



NEWS CLIPS

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CSC ties up with IIT-D for design and innovation lab

December 30, 2020 <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2020/india/csc-ties-up-with-iit-d-for-design-and-innovation-lab.html>

State-run Common Services Centers (CSC) on Tuesday said it has partnered with IIT- Delhi to establish a design and innovation lab which will conduct research on new products and services for village level entrepreneurs (VLE).

The labs would conduct research on design-led innovations related to leveraging livelihood and enhancing all-round entrepreneurial outlook, a statement said.

The project named 'Design and Innovation in VLE's Indigenous Network Ecosystem' (Divine) Lab will promote design and innovation among the village level entrepreneurs (VLE), CSC said in a statement. CSC managing director Dinesh Tyagi said that CSCs and VLEs are driven by an entrepreneurial spirit.

"The Design Lab will benefit from IIT Delhi's unparalleled expertise and experiences of VLEs who will bring hyper-local realities and challenges of delivering services to the partnership," Tyagi said. The Divine Lab aims to provide continuous research into the rural entrepreneurial ecosystem and design new products and services for VLEs.

IIT-Delhi Director Prof V Ramagopal Rao said that the collaboration with CSC will support IIT students to access CSC's network and identify problems in rural India. "World-class research infrastructure and expertise available at IIT-Delhi will support to design and innovate solutions for rural problems through the wide network of VLEs across the country," Ramagopal said.

P Rajendran Felicitated with IIT Delhi Alumni Award for Outstanding Contribution to National Development – for Corporate Excellence

December 30, 2020 <https://www.businesswireindia.com/p-rajendran-felicitated-with-iit-delhi-alumni-award-for-outstanding-contribution-to-national-development-for-corporate-excellence-70957.html>



P Rajendran Felicitated with IIT Delhi Alumni Award for Outstanding Contribution to National Development – for Corporate Excellence

NIIT Limited, a global leader in Skills and Talent Development, announced that P. Rajendran, Joint Managing Director & Co-Founder, NIIT Ltd. has been felicitated with the prestigious IIT Delhi Alumni Award for Outstanding Contribution to National Development - Corporate Excellence. The award was presented during an exclusive three-day online Conclave - IIT Delhi Alumni Fest 2020 themed 'Exploring the New Normal' from 26-28 December 2020, and part of IIT Delhi's Diamond Jubilee celebration.

These awards were instituted by the IIT Delhi Alumni Association (IITDAA) in 1999 to honour IIT Delhi alumni for their contribution towards National Development, and are conferred each year to enhance the awareness of the work done by IIT Delhi Alumni in their professions, impacting national development.

Speaking during the occasion, Ravindra Kumar, President, IIT Delhi Alumni Association (IITDAA) said, "We value the outstanding achievements by IIT Delhi Alumni in their respective fields and are immensely proud of the contributions made by them. I congratulate all the awardees on their achievement."

On receiving the award, P. Rajendran said, "It is a once in a lifetime moment for me to receive this prestigious award. I thank the entire IITD Alumni for conferring this honour on me for Corporate Excellence."

"It was indeed a transformational point in my life when I moved into the start-up NIIT Limited and co-created the company with the founders. I am blessed to be a part of the NIIT journey, a company where the key mantra remains 'NIIT is people'. My gratitude to every member of NIIT from yesterday and today, who have helped NIIT impact the lives of over 35 million learners worldwide," added Mr. Rajendran.

For Rajendran, the root of and the route to corporate excellence lay in the hands, minds and spirit of the People at NIIT. With the stated belief that 'NIIT is People', he led innovative people initiatives for over three decades, bringing out the best in NIITians and helping them realise their vast inherent

potential to grow continuously – in the profession, in the family and in their impact on the community. These led to great team work, high emotional and social quotients in NIITians, making them a unique breed of high performing professionals. When they move out of the company, they don the title of 'Forever-NIITian' proudly. NIIT received many acknowledgements - Innovative HR Practices, Top 25 'Best Places to work for', Star Employer, 4th rank in India's Best companies to work for and more.

An IIT Delhi Alumnus of the 1974 B.Tech EE, Rajendran is a member of the core team that developed and brought NIIT to its present position of global standing, since its inception in 1981. Rajendran also serves on the Board of Management of the not-for-profit NIIT University and is actively engaged with the not-for-profit NIIT Foundation, which addresses the skilling and employability needs of youth from the underprivileged segments of the society.

It may be recalled that members of the founding team of NIIT, Rajendra S Pawar, Chairman & Co-Founder, Vijay Thadani, Vice Chairman & MD and Co-founder, are among the past recipients of the prestigious IIT Delhi Distinguished Alumni award and Arvind Thakur, Former Vice Chairman & MD at NIIT Technologies Ltd., has been felicitated as the distinguished Alumnus of NITIE Mumbai and is a silver medallist from IIT Kharagpur.

About NIIT

NIIT is a leading Skills and Talent Development Corporation that is building a manpower pool for global industry requirements. The company, which was set up in 1981 to help the nascent IT industry overcome its human resource challenges, today ranks among the world's leading training companies owing to its vast and comprehensive array of talent development programs. With a footprint in over 30 countries, NIIT offers training and development solutions to Individuals, Enterprises and Institutions. NIIT has two main lines of business across the globe – Corporate Learning Group and Skills & Careers Business.

NIIT's Corporate Learning Group (CLG) offers Managed Training Services (MTS) to market-leading companies in North America, Europe, Asia, and Oceania. The Skills & Careers Business (SNC) delivers a diverse range of learning and talent development programs to millions of individual and corporate learners in areas including Digital Transformation, Banking, Finance & Insurance, Retail Sales Enablement, Digital Media Marketing, and new-age IT. NIIT has incubated, StackRoute, as a digital transformation partner for corporates to build multi-skilled full stack developers at scale. As online and remote learning becomes mainstream, the robust NIIT Digital platform connects the corporate and individual learners seamlessly and provides an environment for improving learning effectiveness and efficiency.

NIIT's learning and talent development solutions, continue to receive widespread recognition globally. NIIT has been named among the Top 20 Training Outsourcing Companies for the past twelve consecutive years by Training Industry, Inc. USA. Further, leading Indian ICT journal Dataquest has conferred upon NIIT the 'Top Training Company' award successively for the past 20 years, since the inception of this category.

IIT Delhi & AIIMS Jointly Invite Applications for ‘iFellowship’

December 30, 2020 <https://www.thequint.com/news/education/iit-delhi-aiims-invite-application-for-ifellowship#read-more>

Eligible candidates can register online for iFellowship on the official website, biodesignschool.in.



School of International Biodesign (SiB) -- jointly operated by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi -- has invited online applications for its fellowship programme in medical programme or ‘iFellowship’.

iFellows will be mentored by faculty members from AIIMS, New Delhi, IIT Delhi, MedTech Industry, start-ups, academia, and hospitals. The program also offers post-fellowship support to promising innovators.

School of International Biodesign (SiB) is a flagship program of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, administered in collaboration between AIIMS New Delhi and IIT Delhi. The institute is based at AIIMS, New Delhi.

What are Eligibility Requirements of iFellowship?

Candidates with undergraduate (UG) or postgraduate (PG) degrees in Medicine, Engineering, Design, and Business are eligible to apply for iFellowship. In the selection process, preference will be given to “candidates who have demonstrated a track record of innovation, passion for entrepreneurship and are willing to work in a team to create social impact through innovative product realisation and commercialisation.”

Eligible candidates can register online for iFellowship on the official website, biodesignschool.in.

What is the Duration of iFellowship?

The duration of the fellowship is one year, starting from March, 2021. Shortlisted candidates will be called for the interview round in February.

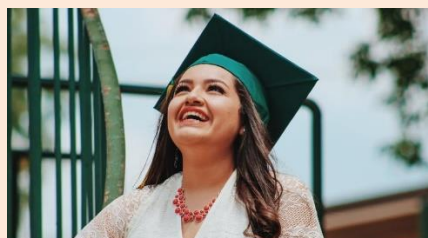
Does the iFellowship Program Offer any Stipends?

iFellows are offered a consolidated stipend of Rs 60,000 per month. Other benefits include travel costs and health coverage.

IIT Delhi, NIT Srinagar sign MoU for academic and research collaboration

December 28, 2020 <https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/iit-delhi-nit-srinagar-sign-mou-for-academic-and-research-collaboration-1753935-2020-12-28>

IIT Delhi and NIT Srinagar have signed an MoU for collaboration on academic and research activities, and it will allow NIT Srinagar students to take direct admission in IIT Delhi PhD courses.



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HIGHLIGHTS

- IIT Delhi and NIT Srinagar have signed an MoU for collaboration on academic and research activities.
- The tie-up will allow for direct admission of NIT Srinagar students to IIT Delhi PhD programmes.
- World-class research infrastructure and expertise available at IIT Delhi will be accessible to NIT Srinagar faculty and students for doing cutting edge research.

IIT Delhi and NIT Srinagar have signed an MoU for collaboration on academic and research activities in the areas of mutual interest including collaborative research works, joint supervision of PhD students, joint workshops and seminars, etc. The tie-up will allow for direct admission of NIT Srinagar students to IIT Delhi PhD programmes.

The MoU was signed by Prof. V Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi and Prof Rakesh Sehgal, Director, NIT Srinagar on Thursday.

Purpose of the tie-up

The MoU is part of IIT Delhi's initiative to welcome meritorious students from NITs to spend their final semester(s) at IIT Delhi, pursue courses, and do a project.

The students will go through a rigorous selection process, and subject to their continued excellence, will be considered for early admission to PhD programmes at IIT Delhi.

The MoU also provides an opportunity to the faculty of NITS under which they may apply for suitable postdoc positions/ any other opportunities available at IIT Delhi.

Speaking of the MoU with IIT Delhi, Prof. Rakesh Sehgal, Director, NIT Srinagar said, "NIT Srinagar fraternity is grateful to IIT Delhi for agreeing to collaborate on exchange of students, faculty,

academic and scholarly information, which will provide the meritorious UG students an opportunity for direct admission to PhD programs at IIT Delhi.”

“Further, this will augment the research facilities for our PG students, research scholars and faculty. This collaborative effort will lead to a paradigm shift in finding the novel and innovative solutions to the problems faced by the industry in the Union Territory of J&K in particular,” he said.

“This collaboration is in line with the National Education Policy (NEP 2020) and will help in the generation of new knowledge in the frontier areas of science and technology,” the professor added.

IIT Delhi Director hopes for better research work

Prof V. Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi welcomed the MoU with NIT Srinagar and said, “I am hopeful this collaboration between IIT Delhi and NIT Srinagar will lead to some exemplary research works that will benefit the public in general and the residents of the J&K in particular.”

“Meritorious students of NIT Srinagar can now come to IIT Delhi in their final year and continue for their PhD after their graduation,” he said.

“World-class research infrastructure and expertise available at IIT Delhi will be accessible to NIT Srinagar faculty and students for doing cutting edge research,” he added.

Which students will be eligible?

NITS students, with a CGPA of 8.00 at the end of their 6th semester (three years), will be eligible to apply for a project in summer/winter and complete their fourth year (7th and 8th semesters) at IIT Delhi.

After that, they will be considered for an early admission to the IIT Delhi PhD programmes.

The requirement of GATE is waived off since the students will enter IIT Delhi with a minimum CGPA of 8.00. This scheme will also help NITS students to enhance their chances of qualifying for the Prime Minister’s Research Fellowship for PhD at IIT Delhi.

No academic fees for visiting students

During the stay of NITS students in IIT Delhi as visiting students, they would not be charged any academic fees, since they will be paying the same to their parent institution.

The students will also be provided on/ off-campus hostel accommodation on a paid basis during their one-year stay.

IIT-Delhi Professor Creates Plant-Based Egg, Wins Contest by UNDP Accelerator Lab India

December 24, 2020 <https://www.veganfirst.com/article/iit-delhi-professor-creates-plant-based-egg-wins-contest-by-undp-accelerator-lab-india>



Professor Kavya Dashora of Centre for Rural Development and Technology, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D) has won the first prize in the Innovate4SDG contest for creating a plant-based egg substitute. The contest was held by UNDP Accelerator Lab India and offered a reward of \$5000 to the scientist.

Ms. Christiane Hieronymus, the Head of Economic Cooperation & Development, Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany, New Delhi conferred the winner along with Prof K. Vijay Raghavan, the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.

The UNDP has recognized the plant-based egg created by Professor Dashora as integral to the progress of achieving the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which also includes 'good health and well-being' and 'zero hunger'. Since plant-based food requires a fraction of the resources needed in factory farming of animals, it creates an opportunity to build healthier and more sustainable systems of food production.

Professor Dashora has also worked to develop other alternative proteins including plant-based mock chicken and mock fish. Her innovations were similar in taste, texture, nutritional profile, appearance and smell to animal meat.



These egg and meat analogues were created with the aim of providing food with clean protein. With increased awareness of alternate proteins, a recognition by the UNDP is a great leap forward for plant-based innovations in India.

IIT Delhi Professor Wins Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom Award 2018

December 19, 2020 <https://www.ndtv.com/education/iit-delhis-professor-wins-pandit-deendayal-upadhyay-telecom-award-2018>

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom Skill Excellence Award 2018 has been awarded to Subrat Kar, Professor at Bharti School of Telecommunication Technology and Management and Department of Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi.



IIT Delhi's Professor Wins Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom Award 2018

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom Skill Excellence Award 2018 has been awarded to Subrat Kar, Professor at Bharti School of Telecommunication Technology and Management and Department of Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi.

Mr Kar has been awarded for his innovative solution on development and deployment of a large scale sensor network and devices to avoid train-animal collision, which works without interfering with natural movements/ behaviour of animals, thereby helping in wildlife conservation.

The system under the pilot phase is installed in Rajaji National Park, Uttarakhand to prevent elephant deaths by train-elephant collision. He shall receive a cash award of Rs 30,000.

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom Skill Excellence Award 2018 was instituted by the Department of Telecommunications (Ministry of Communications) in 2017 to motivate the Telecom Skill ecosystem.

The objective of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom Skill Excellence Award is to felicitate the successful telecom skilled people for their special contributions in the areas of Telecom Skilling, Telecom Services, Telecom Manufacturing, Telecom Applications in deploying telecom dependent sectoral solutions for different fields such as agriculture, commerce, health, education etc.

IITs should be exempt from caste-based reservations in faculty hirings, panel tells govt

December 16, 2020 <https://theprint.in/india/education/iits-should-be-exempt-from-caste-based-reservations-in-faculty-hirings-panel-tells-govt/567706/>

A panel of IIT directors and govt officials says the institutions should be exempted from such reservations because they are 'institutes of national importance'.

A panel comprising Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) directors and others has suggested that the institutions should be exempted from adhering to caste-based reservations for faculty appointments, ThePrint has learnt.

In a report submitted to the government in June, the panel notes that IITs should be exempted from reservations because they were “institutes of national importance and are involved in research”.

“Being established and recognised as institutions of national importance under an Act of Parliament, IITs have ought to be listed under (clause 4) of the CEI (Reservation in Teacher’s Cadre) Act 2019, for exemption from reservations,” the report, accessed by ThePrint, states.

“The matter of reservation in these institutes may be vested with their respective Board of Governors to deal with as per board resolutions, statutes and byelaws.”

According to the Clause 4 of the CEI Act, institutions of excellence, research institutions and institutions of national and strategic importance are exempted from granting caste-based reservation in faculty hiring.

At present, eight institutions are listed under the clause — the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Mumbai, National Brain Research Centre in Gurgaon, North-Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Science in Shillong, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research in Bengaluru, Physical Research Laboratory in Ahmedabad, Space Physics Laboratory in Thiruvananthapuram, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing in Dehradun and Homi Bhabha National Institute and all its 10 constituent units in Mumbai.

ThePrint reached the education ministry for a comment on the panel’s report but no response was received till the time of publishing. However, a source in the ministry said, “The report submitted by the IIT panel is being examined, and appropriate action will be taken accordingly.”

Reservations only for 'Associate Professor'

The committee gave its suggestions in two parts, noting that if Part A could not be implemented then Part B could be considered.

As an alternative to the first suggestion of complete exemption, the panel recommends that reservation should only be given at the level of Assistant Professor while Associate Professors and Professors should be exempted.

“Vacancies not filled up with adequate representation of SC/ST/OBC/EWS candidates during a year due to the non-availability of suitable candidates of these categories may be allowed to be de-reserved next year with the approval of the appointing authority of faculty positions, i.e. Board of Governors,” the report states.

For attracting suitable PhD candidates from the reserved category, the panel suggests that a two-year “preparatory programme” should be started in the IITs, funded by Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, for aspiring reserved category students.

The committee was formed by the Ministry of Education in April to look into the “effective implementation” of reservation in IITs for the undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD programmes as well as recruitment of faculty and non-faculty.

It consists of IIT Delhi Director Ramagopal Rao, IIT Kanpur Director Abhay Karandikar and secretaries from departments of social justice, tribal affairs and personnel and training.

The committee met twice on 1 May and 12 May via video conference to discuss and deliberate their agenda. They reviewed the earlier orders of the HRD ministry on the subject, looked at the recent communications on following the reservation and examined the practices being adopted by IITs in faculty reservation, to form the report.

Last year in November, the education ministry had written to all IITs, Indian Institutes of Management and Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research to implement reservation in faculty hiring.

COVID-19 has no effect on IIT job placements, 35 per cent increase in pay packages

December 13, 2020 <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2020/dec/13/covid-19-has-no-effect-on-iit-job-placements-35-per-cent-increase-in-pay-packages-2235430.html>

Less than two weeks after the placement season began, nearly 60 per cent final year students in the older IITs have already got placement offers.

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent disruption in the economy seem to have had little impact on the ongoing placements in the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology where the annual pay package offered has risen by 30-35 per cent as compared to last year.

Placement incharge at several IITs said the payment offers from domestic companies have overshadowed even top international offers, which means that many fresh graduates will earn more

in the country than their batchmates who take up offers abroad. Less than two weeks after the placement season began, nearly 60 per cent final year students in the older IITs have already got placement offers.

At IIT-Delhi, over 300 national and international firms offering more than 500 job profiles across multiple sectors had registered for hiring students this year and on the first day of the first phase of final placement itself, students had bagged over 300 placement offers, including pre-placement offers with many bagging multiple offers. Also, around 150 PPOs, including international locations, were received.

As per officials, companies from technology, banking and financial service sectors are leading the pack in hiring students and a large number of students are happy as they are assured of jobs despite a downbeat job market. In IIT Bombay, a number of international firms had lined up to hire graduates of which Dutch company Otiver offered the highest pay package of Rs 1.39 crore per annum.

Authorities at IIT Madras said the institute had bagged nearly 750 offers while this number was about 700 each in case of IIT Guwahati and Roorkee. Also, more than 220 companies have registered for hiring, more than any year so far.

At the institute, nearly 190 students also got pre-placement offers and about 1,400 students are hoping for placement by the end of the placement season. But officials at IIT Roorkee, which is looking to ensure jobs for at least 1,200 students this season, said fewer offers were received this year as compared to last year.

A professor involved with the process of placement at IIT-Kanpur said that over half its graduates had already bagged offers and the institute had done much better than what was anticipated. "There is a good mix of companies from India and abroad and from varied sectors, which is a very good sign," he said.

At IIT, Benaras Hindu University officials said more than 215 students had bagged jobs with annual pay packages ranging from Rs 11.5 lakh to Rs 64.27 lakh. In comparison, the compensation offered last year was Rs 10 lakh to Rs 58.21 lakh.

Old is gold

What is heartening is that less than two weeks after the placement season began, nearly 60 per cent final year students in the older IITs have already got placement offers.

IIT Delhi research opens way for secure sustainable, green energy ecosystem

December 11, 2020 <https://www.shiksha.com/engineering/articles/iit-delhi-research-opens-way-for-secure-sustainable-green-energy-ecosystem-blogId-51571>

The IIT Delhi said in a statement that, the institute has filed over 45 patents in the last five years in the thematic area of harnessing solar energy for different societal applications.



The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, through its Industrial Research and Development (IRD) Unit, has been conducting research in the field of energy ecosystems. Many governments and non-government organisations working in the area of energy have come forward to establish their Centres of Excellence (CoE) at IIT Delhi due to its scientists' deep technology research outcome in the energy domain.

The IIT Delhi said in a statement that, the institute has filed over 45 patents in the last five years in the thematic area of harnessing solar energy for different societal applications. These technologies can accelerate the realisation of the 'Pradhan Mantri Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyaan- PM KUSUM scheme of the government of India, which has a financial outlay of around 30,000 crores and some technologies aim at realising the vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat. One of the research areas at IIT Delhi, as per the statement, is also the development of battery-operated vehicles.

"IIT Delhi has also been doing pioneering work in the area of biogas research and as a success story the institute has developed the country's first biogas-based car, which has run more than 50,000 kilometers on biogas in the last 6 years," the statement added.

"To make the country a CO₂ [carbon dioxide] minimal nation while ensuring energy security, we need to migrate from conventional energy sources to renewable and sustainable alternatives. Since these sources of energy are mostly intermittent in nature, the need for energy storage research also becomes very vital. On the other hand, the need for energy security in the mobility domain compels us to quickly move from gasoline-based IC (Internal Combustion) engines to either alternative fuel-based engines or Electric Vehicles," Professor V Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi in the statement added.

Professor SK Khare, Dean, Research and Development said: "At IIT Delhi, we have also undertaken research in the grand challenges mode to address the future sustainable energy needs. The most notable one in the energy domain is to convert CO₂ to value-added products. Also, the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Infrastructure has ventured to achieve a net-zero energy consumption

building using IoT (Internet of Things) based data-driven algorithms and low-cost retrofitted solutions.”

IIT Delhi researcher receives Agilent’s ‘Thought Leader award’

December 7, 2020 <https://news.careers360.com/iit-delhi-researcher-receives-agilents-thought-leader-award>

Anurag Rathore from IIT Delhi’s chemical engineering department, has been awarded for his contribution to biopharmaceutical research



Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi professor Anurag Rathore has been awarded the ‘Thought Leader Award’, by Agilent Technologies. The award is to recognise his contribution to biopharmaceutical research and for his work in advanced methods for molecular characterization of biosimilars.

“I feel humbled to be chosen for an Agilent Thought Leader Award,” said Rathore, who is in the chemical engineering department of IIT Delhi.

The 2020 award includes a grant to support research personnel and Agilent equipment, including a 6545XT AdvanceBio LC/Q-TOF, a Bravo Automated Liquid Handling Platform, and a 1290 Infinity II 2D-LC System.

Rathore is the first researcher in India to receive the award. The award funding will be used to promote academic-based research on critical areas impacting the bio-pharmaceutical industry.

“The award will propel me to work harder as we strive to bring the technologies and products we have been working on to the market,” he added.

The work at Rathore’s lab will focus on the best practices towards molecular characterization of monoclonal antibody-based dissimilar. Monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) include an important and growing group of bio-pharmaceutical drugs used to treat several diseases and conditions.

“Rathore is a leading scientist among an extremely motivated and talented research group at IIT Delhi. We are privileged to have him as the first recipient of an Agilent Thought Leader Award in India,” said Bharat Bhardwaj, Country general manager for Agilent India, adding, “This award will

bring financial support, cutting-edge products, consumables, services, and, most importantly, Agilent expertise to his research.”

Conduct JEE Main, Advanced in local languages, degree courses in English: IIT-Delhi director

December 5, 2020 <https://indianexpress.com/article/education/have-jee-main-advanced-in-local-language-degree-courses-in-english-iit-delhi-director-7091622/>

"Offering entire BTech programmes in local languages would mean, the language will become a criterion in our faculty selections. This will be the beginning of the end for IITs. Our faculty selections need to be on a global scale," he wrote.



"we must have 'study help' groups which will help these students to migrate to English over a period of time," he said.

India can offer IIT entrance examinations – JEE Advanced and JEE Main — in the local languages, but having an entire degree course in mother tongue might be the beginning of the end of IITs, said IIT - Delhi director V Ramgopal Rao in a social media post.

“I strongly believe, every child who does schooling in local languages must have an opportunity to take JEE Main and JEE Advanced in their local language. JEE Advanced must be conducted in all local languages, where there is a demand. Once these students, who have had their schooling in local languages enter IITs, we must have ‘study help’ groups which will help these students to migrate to English over a period of time,” the IIT director wrote.

Recalling that he too has studied in Telugu medium until class 12 in a rural setting and made a career as a teacher and researcher, he wrote, “The earlier these students become conversant in English, the better it will be for them. We are producing global technologists, not technologists for Tamil Nadu,

Andhra etc. We are also dealing with a huge aspirational generation. We must not confine their aspirations by tying them to one language or one mode of Instruction.”

On suggestions of teaching in the local language, he suggested that even though some first semester courses in specific IITs can be offered in at least one local language, depending on the choice of candidates themselves. But having a full-term degree in regional language will not be a good idea.

“Offering entire BTech programmes in local languages would mean, the language will become a criterion in our faculty selections. This will be the beginning of the end for IITs. Our faculty selections need to be on a global scale,” he wrote.

“IIT education involves the integration of a lot of research and open study materials. Offering complete BTech and masters’ courses in local languages will deprive the students of a vast amount of resource material available in English. As said, by translating a few books to English, the problem can’t be solved,” he added.

Debunking the commonly stated example of countries like Japan, Germany etc where education is imparted in the local language, he said, “These are homogenous societies (speaking one language mostly) and secondly, India cannot be equated with Germany or Japan. India is an entire Europe. Even in these homogeneous societies, many institutions have started moving to English now, seeing the disadvantages they are facing. They are learning from us.”

“Let’s take a resolve that no one is denied an opportunity because of language imposed barriers. Let’s work towards giving everyone an equal chance. Talent doesn’t come in any specific color, language, gender, religion, or geography. Talent is there everywhere in this country. It just needs a bit of hand-holding. One of the roles of IIT examinations needs to be to spot that talent and bring out the best in them,” he said.

Meanwhile, the ministry has asked the IITs and NITs to set-up a task force which will take into consideration the suggestions made by various stakeholders and will submit a report in a month. Pokhriyal had announced that the ministry will shortlist IITs and NITs which will start imparting engineering courses in regional languages.

IIT Delhi Placement 2020: Over 300 jobs offered on Day 1, top recruiters Microsoft, Intel hired the most

December 3, 2020 <https://www.timesnownews.com/education/article/iit-delhi-placement-2020-over-300-jobs-offered-on-day-1-top-recruiters-microsoft-intel-hired-the-most/689932>

IIT Delhi Placement 2020 drive has already started from December 1 onwards. On Day 1 over 300 jobs were offered to the students and top recruiters Microsoft, Intel, Goldman Sachs offered maximum jobs.

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi has started IIT Delhi Placement 2020 process from December 1 onwards. This year the placement session is organized in virtual mode due to the pandemic where many top recruiters participated. On Day 1 itself, over 300 jobs were offered to IIT Delhi students and the maximum number of jobs were offered by top recruiters Microsoft, Intel, Goldman Sachs.

As per the statement released by the Institute, around 300+ national and international organizations will be offering 500+ job profiles across multiple sectors that have already registered for hiring students as of now. Many IIT Delhi students have bagged the placement offers including pre-placement offers (PPOs) by the end of the first day of the first phase.

On Day 1, around 150 PPOs have been secured by the students and 13 students have opted for deferred placement facility of the institute. Deferred placements facility is available to students who wish to set up a start-up post their graduation. Students availing this option can avail the placement services once for up to 2 years.

While many international recruiters have registered for the placement drive, but given the current situation with travel restrictions in many countries, many companies are primarily recruiting for domestic profiles as of now. These may convert to international offers if the situation changes.

IIT Delhi's internship hiring season was started way back in September for the academic year 2020-21. Over 350+ internship offers were made to students and international training offers were received from companies based in Hong Kong, South Korea, and the US. Many students have also bagged multiple internship offers.

Meanwhile, the IIT Bombay placement drive that started on the same day with IIT Delhi witnessed over 400 job offers in two days. The highest package offered was Rs 1.63 crore by Sony Japan.

No Indian University on Top 10 on QS Asia University Rankings; 3 IITs Make It to Top 50

December 2, 2020 <https://thepolicytimes.com/no-indian-university-on-top-10-on-qs-asia-university-rankings-3-iits-make-it-to-top-50/>

Only 3 Indian universities on the top 50 on QS Asia university rankings; loses out on the top 10 positions.



RANK	UNIVERSITY
172	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)
185	Indian Institute of Science
193	Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)

The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) rankings of the top 50 universities for higher education present in Asia reveals that no university from India has qualified to be in the top 10 categories. Though we could not make it to the top 10 list, it's a matter of pride that 3 of our IITs have at least made it to

the top 50 list. The three IITs include IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay, and IIT Madras. However, other IITs have also found a place in the list but secured a lower ranking.

Comparison of several parameters

The QS ranking of the top Asian universities was conducted amongst 650 Asian universities that are present in a total of 18 locations. It was judged on 11 parameters that included academic standing, research quality, employability, and other different factors. The National University of Singapore has managed to secure the top position in the list and has maintained being on the top for a 3rd consecutive year now. Of the total 650 universities, 124 were from Mainland China, 107 were from India, 105 were from Japan, 88 were from South Korea, 43 were from Taiwan, 40 were from Pakistan, 35 were from Malaysia, and 30 were from Indonesia.

The rankings

Based on the rankings, there were 12 IITs that conquered ranks within the top 250. These IITs are

- IIT Bombay (Rank 37)
- IIT Delhi (Rank 47)
- IIT Madras (Rank 50)
- IIT Kharagpur (Rank 58)
- IIT Kanpur (Rank 72)
- IIT Roorkee (Rank 103)
- IIT Guwahati (Rank 117)
- IIT Indore (Rank 188)
- IIT Hyderabad (Rank 220)
- IIT Ropar (Rank 225)
- IIT Bhubaneswar (Rank 233)

Out of the 107 universities that took part in the listing, only 31 universities could make a position in the top 250 list. And amongst these 31 universities, 12 are IITs that are mentioned above.

Why are Indian universities lacking behind in international rankings?

There are various parameters in which a university's efficacy is judged. Our universities are shaped majorly to focus on academics only. There are issues like student's problem-solving abilities, research capacity, co-curricular activities, creative learning, etc. in which a student and his/her university can be judged for securing a higher position in the ranking lists. But as the main focus of our universities is only on preparing students for academics, they lose out to other universities in

terms of the overall ranking. Thus, we need a reform in our education system soon to make our universities capable of being in the top rankings in such lists.

The Policy Times suggestion

- The low performance of Indian universities overseas indicates that our education system needs reforms. Rather than just focusing on academics, we must also focus on making our students more creative and nurture the niches in which they possess talent.
- Also, the educational infrastructure and mode of teaching must be considered for reform. Education must reach in rural areas as well. Being educated means improving one's knowledge and expertise in multi-dimensional genres and not just being a bookworm.

Alcohol-free sanitiser for Covid-19 prevention! Amazing product developed by IIT Delhi startup; 24-hour protection

December 1, 2020 <https://www.zeebiz.com/india/news-alcohol-free-sanitiser-for-covid-19-prevention-amazing-product-developed-by-iit-delhi-startup-24-hour-protection-142285>

Covid-19 prevention tips: With no letdown in Covid 19 cases and probable second wave of coronavirus cases across the country, an IIT Delhi startup has come up with new innovative solution to help people cope with this pandemic.



After launching self-sanitizing reusable masks, the startup has developed patented active copper (AqCure™) infused zero alcohol sanitizer-cum-moisturizing lotion. (Source: Reuters)

Covid-19 prevention tips: With no letdown in Covid 19 cases and probable second wave of coronavirus cases across the country, an IIT Delhi startup has come up with new innovative solution to help people cope with this pandemic. After launching self-sanitizing 50 wash reusable N95 grade antiviral NSafe masks, Nanosafe Solutions, the startup, has developed patented active copper

(AqCure™) infused zero alcohol sanitizer-cum-moisturizing lotion that can provide protection as long as 24 hours to all exposed parts of the body

The revolutionary evolution of Covid-19 prevention measures in these difficult times did not go unnoticed by Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal, who took to twitter to share this information.

Here is the tweet:

"An incredible team at @iitdelhi has launched an active copper (AqCure™) infused zero alcohol sanitizer cum moisturising lotion, named RubSafe (patented). RubSafe provides prolonged protection up to 24 hours to all exposed parts of the body. Great job team!" tweeted Ramesh Pokhriyal.

The RubSafe sanitizer, with a zero-alcohol composition, offers 24-hour protection against all types of viruses and microbes. The sanitiser can effectively last throughout the day, delivering added protection against any kind of infection or germs.

"To date, most sanitising solutions are infused with either alcohol, most of the time or in some cases nano silver. And the toxicity of silver is a well-known fact. During my research years, I got to learn about the benefits and drawbacks of using silver, copper, and zinc as anti-viral solutions. That is when we zeroed on copper as our sanitization and antimicrobial solution," said Dr Anasuya Roy, Founder & CEO, Nanosafe told The New Indian Express.

Apparently, RubSafe can deactivate most enveloped as well as non-enveloped viruses, including SARS-CoV-2; which causes COVID-19. "Against conventional nano silver-based sanitising solutions, this sanitiser from Nanosafe provides a much safer alternative with nano copper infusion. Copper is an essential micronutrient for the human body and together with iron, enables the body to form red blood cells (RBCs)," claimed IIT Delhi startup team.