"I like the religion that teaches liberty, equality, and fraternity."

-B R Ambedkar

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IIT Delhi's Initiative for Caste Equity formalised to address caste discrimination; APPSC lauds move


An autonomous student body, APPSC opines that this "initiative is meant to curb the growing deaths of marginalised students on the IIT campus"

Here are the details of ICE...(Pic: EdexLive Desk)

About a month ago, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi made its caste-related cells active and made them available for students. Appreciating this initiative, an autonomous student circle, Ambedkar Periyar Phule Study Circle (APPSC) of IIT Delhi, termed it as an "instrumental moment in the history of IITs".

According to the official message from the Dean of Diversity & Inclusion Cell of the institute dated March 23, to which EdexLive has access, Initiative for Caste Equity (ICE), Office of Accessible Education (OAE), Indradhanu, and Initiative for Gender Equity and Sensitisation (IGES) have been made active and available to provide advice and support on matters related to diversity and inclusion.

Following this, in its Instagram post on April 25, APPSC wrote, "Details of the formalised team meant to address caste discrimination on the IIT Delhi campus is up on the IIT Delhi website. This has been an instrumental moment in the history of IITs as more students are encouraged to acknowledge the ‘presence’ of caste in the classroom, and acknowledge the historical and present ways in which historical caste..."
oppression continues as lewd comments, demeaning remarks and suspicious gazes, and hyper-vigilant friendships that lack trust."

To recall, IITs have made headlines many times as they have witnessed deaths of marginalised students due to alleged caste discrimination on campus. Therefore, APPSC opines that this "initiative is meant to curb the growing deaths of marginalised students on the IIT campus".

**Ambedkar Jayanti**

IIT Delhi celebrated Jai Bhim Saptah-2024 from April 12 to 16 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar. As a part of this, various programmes were conducted by the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) Cell, which was the organising committee.

Book stalls related to social justice, lectures, a dignity march, a blood donation camp, a film screening, a drawing competition and an award ceremony were few of the activities listed in the schedule for the five-day event along with a visit to the Parliament.

Connecting dots between the formulation of the ICE and the celebrations of Ambedkar Jayanti, an APPSC member, on the condition of anonymity said, "This is the first time we had an off on Ambedkar Jayanti. Also, a conference on Critical Philosophy of Caste and Race was organised for the first time in March due to the existence of the ICE cell."

**What is ICE?**

Established in 2023, the Initiative for Caste Equity (ICE) aims to work to educate the campus community about the value of equality and diversity. Additionally, it aims to address the needs, aspirations, and challenges of Scheduled Castes-Scheduled Tribes (SC-ST) students, staff, and faculty to build a "cohesive, discrimination-free and inclusive campus community", as mentioned by the institute on its website.

An official speaking to EdexLive clarified that the cell has been active in progressively solving all the matters reported so far.
AFMS, IIT-Delhi ink MoU for research in medical devices


The Armed Force Medical Services (AFMS) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for collaborative research and training with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, on Monday. The MoU was signed by Director General, AFMS, Lt Gen Daljit Singh and Director, IIT-Delhi, Prof Rangan Banerjee.

The agreement encompasses research and innovation endeavours aimed at developing innovative medical devices and addressing health concerns unique to soldiers serving in diverse terrains.

The Ministry of Defence emphasised that IIT-Delhi possesses a strong biomedical research ecosystem, making it well-suited to offer the technical proficiency necessary for tackling the wide array of medical challenges encountered by the armed forces, including the rehabilitation of amputees.

Lt Gen Daljit Singh expressed confidence that collaboration with IIT will advance research efforts. Prof Banerjee highlighted the comprehensive potential of the MoU for conducting research and providing training that will benefit both the nation and the armed forces.

Besides, faculty exchange programmes, joint academic activities and development of joint PhD programmes will also be planned under the ambit of this agreement, the officials said.
Samsung Launches Season 3 of ‘Solve for Tomorrow’ at IIT Delhi with Separate School and Youth Tracks in India


From Left to Right – Mr. Shubham Mukherjee, Head Corporate Citizenship, Samsung Southwest Asia, Mr. Shombi Sharp, United Nations Resident Coordinator in India, Mr. JB Park, President & CEO, Samsung Southwest Asia, Dr. Sandip Chatterjee, Sr. Director and Scientist ‘G’, Ministry of Electronics & IT, and Col. Naveen Goyal, Chief Operating Officer, FITT, IIT-Delhi

Samsung India has announced the third edition of its flagship CSR initiative – ‘Solve for Tomorrow’, in strategic collaboration with the Foundation for Innovation & Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, and the United Nations in India. With Solve for Tomorrow, Samsung aims to usher in a culture of innovative thinking and problem solving amongst the country’s youth.

Solve for Tomorrow 2024 was inaugurated by Mr. JB Park, President & CEO, Samsung Southwest Asia, Dr. Sandip Chatterjee, Sr. Director and Scientist ‘G’, Ministry of Electronics & IT, and Mr. Shombi Sharp, United Nations Resident Coordinator in India, in the presence of other dignitaries at Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.
The CSR programme recognizes the power of innovative solutions and their ability to transform lives, makes a strong social impact, and strengthens Samsung’s vision of #TogetherforTomorrow #EnablingPeople.

This year, the ‘Solve for Tomorrow’ programme introduces two distinct tracks – School Track and Youth Track, each dedicated to championing a specific theme and targeted towards different age groups. Both the tracks will run simultaneously, ensuring equal opportunity and a level playing field for all students.

The School Track, is tailored for students aged 14-17, focusing on the theme “community and inclusion”. The track underscores the importance of uplifting underprivileged groups, improving accessibility to health & social inclusion for all through social innovations and hence ‘Solving for India’.

The Youth Track on the other hand, targets individuals aged 18-22, with a focus on the theme “environment and sustainability”. The track seeks innovative ideas for reducing carbon footprint, protecting the environment & promoting sustainability and hence ‘Solving for the World’.
Mr. JB Park, President & CEO, Samsung Southwest Asia, said, “At Samsung, we strive to inspire and shape the future through innovative ideas and transformative technologies. Our mission revolves around fostering the next generation of innovators and catalysts for social change. Solve for Tomorrow is truly shaping up as a platform for India’s youth to come up with meaningful innovations that can improve the lives of people.”

Dr. Sandip Chatterjee, Senior Director and Scientist ‘G’, The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) said, “Environment and sustainable development are amongst the priority agenda of Government of India. It is an opportune moment to combine technology with the human capabilities for accelerating economic growth. Indian youth, having innovative mind and skills, cares deeply for the environment. Using radical innovations, various global grassroots issues and challenges could be addressed. Programmes like ‘Solve for Tomorrow’ are a testament to realise the vision of the Government of India, by harnessing the power of youth.”
Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator in India, said, “I am delighted to participate in the third edition of the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow programme, an exciting initiative which encourages and promotes youth-led innovation to solve challenges related to the Sustainable Development Goals. The UN system in India works with and supports initiatives by the private sector that promote the ambitions and leadership of young people, like The Solve for Tomorrow programme. With the greatest youth generation in history, ever, India has more young minds bringing their energy & solutions than ever before! This means that Indian solutions will also be global solutions.”
Three winning teams from Solve for Tomorrow 2023 attended the launch event and shared a glimpse into their journeys. The winning teams, **NIT Surat**, developed an automated beach-cleaning robot called *Sweep*; **Stemly**, developed a conversational AI tool to help women choose STEM and **Think**, built a personal cooling device called ‘Kavach’ for those who work outdoors.

“After winning the program, I feel more confident in my journey as an entrepreneur”, said Yash from Team Stemly.

“The experience at Solve for Tomorrow 2023 was enriching, and we received insightful feedback that further fueled our passion for creating positive societal impact through our initiatives. Samsung Solve for Tomorrow prepared us in a way that we are able to present and pitch in front of the best of entrepreneurs”, said Mukkabir.

**Samsung Solve for Tomorrow at a Glance**

**Who can participate:** 14-17 year-olds in School Track – individually or in teams of up to 5 members can submit their ideas in the “Community & Inclusion” theme and 18-22 year-olds in Youth Track – individually or in teams of up to 5 members can submit their ideas in the “Environment & Sustainability” theme
Application themes

“Community & Inclusion”, under School Track, caters to empowering underprivileged groups by improving accessibility to health, improving learning methods and access to education, and ensuring social inclusion for all

“Environment & Sustainability”, under Youth Track, will focus on environment protection, reducing carbon footprints and promoting sustainability

What will they get

Hands-on training from various industry experts including Samsung, MeitY, IIT-Delhi, and technical support from United Nations in India. In addition, participants will get exclusive mentoring and coaching to build their ideas into prototype, an opportunity to attend a curated innovation walk with focussed interactions with Samsung leaders, and milestone-based grants for prototype development and enhancement

School Track: Semi-finalists 10 teams will get INR 20,000 grant for prototype development & Samsung Galaxy Tabs. Finalists 5 teams will get INR 1 Lakh Grant each for prototype enhancement & Samsung Galaxy Watches

Youth Track: Semi-finalists 10 teams will get INR 20,000 grant for prototype development & Samsung Galaxy Laptops. Finalists 5 teams will get INR 1 Lakh grant each for prototype enhancement & Samsung Z Flip Smartphones

What do winners get

School Track: The Winning Team will be declared as the “Community Champion” of Solve for Tomorrow 2024 and will receive a seed grant of INR 25 Lakh for prototype advancement. The Schools of the winning teams will also receive Samsung Products to boost educational offerings, encouraging a problem-solving mindset.

Youth Track: The Winning Team will be declared as the “Environment Champion” of Solve for Tomorrow 2024 and will receive a grant of INR 50 Lakh for incubation at IIT-Delhi. The colleges of the winning teams also receive Samsung products to boost their educational offerings, encouraging social entrepreneurship.
First launched in the US in 2010, Solve for Tomorrow is currently operational in 63 countries globally and has seen over 2.3 million young people participate worldwide.

Samsung Electronics’ global CSR vision of ‘Together for Tomorrow! Enabling People’ is committed to providing education to young people around the world to empower the leaders of tomorrow. Read more stories on Samsung Electronics’ CSR efforts on our CSR webpage [http://csr.samsung.com](http://csr.samsung.com)

**IIT Delhi forms APG to support academically weak students to complete their degree on time**

*April 17, 2024 07:00 AM  [https://www.educationtimes.com/article/campus-beat-college-life/99735314/iit-delhi-forms-apg-to-support-academically-weak-students-to-complete-their-degree-on-time](https://www.educationtimes.com/article/campus-beat-college-life/99735314/iit-delhi-forms-apg-to-support-academically-weak-students-to-complete-their-degree-on-time)*

To curb the potential threat of a degree extension, the panel has suggested a slew of measures including mandatory academic advising for underperformers, and closer monitoring of class attendance.

To ease the academic burden of students and prevent them from taking adverse steps which in certain cases has led to suicides, IIT Delhi has formed the Academic Progress Group (APG) in September 2023, to address the concerns of undergraduate students and facilitate their academic journey. The panel comprising six faculty members now has two student representatives, Rahul Kumar Kanoongo (from Mechanical Engineering stream) and Sara Zareen (from the Mathematics department).

The APG will identify and provide individual assistance to students in need of academic support. “APG will be empowered to interface with academic units and hostels and intervene as required, suggesting policy
changes that may be needed. Additional student members can be included in the Group, as needed, by the APG at its discretion, read the notification by the management.

“The Group met with several students considered to be academically adrift. So far, as many as 192 students with backlogs have been identified. The academic record of UG students on probation and backlog helped the team members offer solutions. “Based on the meetings of APG with some students, and analysis of the academic records of UG students on probation and backlog, it has provided some key recommendations,” says Sanjeev Sanghi, chairperson, APG and professor, Department of Applied Mechanics, IIT Delhi.

The Group is helping academically weak students to pass the exams and graduate on time. “When students fail in the core courses, we realise they may have problems graduating on time. We are trying to address the issues both at the individual level and through systemic changes. In case of the former, we send out mails to enquire if students require personal tutoring for which the support of APG’s student members can be enlisted to help identify seniors who can guide the students in the process,” adds Sanghi.

In exceptional cases, if a student needs to stay with his/her parent/guardian, recommendations will be made to provide such arrangements on campus. “For this provision, we would take inputs from the campus counsellor(s) as well,” Sanghi says.

Crises and causes

The need for APG was felt because of increased student enrolment and diversity. "The Group was formed in September 2023 following the death of a student by suicide (Anil Kumar hailing from Uttar Pradesh’s Banda district who was pursuing BTech in Mathematics) although the idea of such a committee had been brewing earlier, says Prof Narayanan D Kurur, dean academics, IIT Delhi. “The potential threat of a degree extension is a source of serious concern to students. There are multiple reasons including societal expectations, career prospects, and social isolation. To address the challenges, the APG is implementing measures including mandatory academic advising for students who are underperforming, in addition to a tutoring system, summer courses and closer monitoring of attendance in classes, which is known to be correlated with learning,” Kurur says.

After analysing the academic records of undergraduate students on probation and backlog, the APG held discussions with several students and provided recommendations for changes at the institute. The recommendations are broadly classified into (i) for immediate implementation to support backlog students and (ii) to initiate broader discussion on academic rules. Here are some of the key recommendations.

For immediate implementation

Academic guidance: The guidelines suggest mandatory academic advising for students with weak academic performance. Currently, such students including those on academic probation and/or students with E, F, or W grades in core courses, may not be getting proper guidance to tailor their graduation plan. To support such
students. It has been proposed that provision should be made to identify these cases based on appropriate filters and such students should be assigned appropriate faculty mentors to help them in choosing the courses for next semester to ensure the best possible graduation path.

**Hostel accommodation:** A major cause of backlog students not being able to complete their degree requirements is the non-availability of hostel accommodation beyond nine semesters. The APG has recommended that 30 hostel seats be reserved for backlog students beyond nine semesters. The accommodation will be provided subject to 75% attendance in lectures, tutorials, and laboratory sessions. The recommendations for hostel accommodation will be made by APG.

**Tutoring system:** To increase the effectiveness of this system run by BSW and the Dean of Students, the tutorial sessions run by student mentors should be widely publicised among students and faculty. An online portal should be developed to help needy students identify tutors. Tutors should be available for fourth and fifth-year students as well. The incentives to the tutors should be enhanced to improve student participation.

**Attendance system:** Attendance in classes and academic performance and learning outcomes are closely linked. Several students, it was noted, are exploiting loopholes in the Timble attendance system and skipping classes, which eventually affects their academic performance. Therefore, the APG has recommended that the loopholes in the current attendance system be plugged in based on feedback from all stakeholders. “Unless students attend their classes regularly, it becomes difficult for the weak students to clear their courses,” Sanghi says.

**Summer courses:** A major cause of delayed graduation is failure in one or more first-year undergraduate courses. While some first-year courses are being run during the summer semester, efforts should be made to facilitate the running of all such courses with significant backlogs. Moreover, steps should be taken to ensure that backlog students register for the summer courses.

**For broader discussion**

**Minimum DGPA criterion:** Currently, a minimum DGPA of 5.0 is required for the award of a BTech degree. “Since the pass grade for each course is D (4 out of 10), it is recommended that the minimum DGPA criterion should be removed. The graduation should be based solely on the earned credit requirements. Hence a student with a pass grade of 4 in all subjects should be given a degree,” Sanghi says.

**Pre-requisites for course registration:** A primary reason for delayed graduation is the inability of students to register for core courses having pre-requisites, which the students have not completed. Currently, E or F grades in pre-requisite courses render a student ineligible for registering for the next course. The feasibility of allowing students to register for the next course with an E grade in the pre-requisite course may be explored, the APG suggests. This may require new guidelines for awarding an E grade. During the curriculum
review, the department should carefully re-consider the prerequisites and the slotting pattern of core courses to reduce delayed degree cases.

**IIT-Delhi among the top 100 in 8 subject areas**


The five specific subjects come under the broader subject area of Engineering and Technology.

The QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024 placed IIT Delhi among the top 50 institutions in the world in the broader subject area of Engineering and Technology with a rank of 45. The Institute is also ranked among the top 100 world institutions in eight specific subject areas.

IIT Delhi has been included among the top 100 institutions in the world in the five specific subjects under the broader subject area of Engineering and Technology. Civil and Structural Engineering (Global Rank 39); Mechanical Engineering (Global Rank 50); Electrical and Electronic Engineering (Global Rank 55); Computer Science and Information Systems (Global Rank 63) and Chemical Engineering (Global Rank 86).

Prof. Vasant Matsagar, Head of the Department, Civil Engineering said, “The Institute is in a top position in Civil Engineering. The department leads not only in the development of human resources but also innovating futuristic technologies. The activities contribute meaningfully to the development.”

**Youth Speak Forum hosted at IIT Delhi to foster leadership, international opportunities**


Youth Speak Forum stands as a beacon of empowerment, an initiative by AIESEC, a globally recognised non-profit organisation driven by youth, aimed at fostering responsible leadership and providing international opportunities for young individuals.
The Youth Speak Forum served as a testament to the power of youth in driving positive change and fostering inclusive development. (Representative image/file)

Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D) hosted the ‘Youth Speak Forum’ an event held in association with the Office of Academic Outreach and New Initiatives on April 7 at Dogra Hall in the campus.

Youth Speak Forum stands as a beacon of empowerment, an initiative by AIESEC, a globally recognised non-profit organisation driven by youth, aimed at fostering responsible leadership and providing international opportunities for young individuals.

YSF can convene young minds from diverse backgrounds, providing a platform for them to articulate their perspectives and ideas on pressing global issues that profoundly impact both them and their communities. Under the overarching theme of ‘Educate, Empower, Equalise,’ this year’s forum was dedicated to the exploration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including quality education, gender equality, and industry, innovation, and infrastructure.

The event commenced with an inspiring inaugural ceremony graced by notable personalities such as Vineet Gupta, Board of Advisory for AIESEC in Delhi IIT and Founder of Ashoka University, who shared invaluable insights on leadership and the role of youth. Joining him was Jitendra Das, Director General for FORE Group, shedding light on organisational research and education.
Shelly Oberoi, Mayor and MCD of Delhi NCR, emphasised the paramount importance of quality education for today’s youth. Additionally, a warm welcome was extended by Professor Soumik from the Office of Dean of Academic Outreach & New Initiatives at IIT Delhi, marking the beginning of an enriching journey for the attendees.

The heads of the event, Pranjali Joshi (Vice President of Finances and Outgoing Corporate Exchanges) and Arhan Sayyed (Vice President of Business Development and External Relations) along with the organising core committee headed by Arush Ramachandaran, invited keynote speakers on the stage to empower the crowd with their words. The event featured distinguished keynote speakers who imparted valuable knowledge and skills to the participants.

Himanshi Singh, Educational Influencer and Founder of Let’s Learn, conducted an enriching session on personal branding, communication skills, and CV building, empowering attendees to harness their potential. Pushkar Raj Thakur, Guinness Book World record holder and business coach who delved into the intricacies of the stock market and trading, offering valuable insights into financial literacy.

Furthermore, the forum provided a platform for industry leaders such as Kavita Dasan, Vice President – Talent Management for Suzlon, to share insights into sustainable energy and career opportunities at Suzlon for aspiring young minds.

Sessions on international internship opportunities facilitated by AIESEC were also conducted, highlighting avenues for global engagement and professional growth.

The forum also witnessed engaging sessions led by experts in various fields, including Mr. Shubhankar Mishra on journalism, Mitali Nikore on gender equality, and Nitin Joshi on content creation strategies. A pivotal aspect of the event was the panel discussion on gender equality, featuring esteemed panellists like Ms Ishita Mangal, a fashion influencer, and Ms Shruti Kapoor, project lead for UNICEF Yuva.

The discussion centred on professional growth opportunities for women and gender minorities across social, industrial, and creative landscapes. The culminating cultural ceremony of the event featured the talented artist Ashish Singh, the Director of Music Club of IIT Delhi.

The partnership with the Office of Dean of Academic Outreach and New Initiatives at IIT Delhi underscored the institutional support for initiatives promoting youth empowerment and leadership development. Additionally, certifications from esteemed organisations such as International Youth Council And UNICEF added prestige and recognition to the Youth Speak Forum, enhancing its value proposition for participants and stakeholders alike.
In conclusion, the Youth Speak Forum served as a testament to the power of youth in driving positive change and fostering inclusive development. As attendees departed with newfound knowledge, skills, and inspiration, they carried forth the torch of leadership, poised to make a meaningful impact in their communities and beyond!

**IIT Delhi announces certificate course in Machine Learning & Deep Learning**


**This programme by IIT Delhi will be conducted via the Interactive Learning (IL) platform and delivered in Direct-to-Device (D2D) mode**

The Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) is inviting the applications for the third batch of its Certificate Programme in Machine Learning and Deep Learning. Interested candidates can apply for this course at the official IIT Delhi website — iitd.ac.in.

This programme is designed to equip professionals with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in the constantly evolving fields of machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL).

**Course details**

The Certificate Programme in Machine Learning and Deep Learning is an online learning course spanning six months that is aimed at professionals in the software and IT industry and want to enhance their skills with ML/DL and aspire to work as Machine Learning Specialist, Deep Learning Specialist, Data Scientist, Data Analyst, AI Engineer, etc.

This programme by IIT Delhi will be conducted via the Interactive Learning (IL) platform and delivered in Direct-to-Device (D2D) mode. Enrolled participants will also get to visit IIT Delhi for a one-day immersion programme. Learners will also be engaged in a three-week Capstone project and four to six hours of Masterclass on GPT.

The Certificate Programme in Machine Learning and Deep Learning will boost learner competency with the necessary skills to become proficient in Python programming and developing skills for loading and pre-processing data using pandas, designing and training neural networks using Keras and TensorFlow modules, as well as implementing various machine learning and deep learning techniques for real-world applications.
Upon completion, learners will have the technical skills necessary to apply machine learning and deep learning techniques to real-world problems, IIT Delhi claims.

**New Zealand delegation visits IIT Delhi for international research collaboration**

April 8, 2024 12:32 pm IST  [https://theprint.in/world/new-zeland-delegation-visits-iit-delhi-for-international-research-collaboration/2032184/](https://theprint.in/world/new-zeland-delegation-visits-iit-delhi-for-international-research-collaboration/2032184/)

A delegation of researchers from New Zealand’s University of Canterbury paid a visit to Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-Delhi) to explore renewable energy research developments and strengthen partnerships in a series of workshops focused on green hydrogen.

This collaboration could help India and New Zealand reach renewable energy goals and bring an end to energy poverty.

According to the New Zealand Education press release, “IIT-Delhi Dean of Research and Development Professor Naresh Bhatnagar says an international commitment to developing renewable energy solutions needs enthusiastic and talented international partners.”

“If we find synergies and ways to get together as international partners, then the sum will be greater than the parts. We see this in our international collaborations: papers are cited more, perspectives are different, and the vibrancy of the campus and research grows,” he said.

Recently published IIT-Delhi research, ‘Mission Energy Access for a Just and Sustainable Future for all,’ supports the global goal of ending energy poverty by 2030.

The authors noted that it is a betrayal of the global commitment to ending energy poverty that so many global citizens remain unable to access reliable energy.

The press release stated, “India is committed to aspirational climate goals, including a government commitment to be energy independent by 2047. Renewable energy and green hydrogen will play a significant role in this.”

An expert in energy and hydrogen technologies, University of Canterbury Professor Aaron Marshall was delighted to join the delegation and share his research, which explores energy equity.
Further, his research aims to develop a new type of electrolyser, a tool that splits water into hydrogen and oxygen, to produce green hydrogen energy in a more cost-effective way by replacing noble metals, metals that are resistant to corrosion and oxidation.

“Energy is required to produce hydrogen. Currently, the best electrolysers are about 75% efficient, but they cost a lot to build and use expensive noble metals,” Professor Marshall says in the New Zealand Education press release.

The conversations will continue when IIT-Delhi Assistant Professor Suryanarayana Vikrant Karra, an expert in Materials Science, visits the University of Canterbury later in the year on an IIT-Delhi India-New Zealand Centre Fellowship.

Moreover, Christchurch, New Zealand, has emerged as a hub for developing green fuel technology.

University of Canterbury researchers work closely with industry, including Christchurch International Airport, the only net zero-emissions airport in New Zealand; Fabrum, an innovative green hydrogen producer; and Liquium, a producer of clean ammonium fuel that has the potential to decarbonise heavy industries such as shipping.

University of Canterbury Assistant Vice-Chancellor Engagement Brett Berquist led the delegation in India and outlined the unique opportunities a partner in New Zealand can provide.

“As a university and nation, we are focused on collaboration, sharing unique approaches, and scaling the benefits for other much larger countries.

Following our very productive visit to IIT-Delhi, we look forward to welcoming our colleagues from India to the University of Canterbury in Christchurch later in the year to strengthen our relationship and continue the conversation to end energy poverty,” says Mr Berquist.

Researchers at the University of Canterbury are leading two initiatives to advance green hydrogen energy in Aotearoa, New Zealand, in partnership with the German Aerospace Centre. In 2022, the projects received USD million in funding.

Rebecca Peer and Jannik Haas are leading a project that aims to develop an integrated energy system model and strategy for New Zealand that could provide sustainable transport, heating, and electricity. Research on our future energy needs
Project 2 includes a project by Professor Aaron Marshal to develop a new type of electrolyser, a tool that splits water into hydrogen and oxygen—​to produce hydrogen energy in a more cost-effective way. Creating cost-effective green energy.

Professor Matt Watson, in collaboration with the Robinson Research Institute, is investigating the technical and economic feasibility of using hydrogen to produce direct reduced iron (DRI) from New Zealand’s abundant irons and resources as a way of decarbonising the steel industry.

Professor Andy Nicol and Associate Professor David Dempsey received USD 11.8 million (2022) from the New Zealand Government’s Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to explore how hydrogen can be safely stored to be useful as an energy source. Green hydrogen powering the future of New Zealand.

Education New Zealand Manapou ki te Ao (ENZ) is the government agency responsible for taking New Zealand’s education experiences to the world. ENZ promotes a New Zealand education as one that teaches students to be critical thinkers, problem solvers and lifelong learners, which will help them succeed in their future careers and create a positive impact on the world.

With approximately 100 staff in 18 locations around the world, ENZ works closely with New Zealand’s diverse education sector, including schools, English language providers, private training establishments, Te Pukenga (Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics), universities; and internationally with NZ Inc. agencies, government agencies and education providers to encourage sustainable growth and identify opportunities. (ANI)

IIT-Delhi lends hand to students: Support panel, campus stay with kin for some
April 8, 2024 07:30 IST https://indianexpress.com/article/india/iit-delhi-lends-hand-to-students-support-panel-campus-stay-with-kin-for-some-9257135/

According to documents accessed by The Indian Express through the Right to Information Act, the APG has so far identified 192 undergraduate students at the institute as “academically adrift”, emphasising that these students need academic help.
Among other recommendations is one to fix the institute’s attendance system, as the APG “observed that several students are exploiting loopholes in the Timble attendance system, which eventually affects their academic performance”. (File Photo)

TO EASE pressure on students struggling with studies, which in extreme cases has resulted in suicides, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi has formed a panel of teachers and students to help its undergraduate students with a “poor academic record”, and in “exceptional cases” has also permitted a few students to stay with a family member on campus, The Indian Express has learned.

“In a few exceptional cases, the departments have identified at least three such students who they believe require additional support and must stay with a family member. In such cases, the student is allowed to live with a family member on campus and advised not to live alone in the hostel. Students in such cases can use the premises of a hostel we have on campus which also has the facility to cook food,” a member of the panel — Academic Progress Group (APG) — told The Indian Express.

According to documents accessed by The Indian Express through the Right to Information Act, the APG has so far identified 192 undergraduate students at the institute as “academically adrift”, emphasising that these students need academic help.

The APG was formed in September last year, soon after the death of a student, Anil Kumar, who died by suicide in his hostel room. Kumar hailed from Uttar Pradesh’s Banda district and was pursuing B Tech in Mathematics.
This year, there have been five student suicides at the IITs across India — two at IIT-Kanpur and one each in Delhi, Roorkee and BHU. An official notification on the formation of the panel said: “It (APG) will be empowered to interface with academic units and hostels and intervene as required. It will also suggest policy changes that may be needed.”

According to official records, the constitution of the APG was revised on March 5 with the inclusion of two student members in the eight-member panel.

The APG has so far analysed the academic records of undergraduate students on probation and backlog, held discussions with several students and provided recommendations for changes at the institute.

The recommendations are classified into two categories: “Immediate Implementation” and for “Broader Discussion”.

For immediate implementation, the APG has identified that “a major cause of backlog students not being able to complete their degree requirements is the non-availability of hostel accommodation beyond nine semesters”. “It is recommended that 30 hostel seats be reserved for backlog students beyond nine semesters. The accommodation will be provided subject to 75% attendance in lectures, tutorials and laboratory sessions. The recommendations for hostel accommodation will be made by the APG,” it has said.

The APG has also recommended increasing the effectiveness of the existing tutoring system run by the Board of Student Welfare (BSW) and the Dean of Students.

The BSW primarily consists of student representatives from each hostel and a few faculty members. According to the institute’s website, the BSW’s motive of the academic mentorship programme is “to help undergraduate first-year students in their academics via hostel sessions conducted by academically strong second-year students”.

In order to strengthen this, the APG said, “An online portal should be developed to help needy students identify tutors. Tutors should be available for fourth- and fifth-year students as well. The incentives to the tutors should be enhanced to improve student participation.”

“Several students have reached out for personal tutoring. We have provided these students with individual tutors,” the APG member, who did not want to be named, said.

Among other recommendations is one to fix the institute’s attendance system, as the APG “observed that several students are exploiting loopholes in the Timble attendance system, which eventually affects their academic performance”.

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Timble is an end-to-end system to mark paperless attendance in classrooms. Essentially, there is a Timble Device in the vicinity of each classroom, which interacts with all smartphones wirelessly, allowing students to mark attendance in the proximity of their respective classrooms.

“Sometimes, students tend to mark the attendance but skip the classes,” the APG member said.

A major cause of delayed graduation is failure in one or more first-year undergraduate courses. While some first-year courses are being run during the summer semester, the APG has suggested that “efforts should be made to facilitate running all such courses with significant backlog. Moreover, steps should be taken to ensure that backlog students register for the summer courses...” to ensure timely graduation of those lagging.

Under recommendations for “Broader Discussion”, the APG has suggested several policy changes in the way students at the institute are being currently graded.

For instance, the panel had suggested removal of the Degree Grade Point Average (DGPA), which is the calculated GPA of all courses.

Currently, a minimum DGPA of 5 is required for the award of a B Tech degree at an IIT, but the pass grade for each course is a D (which is 4 out of 10 points).

According to the APG’s suggestion, if a student is scoring a minimum of 4 out of 10 in each course, passing each individually, but the DGPA does not add up to 5, the student should still be declared as pass and should be awarded her degree.

The recommendations related to academic affairs have to be discussed and passed by the institute’s Senate, which is responsible for maintenance of standards of instruction, education and examinations at the institute.

The Indian Express reached out to IIT Delhi for comments on this matter but received no response.

**Lack of mass hiring by Amazon and other big cos adds to the woes of IITD students amid 30% drop in job offers**


**Synopsis**

IIT Delhi’s 2024 placement season faced challenges as students struggled to secure roles despite approaching numerous recruiters. The demand for specialized skills and absence of top firms added to the pressure, reflecting the tough job market conditions.
IIT Delhi students continue to face challenges as multinational corporations like Amazon and Goldman Sachs, among others refrained from mass hiring this year. Nearly 30 to 40 per cent of IIT students are still unplaced in the top-ranked older IITs and around 50-60 per cent of students are still unplaced in the newer IITs, as per the data compiled by Global IIT Alumni Support Group.

“We were informed that tech companies would come in fewer numbers due to the recession. We were, therefore, mentally prepared and very scared,” reported ToI quoting a student. “Sought after companies like Amazon and Goldman Sachs did not arrive for mass hiring. If they don’t come, what can we do?”

Rohit Shaw, a textile engineering student who was placed with a startup, noted the weakening market demand, both domestic and international, due to recession. “Surprisingly, popular consulting firms such as Bain and Co and Boston Consulting Group were not interested this year,” added Shaw.

IIT-D placements occur in three phases with the first and second phases in Dec and Feb and the final one in May. Many students who weren’t placed have been left applying for positions on LinkedIn, asking batchmates and seniors for referrals or contemplating additional qualifications and preparing for the CAT exam for higher degrees.

The student described the 2024 placement as “lacklustre” and said, “Despite better outcomes for undergraduate placements compared with postgraduate and PhD placements, we are feeling ourselves under undue pressure”.

IIT Kanpur alumnus Dheeraj Singh, founder of the Global IIT Alumni Support Group, said, “Off-campus placement is extremely challenging and many on-campus placed students are not happy with the pay packages offered. The situation is appalling.”

“We are mentally prepared for a set pattern of placement interview questions, but this time the companies were more demanding, seeking fewer candidates with specialised skills in artificial intelligence and machine learning for annual packages ranging from Rs 10-50 lakh,” the student said, adding that he lacked the skills required by the hirers because his interest lay in software development.