Anoop Krishnan from the Civil Engineering Department at IIT Delhi.

The research paper titled, “Superlubricity and Stress-Shielding of Graphene Enables Ultra Scratch-Resistant Glasses” was published in ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces.

“The scratches on glass surfaces, besides ruining the aesthetics, are also detrimental from a practical standpoint since they pave the way for easy cracking. Being not entirely “scratch-proof,” the only alternative, therefore, is to make the glasses more “scratch-resistant” by altering the surface properties, specifically the friction, which is known to dictate the extent of damage on glasses,” IIT Delhi said in an official press release.

“Nanoscale scratch experiments on silica glass surfaces against hard diamond probes reveal that the graphene coating effectively transforms the glass surface into a highly smooth, ultra-low friction surface—down to the regimes of “superlubricity.” Moreover, the load-bearing ability of graphene shields the underlying glass from the applied pressure, which further mildens the damage from aggressive abrasion to minuscule surface depression”, Prof Gosvami said.

“To put in perspective, graphene layers have one-millionth the thickness of human hair. Our computational model confirmed that such subnanometer-thin graphene layers act as a resilient shield for glasses, adept at safeguarding them from stresses during contacts”, added Prof Krishnan.

South Indian Bank partners with IIT Delhi to conduct hackathon

South Indian Bank (SIB), in collaboration with Enactus – Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, is proud to unveil the shortlisted teams for its prestigious hackathon competition – SIB Finathon. SIB Finathon aligns with the bank’s commitment to foster innovation and the adoption of cutting-edge banking technology.

SIB Finathon is a two-phase event, consisting of an online screening and shortlisting round, followed by the grand finale, where participants tackle three exciting challenges. The competition garnered applications from top engineering colleges and IT companies nationwide.

A panel of experts meticulously reviewed the submissions, resulting in 15 teams rising to the top. These 15 teams have been invited to participate in the co-creation camp scheduled to take place at IIT Delhi on November 4th and 5th, 2023. During this camp, participants will have a unique opportunity to present their innovative ideas and solutions, while receiving valuable guidance and mentorship from SIB, IIT Delhi’s faculty, and experts from Mindgate Solutions, OneCard, and OSTTRA.

The grand finale, set to be hosted at IIT Delhi’s prestigious campus on November 4th and 5th, 2023, will witness these talented teams competing for a total cash prize of Rs. 6 lakhs. It promises to be a showcase of innovative solutions to challenges in the finance industry.

In addition to the hackathon competition, SIB Finathon will also host a conclave, featuring distinguished speakers from the BFSI and tech domains who will exchange and share their insights and thoughts. Insightful fireside chats, engaging panel discussions, and abundant networking opportunities will enhance the overall experience for all participants.

SIB Finathon is poised to be an exciting event that combines innovation, education, and networking opportunities to foster the development of technology for the banking sector.

The 15 teams participating in the grand finale are as follows:

1. Team Phantom from Coimbatore Institute of Technology (CIT)
2. Team Investment Architects from IIT, Kharagpur
3. FinX from Saintgits College of Engineering (SCE)
4. Team 5G Only from IILM College of Engineering & Technology
5. Team HelloWorld from Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT)
6. Team Code Z from CUSAT
7. Team Strategic Savants from IIT, Kharagpur
8. Team Fintech from Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Nagpur
9. Team Innovate Invincibles from Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (AVV)
10. Team DigiCrafters from Shri Vile Parle Kelavani Mandal’s Dwarkadas J. Sanghvi College of Engineering (DJSCE)
11. Team Onfocus Soft from Onfocus Software Pvt Limited
12. Team Hyperpersonalizers from IIT Roorkee
13. Team Technophiles from CUSAT
14. Team AlgoAllies from Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT)
15. Team Akatsuki from IIT, Delhi

For more information about SIB Finathon, please visit: https://www.southindianbank.com/finathon/

**Stubble-burning solution: IIT Delhi develops sustainable homes from agro-waste**


Researchers at IIT Delhi have developed a sustainable solution to stubble burning through the creation of affordable and strong housing units from agricultural waste.

Researchers at IIT Delhi have developed a sustainable solution to stubble burning through the creation of affordable and strong housing units from agricultural waste. (Photo: PTI)
Stubble burning in India has long been a source of various issues including air pollution, health problems, and negative effects on soil fertility.

Embroiled in this dual crisis of environmental degradation and a lack of appropriate housing, especially in emergencies, India needed a solution that was both innovative and pragmatic.

**SUSTAINABLE AND AFFORDABLE HOMES USING AGRO-RESIDUES**

Under a project titled 'Sustainable and Affordable Homes using Agro-Residues: A Step Towards Green Future', Kusum Saini, a PhD research scholar, and Dr Vasant Matsagar, Dogra Chair and Professor from the Department of Civil Engineering of IIT Delhi, have turned a challenge into an opportunity.

Their new approach uses solid waste, i.e., agro residues, to create sustainable, affordable homes. These homes not only address housing issues but also contribute to combating air pollution and fostering an environment-friendly construction environment.

**SUSTAINABILITY MEETS RESILIENCE IN CONSTRUCTION**

The homes constructed are not just sustainable, they are designed to withstand extreme conditions such as earthquakes and harsh weather.

Using engineered biocomposites made from wheat and rice residues, the building units are cultivated by BIOCOM Structures, a startup company conceived under the mentorship of Dr. Vasant Matsagar.

These sustainable homes are quick to assemble and are modular – a feature that increases their potential for usage in remote areas for healthcare facilities or rehabilitation structures in disaster-struck areas.

**RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND CONSTRUCTION WASTE DISPOSAL ISSUE**

The biodegradable nature of these construction units also offers a solution to the prevalent issue of construction material waste disposal.

Moreover, their production method, which eschews synthetic construction materials, reduces the carbon footprint, thus addressing climate change concerns effectively.

**AGRO-WASTE TO WEALTH**

Next on the horizon is the application of this technology in constructing all-weather rural roads using local agro residues. This not only promises sustainable solutions but also proffers job creation and economic prosperity, turning agro-waste into commercial commodities.
This project embodies the very essence of sustainability – turning waste into wealth while contributing significantly to India's green future.

**Pollution problem to climate crisis, IIT Open House tries to address all**


From finding solutions to air pollution and disaster housing to climate crisis mitigation and detecting landslides, the 16th annual Open House at Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, had over 2,000 school students from more than 40 schools participating on Saturday.

One of the standout projects, titled 'Sustainable and Affordable Homes using Agro-Residues: A Step Towards a Green Future', led by Kusum Saini, a PhD scholar, and Vasant Matsagar, professor of civil engineering, aims to turn agricultural solid waste into a valuable resource that addresses air pollution and the lack of housing, especially in remote areas. The building units for these sustainable and affordable homes are made from biocomposites of wheat and rice residues.

The project, part of startup company BIOCOM Structures, is funded by the Industrial Research and Development at IIT-D. Saini explained, "These homes are easy to assemble and can be used in remote areas as permanent structures, healthcare facilities and disaster relief shelters. These biodegradable building units help address waste disposal challenges in high-altitude areas and reduce
the carbon footprint associated with synthetic construction materials."

During the event, Rangan Banerjee, IIT-D director, said, "The objective of Open House is to show school students what IIT-Delhi is doing in science and technology and showcase our work in areas that impact the real world. The idea is to encourage school students to make informed decisions about their future."

Sunil Jha, chairman of Open House 2023, expressed satisfaction, saying, "Continuing the tradition of the last 15 years, Open House 2023 provided an insight into path-breaking research work, student projects and the numerous advanced facilities and laboratories available at IIT Delhi to the school students."

The IIT Delhi Alumni Association recognised the outstanding projects at Open House and awarded prizes worth Rs 2.15 lakh to the researchers. One of the projects was an 'Easy-to-use Deep Learning based Landslide Detection Tool' developed by civil engineering students, including Ria Joshi and Harshul Malik, under the guidance of professor Manabendra Saharia and PhD guide Nirdesh Sharma. Given that the current landslide predictions require a large amount of annotated landslide remote sensing satellite data which is laborious and time-consuming to prepare, the new tool, according to Joshi, is "an open-source app available on Google Earth that speeds up all the landslide studies and landslide forecasting models, producing high-quality data within a minute with minimal human effort".

Aaditeshwar Seth of the School of IT led the CoRE stack initiative. Seth said, "CoRE stack is a solution to provide rural communities with tools that can help them understand the socio-ecological aspects of their landscapes, make informed decisions, facilitate access to public and private funding and guide them on creating sustainable ecosystems."

**IIT Delhi Abu Dhabi campus to start off master's courses from January 2024**


IIT Delhi is set to begin its inaugural master's degree programme in energy transition and sustainability from its Abu Dhabi campus in January 2024.
IIT Delhi is set to begin its inaugural master's degree programme in energy transition and sustainability from its Abu Dhabi campus in January 2024. (Photo: India Today)

India's renowned engineering institute, IIT Delhi, has announced plans to begin offering its Master's programmes from its Abu Dhabi campus beginning January 2024.

The announcement was made by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, during his recent three-day visit to the UAE.

**COURSE FOCUS ON ENERGY TRANSITION AND SUSTAINABILITY**

The initial Master's course at the IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi campus will focus on energy transition and sustainability, reflecting a shared vision between India and the UAE to leverage knowledge for mutual prosperity and global well-being.

The programme will also mark a significant development in India's broader goals of internationalising education.

The news was further amplified by the union minister's appreciation for the Abu Dhabi leadership: "It is a testament of the common vision and priorities of the leadership of both our countries."
The minister also shared that the interim campus will operate advanced research centres focusing on sustainable energy and climate studies.

ADMISSION CRITERIA DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED

While detailed guidelines on the admission process are expected to be issued shortly, IIT Delhi has stated the JEE Advanced score may not be required for admission. Instead, a separate admission test will likely be introduced.

This exciting development follows the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by IIT Delhi with the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) and the Indian Government's Ministry of Education in July 2023, establishing IIT Delhi's international campus in Abu Dhabi.