



NEWS CLIPS

Aug 4-10, 2018

Highlight of the Week@IITD

IIT Delhi to Expand beyond Its Tech Domain

August 6, 2018 <https://newshour.press/education/iit-delhi-expand-beyond-tech-domain/>

In an attempt to expand beyond its tech tag, IIT Delhi is looking forward to become a more inclusive institute. It is armed with financial support from the Centre under the Institute of Eminence scheme. However, the institute needs to abide by the norms of the Human Resources Development ministry, in order to get these funds.

IIT-Delhi is gearing up to foray into the international arena, enhance its infrastructure, faculty and improve its global ranking. An expenditure of over Rs 2,500 crore (which includes the Rs 1,000-crore funding) has been budgeted by the institute for the upcoming 5 years, in order to achieve this objective.

Though the institute's ranking was 172 globally, the lack of international students and a high teacher- student ratio made it loose points, said V Ramgopal Rao, the director of IIT Delhi. The institute got no points for its international mix of both students and faculty.

According to M Balakrishnan, the Deputy Director of IIT, the institute never invited applications from international faculty or promoted itself as a possible destination for them. "But with the new grant, we can send a team to international conferences. They can meet 30 to 40 possible candidates, and give us their feedback," he said.

Not expecting any students from high-income countries, IIT Delhi is looking forward to focus on the ASEAN countries. "While IIT does not have much autonomy in selecting undergraduate students, it can pick postgraduate students from different countries who would be given comparable grants to carry out research here," said Rao.

IIT Delhi is considering collaboration with Australia, Taiwan and Canada to start joint PhD courses by the end of this year. As a part of the course, the students will be required to go back and forth between the countries to complete their doctoral study. They will be awarded a joint degree on completion of the course.

The institute is relying upon the alumni connections, endowments, grants and industry collaborations for generating internal revenues. It is also likely to offer diploma courses for mid-career professionals against higher fees.

Aug 10

LoRaWAN Enables Services in IIT Bombay

<https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/business/2018/08/10/pwr3-senra%20tech%20private%20limited.html>

SenRa, a PAN India LoRaWAN™ network service provider today signed services agreement with Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) to provide LoRaWAN™ network to IIT Bombay. The agreement will focus to boost up technology advancements for solutions to various projects funded by the Government of India.

In 2014, the Government of India launched the 'Make in India' program to encourage companies to manufacture their products in India. As part of this initiative, they also set forth funded programs with top Universities to enable development of products made in India leveraging latest technologies while solving real (life) problems faced by people in India on a day-to-day basis. IIT Bombay is recognised worldwide as a leader in the field of engineering education and research. Reputed for the outstanding caliber of students graduating from its undergraduate and postgraduate programs, IIT Bombay is deemed as one of the top Universities in India.

With the recent successes of LoRaWAN™ in India, IIT Bombay was intrigued by the technology and sought out the support from companies with expertise in LoRaWAN™. As one of the leading LoRaWAN™ network operators in India, SenRa provided LoRaWAN™ network connectivity to IIT Bombay for research and development projects.

"We are extremely happy and honoured to have the opportunity to support IIT Bombay on LoRaWAN™ for their research and development efforts," said Ali Hosseini, CEO of SenRa. "By enabling Universities and students with access to our services, not only are we expanding the LoRaWAN™ ecosystem in India, but we are also expanding the minds of the future leaders of India."

With this deployment in Mumbai, SenRa's LoRaWAN™ network is now present in twenty cities throughout India and are on track to reach thirty cities by the end of year.

About SenRa

SenRa, a contributing member of the LoRa Alliance™, is a PAN India Low Power Wide Area Network Provider (LPWAN), specifically LoRaWAN™, for the Internet of Things (IoT) and Machine to Machine (M2M) solutions and applications. SenRa is currently deploying LPWANs throughout India for projects which require secure, reliable, long distance communication at low cost. SenRa is working with global partners to deploy smart solutions such as water metering, smart agriculture, smart lighting, smart cities, logistics, electric and gas meter.

Aug 9

AIIA signs MoU with IIT to boost research in traditional medicine

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/aiaa-signs-mou-with-iit-to-boost-research-in-traditional-medicine-118080800913_1.html

A premier institute of Ayurveda under the AYUSH Ministry today signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology here to boost research in traditional medicine and streamline hospital care facilities in the country.

The memorandum of understanding was signed at a two-day conference of heads of the AYUSH National Institutes organised by the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) aimed at upgrading the national institutes of traditional medicine at par with the IITs and IIMs.

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH), Shripad Yesso Naik said that the AYUSH Ministry envisioned developing the AYUSH National Institutes as "light house" institutions.

"In view of the worldwide changing healthcare system, it has become abundantly clear that there is a need for comprehensive review of traditional systems of medicine in terms of policy, legislation, regulation, research, development, financing, training and professional development, quality control and safety regulations of these systems of medicine," Naik said.

The minister said that Ayurveda is more oriented towards the management of lifestyle disorders, which are in prominence due to stress-related phenomena and some other reasons among certain age groups in the society.

Secretary AYUSH Rajesh Kotecha emphasised upon developing benchmarks for traditional medicine practices and a need for elevating status of such institutes to deliver in the areas of education and research.

IIT-Delhi Director V R Rao urged upon bringing together the faculty and students of both the institutes together to develop collaborative proposals that help in validating the traditional practices.

He stressed upon the need for understanding, analysing and validating the ancient wisdom by using available scientific tools.

The protocols on development of Standard Operating Procedures on pre-conceptual and pre-natal care through Ayurveda and standard operating procedures Uttara Vasti were released during the session.

Vice chancellors of the Gujarat Ayurved University, Uttarakhand Ayurved University, and Directors of Institute for Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata; Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi, among others, were present at the event.

IIT and IIM Graduates Earning Way More Than Their Peers, Studies Confirmed

<http://bweducation.businessworld.in/article/IIT-And-IIM-Graduates-Earning-Way-More-Than-Their-Peers-Studies-Confirmed/09-08-2018-157234/>

Responses collected from 114 engineering colleges across India during the first six months of 2018 India's elite engineering colleges are worth priceless. Graduates of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) receive an average salary offer of Rs 11.1 lakh per annum, which is \$16,000 and nearly 140% higher than the Rs 4.7 lakh that basic-level engineers make in the country, said a research by Mettl, an online assessments platform.

The research is based on the responses collected from 114 engineering colleges across India during the first six months of 2018.

According to a report, "IIT's penchant for quality intake, top-notch infrastructure, and fine faculty is what draws the employers towards them." Not just the top Indian companies but even international behemoths like Apple and Microsoft, too, come to IITs for recruitment.

The salary offers at the new IITs, formed in and after 2008, are far lower as compared to the older IITs – Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Kharagpur, Roorkee, and Kanpur – which are deemed "top."

Computer Science or Information Technology are the most lucrative among the various streams of engineering. On average, IT engineers make Rs 6.7 lakh a year, while those pursuing electrical, mechanical or civil engineering earn far lesser. Machine learning offers the most rewarding jobs with an average annual pay upwards of Rs 18 lakh among computer science and IT roles.

At the master's level, too, there's a clear leader. Commended as the world's toughest B-schools to get into, the Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) far exceeds other management colleges in terms of pay scales.

Graduates from the top IIMs like Ahmedabad or Bangalore earn Rs 20.6 lakh per annum at the entry level, which is 121% higher than the Rs 9.3 lakh graduates get on average in India, Mettl's survey of 80 MBA colleges revealed.

However, unlike the IITs, the IIMs are not beating the rest by a mile.

Students from the country's top private colleges, such as Management Development Institute, Gurugram, and Mumbai-based SP Jain Institute of Management and Research, make nearly as much as those from IIMs.

Ideal for candidates who have both, an MBA and a B Tech degree, roles like IT consultant, product head, and chief technology officer, have the most attractive pay packages, Mettl found.

While they face criticism for the high-pressure and sometimes uninspiring learning environment, the resources and networks available to students of the IITs and IIMs are priceless and securing a job or funding comes easier to them. Higher pay scales are add-ons.

Aug 8

Will IITs become post-graduate-only? IIT Council to discuss on 21 August

<https://theprint.in/governance/will-iits-become-post-graduate-only-iit-council-to-discuss-on-21-august/94994/>

The idea came up as a way to curb the billion-dollar private coaching industry that has grown around the IIT entrance exam, JEE.

A section of the faculty and alumni of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) has suggested a radical idea that could change their very nature – make the premier engineering colleges post-graduate and research-centric institutions like the IIMs instead of focusing more on undergraduates as they currently do.

Sources in the human resource development ministry said the idea was discussed by policymakers and experts while they were trying to figure out ways to curb the role of private coaching classes that prepare students for the Joint Entrance Examination. Students start preparing for the JEE as early as in class 5 in some cases, and this has given rise to a billion-dollar private coaching industry.

The proposal is set to be taken up for discussion at a meeting of the IIT Council on 21 August. The council, which takes all important decisions related to the institutions, consists of the directors of all IITs, and is headed by the union HRD minister.

A radical change

IITs are traditionally known for their undergraduate programmes and their placements. But the new proposal entails that the IITs mentor B.Tech. colleges instead.

“At the undergraduate level, one IIT can mentor some 100 institutions around it. Then, out of the students from those institutions, some 10 selected students from each institution can complete their final semester in the IIT,” a source in the ministry said explaining the proposal.

“That way, each IIT will be able to at least provide accommodation and other facilities to a selected 1,000 students.”

Undergraduate programmes are also a major source of revenue for the institutions — the fee for a B.Tech. course is over Rs 1 lakh per semester. However, ministry officials said this should not be the main concern while considering this change.

“Funds should not be the biggest cause of worry for them. They can probably charge the same amount of fees by mentoring institutions. The larger concern is if the IITs will agree to give up something that has built their reputation for ages,” said a senior official in the ministry.

Mixed reactions

Is India’s engineering education system or the IITs themselves prepared for such a radical shift? Experts have mixed opinions on it.

A director of an IIT who did not wish to be named said: “While it would be good if the IITs move towards a more research-based approach, giving weightage to master’s and Ph.D. degrees, this cannot be done until the time we do not have second-rung institutes that can teach as well as the IITs at the undergraduate level. We have to first create institutes that are as good as IITs, and then gradually reduce the intake of students at the undergraduate level.”

The director said it is a welcome step that the government is at least considering a discussion on this issue, as it will pave the way for more research in the IITs, but added that whatever needs to be done has to be gradual.

However, Prof. Dheeraj Sanghi, who teaches at IIT Kanpur, said the move would be “disastrous”, and believes it will be rejected by the council.

“If something like this happens, we will destroy a system which is running well. We do not have good research or master’s-level studies happening in India, but at least the education system at the undergraduate level is running well right now. We should not destroy it,” he said.

This IIT Hyderabad student has bagged a Rs 1.2 crore job with Google

<https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/this-iit-hyderabad-student-has-bagged-a-rs-1-2-crore-job-with-google-1308692-2018-08-08>



After completing four rounds of online test which Google, a girl from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad has bagged a whopping 1.2 crore pay package (per annum) from the tech giant.

According to reports, this is the highest pay package a student has received in the IIT-H's history since it was established in 2008.

Sneha Reddy, who hails from a town in the Vikarabad district in Telangana, has been selected for Google Intelligence project.

Four gold medals:

Moreover, Sneha Reddy a Computer Science graduate from IIT- H has also received a medal under 'Excellence in Academics and Co-curricular activities' from President Ram Nath Kovind.

As per reports, Sneha completed four rounds of online test with Google.

Family background:

Sneha's father Sudhakar works in a software firm in Hyderabad.

Here's what the Sneha said:

"IIT-Hyderabad has encouraged its students towards experiments and helped her lot getting selected for Google's project."- Sneha told TOI.

IIT Hyderabad convocation:

In the 7th convocation ceremony held at IIT H this year, a total of four gold medals were given for academic and co-curricular excellence, of which three went to girls.



Further, President Ram Nath Kovind said that the best scientific universities and institutions of learning are not just teaching shops or degree factories but increasingly they are sources of innovation and incubators of technology and technology-driven start-ups.

"The knowledge ecosystem of public investments in science, academic institutions and universities, research laboratories, commercial applications and private enterprise has an almost magical potential.

Its best example is, of course, Silicon Valley in the US. At the core of Silicon Valley are basic science and technology campuses and their talented faculty and students."

- said President Kovind.

IIT Hyderabad batch topper bags Rs 35 lakh package



Meanwhile, the topper of Sneha's batch, Ibrahim Dalal, has bagged Rs 35 lakh per annum package. Dalal too has received the medal for scoring best CGPA this year.

About IIT Hyderabad

Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) is one of the six new Indian Institutes of Technology established by the Government of India in 2008.

In a short span of fewer than 10 years, the institute built on an imposing 570-acre campus has been ranked #10 among research and teaching institutions in Engineering in the India Rankings 2017 released by Ministry of HRD, Govt of India.

Aug 7

With thrust on garbage mgmt, IIT inks MoU with 4 CSIR labs

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/with-thrust-on-garbage-mgmt-iit-inks-mou-with-4-csir-labs/articleshow/65299258.cms>

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), to mark the third year of its establishment in Goa, has entered into MoUs with four laboratories of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR). Among other things, IIT Goa and CSIR's Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur, will study a suitable waste treatment facility for Goa and beyond. IIT Goa has identified garbage management as one of the key areas where it wants to contribute to helping the government. The institute has thus decided to help find a technological solution to the problem.

One of the solutions being looked at by is the possibility of creating a cost-effective machine that can separate organic waste from inorganic waste at a fast pace, so that the organic waste can then be treated.

While the IIT, with the National Institute of Oceanography, will study the area of ocean engineering and nonconventional energy, the IIT will team up with the Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology to research minerals processing and metallurgy, said IIT Goa director BK Mishra.

“The areas outlined are where a major thrust of the research will be, but the scope will not be limited to these,” said Mishra.

The IIT, which is presently housed on the campus of the Goa Engineering College, will also study computer-aided design and manufacturing, electronics and telecommunications. An MoU to this effect was signed with CSIR-AMPRI, Bhopal.

3rd Foundation Day of IIT Jammu celebrated

<https://kashmirreader.com/2018/08/07/3rd-foundation-day-of-iit-jammu-celebrated/>

***JK Bank institutes gold medals for academic toppers
Bank chairman calls for reaching out to students to channelize their energy***

Indian Institute of Technology, Jammu, on Monday celebrated its foundation day which was presided over by the Chairman and CEO, J&K Bank, Parvez Ahmed as chief guest in presence of guest of honour, Vice Chancellor, Central University, Prof Ashok Aima, Director IIT Jammu Manoj Gaur administration and faculty of IIT, Jammu and a large number of IIT students. The day marked the 3rd foundation day celebration since establishment of IIT at Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, J&K Bank Chairman & CEO Parvez Ahmed congratulated the entire team of IIT Jammu and described the day as a milestone for the entire J&K State for ushering an abode of knowledge and innovation within the state. He hailed the contributions of Indian institutes of technology in shaping the country and bringing global recognition to India by producing finest engineers and business leaders.

“Your presence here opens great opportunities to explore research and contribute technological solutions for the welfare of our people in the state, understand the challenges unique to J&K and harness the strong sectors of our state through innovative breakthroughs catalysing socio-economic development of J&K,” Parvez said. “Your can help nurture innovation in local resource endowments of J&K which can augment income and employment generation in the region, and at the same time most essentially create a knowledge based society. We as a financial institution are eager to support such initiatives in every possible way for being an important stakeholder in the socio-economic development of our state.”

Advising students who he described as future leaders, Chairman JK Bank said, “No institution can prosper in isolation and at J&K Bank, we are voluntarily and proactively engaging ourselves with various stakeholders to share the dividends of our growth. We focus not only on our top and bottom-line but also on being a good corporate citizen. This is the need of the hour and in present era of fast changing world full of uncertainties; the companies which do not focus on the well-defined triple bottom-line of economic, environmental and social goals simultaneously will be rendered irrelevant.”

“Let us inculcate in our future leaders in this hall that business has a responsibility beyond its basic responsibility to its shareholders; a responsibility to a broader constituency that includes its key stakeholders: customers, employees, government – the people of the communities in which it operates,” he added.

Emphasising on the role of industry-academia partnership, Parvez Ahmed assured every possible help by J&K Bank to create a bridge between society and centre of knowledge. “My personal request to the leadership of IIT Jammu is to reach out to the student community in far flung areas by collaborating with educational institutions to inspire the youth and channelise their energy in constructive contribution in the society. I can assure you that JK Bank is more than willing to walk the extra mile in acting as a bridge between the IIT Jammu and people in the nooks and corners of the state who are our banking franchise,” he said.

Later Parvez Ahmed announced the institution of JK Bank gold medals to the overall toppers of IIT Jammu.

Vice Chancellor Central University of Jammu Prof Ashok Aima spoke about the expansion journey of premier institutes like IITs and IIMs leading to democratisation by providing opportunities to a large number of talented youth of the country. He said the knowledge and intellectual capital of the country decided its destiny.

While appreciating the missionary zeal of Chairman and CEO JK Bank for enhanced industry academia partnership for cross pollination of ideas, he lauded the outreach of JK Bank in IIT Jammu.

Earlier Naresh Kumar, OSD MHRD IIT, Jammu, welcomed the participants to the foundation day celebrations and delineated the milestones of IIT Jammu and the future road map of creating the best infrastructure to create a centre of excellence.

Dr D K Pandya, Dean IIT, Jammu, spoke at length about the journey of IIT Jammu from a temporary campus at Paloura to permanent campus at Jagti. He also appreciated the support of JK Bank in their day to day functioning and welfare measures for the students of IIT Jammu.

Director IIT Jammu Manoj Gaur deliberated upon the vision and mission of IIT Jammu during the concluding remarks for the function. He expressed a strong desire for integration of the IIT with the local challenges to provide customised and innovative solution in the realm of technology to all the three regions of the state having their unique set of challenges.

“In a decade or so, the IIT Jammu will cater to 15000 students who will make a mark at the national and international level,” he said and acknowledged and appreciated the role played by J&K Bank in reaching out to the educational institutions.

Number of female candidates increases in IIT-BBS

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/number-of-female-candidates-increases-in-iit-bbs/articleshow/65301546.cms>



Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar (IIT-BBS) has a reason to cheer as the number of girl students taken admission this year has touched 15%. The number of girl students in undergraduate courses was around 9% last year, official sources said.

"This is an all-time record admission in terms of girls in our institute in the last ten year. With an aim to reduce gender-gap and to provide equity of access to female students the institute has included 22 supernumerary seats for girls in different BTech courses, which led to the overall rise in number of girls in the courses," said director of IITBBS, Prof Raja Kumar.

Of the total 354 BTech seats, 55 are girls this year including 19 supernumerary seats while last year of the total 338 seats, 32 were girls, official sources said.

"The ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) has decided to increase the seats for girls in IITs with an aim to increase the percentage of women students to 14 per by 2026. I am quite hopeful that we will achieve it sooner," said Raja Kumar.

Besides, there has been a steep rise in the number of seats got filled up in other courses like MSc, MTech and PhD programmes over the previous years by 7%, 15% and 95%, respectively. Among the undergraduate courses computer science, electronic and communication, electrical engineering are the most sought after subjects.

"In IIT Bhubaneswar better ranked students joined this year compared to last year by about 300 ranks. In fact, till two years back the closing ranks for admissions have been falling continuously. Last year, the institute recorded a first time improvement in ranks by a small margin. This time, the improvement is by as many as 300 ranks, despite increased seats and it is it is very significant," said Raja Kumar.

Aug 6

UGC Anti-Plagiarism Laws: Below 10% plagiarism allowed

<https://www.theindianwire.com/education/ugc-tightens-anti-plagiarism-laws-68153/>



The Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions is a 2018 regulation by the University Grants Commission that disallows even 10% of plagiarism in academic submissions. It was recently fast-tracked in the light of serious plagiarism cases at a university level.

Plagiarised content in PhDs can cost students their registration as well. Any percentage of similarity above it will mandate a forced retraction of the Ph.D. manuscript.

The policy drafted in 2017 has finally been approved by the Human Resources Development (HRD) ministry. A similarity between the range of 40%-60% will result in a cancelled annual increment. Above 60% similarity will disqualify their ability to supervise any new Master's, M.Phil., Ph.D. Student/scholar for a period of three years.

This regulation shall be applicable to students, faculties, researchers and even staff of higher educational institutes. In this respect, students and other bodies will be undergoing training for employing a plagiarism detection tool that will be approved by the university.

In June, HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar had informed the media of one such instance where a scholar's Ph.D. thesis was wrongly used by other scholars to add to their own. Since such cases are becoming frequent, the use of plagiarism detectors is becoming necessary. 'Turnitin' is being considered for this policy.

Earlier this week in the Rajya Sabha meeting, Satya Pal Singh, Minister of State for Human Resource Development stated that over the last 3 years, 3 Ph.D. plagiarism cases have been brought to the notice of the UGC. 2 of these 3 cases involved fake PhDs of vice-chancellors of different universities.

"The UGC has informed that three cases have come to their notice in last three years against Chandra Krishnamurthy, vice chancellor of Pondicherry University (2015); Anil Kumar Upadhyay, reader of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi (2017); and Vinay Kumar Pathak, vice chancellor of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University, Lucknow (2018)," quoted Satya Pal Singh.

IIT-Bombay is trying to help WhatsApp fight fake news

<https://www.newsbytesapp.com/timeline/India/28950/129701/iit-bombay-to-help-whatsapp-fight-fake-news>

With the government increasing pressure on WhatsApp to bring more robust features against the proliferation of fake news, it seems that WhatsApp has found an unlikely ally.

Reportedly, IIT-Bombay is keen to help WhatsApp; and a group of academicians from the institute are already working towards potential solutions.

Notably, last month WhatsApp had also announced research awards for the same.

Here are the details.

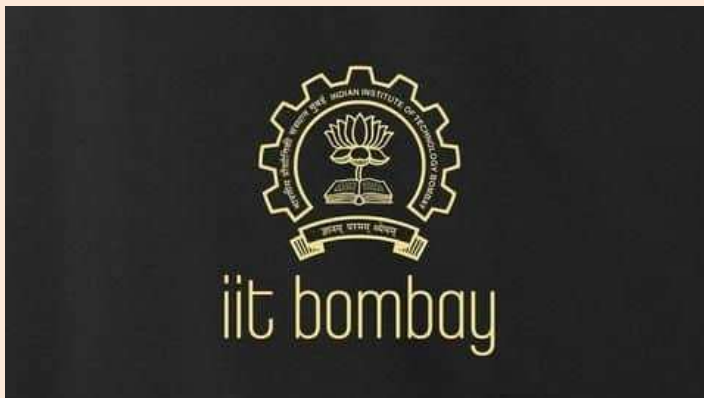
In context: IIT-Bombay to help WhatsApp fight fake news?

06 Aug 2018 IIT-Bombay is trying to help WhatsApp fight fake news

Finding solutions How WhatsApp hopes to find concrete solutions to the problem

In a bid to find solutions to the menace of fake news, WhatsApp, last month, announced that it planned to work with leading academic experts in India, and commission a competitive set of awards for researchers.

Applications are due on August 12, and WhatsApp has promised grant awards of up to \$50,000 as per research proposal, and a trip to its Menlo Park headquarters.



IIT-Bombay IIT-Bombay has already submitted a proposal against fake news

A team led by Professor Kameswari Chebrolu, from IIT-Bombay's Computer Science and Engineering department, is considering sending its current research proposal.

Further, IIT-Bombay has already submitted a proposal on curbing fake news to the government, under the MHRD's IMPRINT (Impact, Research, Innovation, and Technology) India Initiative.

IIT-Bombay is still awaiting a response from the government.

What is the IMPRINT India initiative?

The MHRD's IMPRINT India initiative is a first-of-its-kind pan-IIT and IISc joint initiative to develop a roadmap and power research to solve major engineering and technology challenges as per India's needs. In future, the program will cover all academic and research institutes in India.

Academia How tech companies are turning to academia for solutions

In addition to fake news, WhatsApp is looking to leverage India's academic community on a host of areas including information processing of problematic content, use of WhatsApp and its impact on elections, the characteristics of networks and content, relation between digital literacy and vulnerability to misinformation, etc.

Globally, too, companies like Facebook and Twitter often turn to academia to tackle misinformation and hate speech.

Recap the story so far: WhatsApp, fake forwards, the government

To recall, WhatsApp, after a spate of fake news-induced lynching incidents, has already introduced several features on its app - some of these include a forwarded label on messages, group chat control features, etc.

However, the government has demanded more robust features other than mere interface changes, warning WhatsApp of consequences if it fails to do so.

IIT Hyderabad to remain relevant to fourth industrial revolution: Ram Nath Kovind

<https://www.apherald.com/Politics/ViewArticle/315921/IIT-Hyderabad-to-remain-relevant-to-fourth-industrial-revolution-Ram-Nath-Kovind/>



Hyderabad sources reported that when addressing the seventh convocation of the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IIT-H) at nearby Kandi, he urged the institute to break out of silos and encourage others to do the same. Meanwhile the president said India would judge the success of IIT-H by the vitality and output it can ensure for not just itself, but the entire Hyderabad's knowledge ecosystem.

He said "As a second generation IIT, it is important that IIT Hyderabad borrows from as well as learns from the models of the past. Conditions are different from the 1950s and 1960s, where India has changed. Meanwhile Technology and the very discipline of engineering have evolved and their aspirations are no longer limited to the heavy industrial base that we created six decades ago".



The president said "Increasingly, they are sources of innovation and incubators of technology and technology driven start-ups and the knowledge ecosystem of public investments in science, academic institutions and universities, research laboratories, commercial applications and private enterprise has an almost magical potential. Moreover its best example is, of course, Silicon Valley in the United States".



Aug 5

‘Women strength higher in IIT-Hyderabad than national average’

<https://telanganatoday.com/women-strength-higher-in-iit-hyderabad-than-national-average>

IIT-Hyderabad Director Prof UB Desai said the institution was having 20 per cent of women out of the total 2,556 students, across 14 departments.

During his speech at Seventh Convocation Ceremony here on Sunday, the Director said the per cent of women students is much higher compared to average women student strength of IITs in India, which was put at just 14. He said they had achieved a tremendous progress in just a span of ten years and added that IIT-H was ranked ninth best technology institute by NIRF (National Institute Ranking Frame Work), which is being done by MHRD.

The Director said they had developed a novel academic structure referred to as Fractal Academics, which brings a totally new paradigm in education. The key idea behind this was to atomise the course, provide breadth and depth, emphasise courses in liberal arts as well as creative arts and create a highly flexible, interactive, and multidisciplinary ambience, he said.

As an example of flexibility, the Director said they were introducing the new minor in Artificial Intelligence and Humanity from this academic year. He further said they had made significant strides even on research front since their sanctioned sponsored research funding had touched Rs 350 crore and rapidly growing.

Saying that it would be difficult for him to single out a research project among the numerous projects being carried out by faculty and students, Desai said IIT-H had the world's leading 5G physical layer pilot, which can outperform such pilots across the globe. Prof Kiran Kuchi and his team were working on this. While another team led by Dr Chandrashekar Sharma was working on recycling of polystyrene waste with orange peels, he said.

Ibrahim Dalal bags President of India Gold Medal

Ibrahim Dalal from BTech (CSE) bagged President of India Gold Medal by scoring the best overall CGPA while Paramish Kaur won the Institute Gold Medal in MSc courses by scoring the best CGPA.

Greeshma PM received Institute Gold Medal for her best CGPA in MTech courses. Kudugunta Sneha Reddy was awarded a gold medal in the category of "Excellence in Academics and Co-curricular Activities".

President Ram Nath Kovind presented the medals to the four students.

Aug 4

IIT Delhi, Macquarie University Signs MoU for Academic Collaboration

<https://www.ndtv.com/education/iit-delhi-macquarie-university-australia-signs-mou-for-academic-collaboration-1894671>

Macquarie University, Australia has signed an agreement today with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, to collaborate over a wide range of research and academic activities.



IIT Delhi and Macquarie University (Australia) signed the MoU today at New Delhi

Macquarie University, one of Australia's top 10 Universities, has signed an agreement today with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, to collaborate over a wide range of research and academic activities. The MoU, according to a statement from Macquarie University, will facilitate student and

faculty exchange, joint research collaboration, teaching and learning initiatives, conferences, workshops and training in sciences and engineering.

IIT Delhi, a world-renowned technology institute and Macquarie University, its Faculty of Science and Engineering is known for its path breaking innovations in wireless technology, telecommunications, cyber security, information technology, environmental sciences, to name a few areas of excellence, have agreed to collaborate in these areas and produce impactful research and academic outcome.

The MoU was signed by Macquarie University's Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) Ms. Nicole Brigg and witnessed by Prof Richard de Grijs, Associate Dean (Global Engagement), Faculty of Science & Engineering. Prof Sanjeev Sanghai, Alumni Affairs and International Programmes represented IIT Delhi.

"The Memorandum of Understanding we sign today is the beginning of what we believe to be a long relationship in which we will learn with, and from, each other through cooperative academic pursuits," said Prof Richard de Grijs.

Professor Sanjeev Sanghi, Dean AAIP, IIT Delhi considers the signing of this MoU, "The first step toward impactful collaborative research between IIT Delhi and Macquarie University. It will bring together researchers, academics and students from both institutions and will provide them with a platform to benefit from mutual expertise".

As part of its India engagement, the Australian University has forged strategic academic and research alliances with some of the leading institutions in India.

Some of its ongoing partnerships include those with Lady Shri Ram College for Women, St. Xavier's College Kolkata, Indian Institute of Technology Ropar, The Tata Institute of Social Sciences University, and Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.