

**Newspaper Clips**  
**March 1-9, 2018**

**March 9**

**IIT Delhi defers course scrap**

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/iit-delhi-defers-course-scrap-214373>

New Delhi: The IIT Delhi senate has deferred a proposal to suspend a five-decade-old instrument technology course.

The highest academic body of the IIT on Wednesday decided that a national-level committee should first examine the merits of doing away with the course vis-a-vis its relevance.

The Instrument Design Development Centre runs courses such as MTech in instrument technology and masters in design. The instrument technology course deals with making tools required in areas such as health, medicine, defence, space and weather.

"The senate suggested more scrutiny of the proposal. A national-level panel of experts will be set up to study the issue," a senate member said.

The argument cited for scrapping the course was that there were only two permanent faculty members who could not manage the workload of MTech and research programmes.

Another reason was that several other departments were also dealing with instrument technology.

A dozen MTech and a similar number of PhD students currently study instrument technology.

**IIIT-Delhi is going to Organise Research Showcase on April 07**

<http://indiaeducationdiary.in/iiit-delhi-going-organise-research-showcase-april-07/>

Delhi: The IIIT Delhi is coming up with 'Research Showcase', the annual event to exhibit the prominent research and development work being carried out at IIIT-D and other premier institutions in Delhi NCR. This year's theme of IIIT-Delhi Research Showcase is 'Imagine – Innovate – Inspire' and it is scheduled to take place on 07 April at the college campus in Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase III, New Delhi.

The research showcase is aimed for industry professionals and academic fraternity so that they can discover research and development work at IIIT-D and identify potential areas of collaboration. It brings the most knowledgeable researchers from both academia and industry such as IITs, Microsoft, Google, IBM, and TCS.

Mr. Niloy Ganguly, professor of computer science, IIT Kharagpur will be the keynote speaker at Research Showcase. Mr. Ganguly has been collaborating with various national and international universities and research lab including UIUC, TU Dresden, Germany, MPI PKS and MPI SWS, Germany, Microsoft Lab, Adobe Labs, HP Labs, NetApp Labs, etc. He currently publishes in various top ranking

international journals and conferences including ICDM, ACL, WWW, INFOCOM, SIGIR, SIGKDD, SIGCHI, ICWSM, CSCW, NIPS CCS, PODC, Euro Physics Letters, Physical Review E, ACM and IEEE Transactions, etc.

The institute provides comprehensive support and guidance to the students of various branches of engineering that boost the morale of young engineers and help them to develop innovative ideas as well as technological solutions. At Research Showcase'18, IIIT-Delhi invites students and faculty members from various technical institutes of India. Several activities such as Research & Innovation Talks, Student Breakthroughs, Tech Quiz, Start-up Interaction, Innovate Challenge, IBM Challenge, Project Demonstrations and Quiz Contests are designed to keep the event engaging as well as entertaining from beginning to conclusion.

According to Prof. Pankaj Jalote, Director at IIIT-Delhi, "People are curious to know that how a modern research-based institute functions, through Research Showcase IIIT-Delhi, they get first-hand information about our endeavours and achievements. Active participation in Research & Innovation Talks, Student Breakthroughs, Start-up Interaction, and Innovate Challenge, we really help students to discover their own horizons in a very interesting manner."

IIIT-Delhi Research Showcase also proved successful in bringing closer the prospective post-graduate students to the industry professionals for collaborative research projects. Last year, Research Showcase had approximately 500 attendees from schools and institutions in Delhi-NCR. This year, the 'Research Showcase' at IIIT-Delhi will include competitive events like Student Breakthroughs, Tech Quiz and Innovation Challenge along with discussion programs like Startup Interaction and IBM challenge. There will be stalls, too by the Research Centres with a provision of goodies at every stall. Cash prize in the range of Rs.10,000- 20,000 will be awarded to the winners of all the competitions. Entries are invited only till 15 March, 2018. Below are the registration links for the competitive events.

### **Chemical Engineering Students from IIT Kharagpur Win All-India Data Analytics Competition**

<http://indiaeducationdiary.in/chemical-engineering-students-iit-kharagpur-win-india-data-analytics-competition/>



Kharagpur : Shreshth Khare and Sanskar Rawat, third-year undergraduate students of the Department of Chemical Engineering, have done IIT Kharagpur proud by winning the 8th edition of EXL Excellence Quotient, a data analytics challenge. The duo provided solution for the real-time problem of increasing the revenue earned by shopping malls which had declined, in spite of the constant footfall, because of the emergence of online shopping.

The All-India competition tests skills like problem identification, logical thinking, structured and methodical approach and efficient analysis. In the contest, which is held across 20 top engineering colleges, including 8 IITs and 7 NITs, a total of 680 teams had registered. After two stages of submissions, the top 6 teams were invited to present their case in the national finals at the EXL head office in Gurgaon.

Sanskar says, “The problem statement is an emerging one and is a real threat for those shop-owners who are spending a fortune in maintaining their shops in the physical retail upmarket like Malls. We were expected to design the ‘Mall of the future’, that is, a truly differentiated and personalized shopping experience.”

“We had to explain our recommendations after doing data analysis of the customers’ demographic profile. Thinking out of the box and showcasing creativity were the key elements to our success,” adds Shreshth.

The winning team from IIT Kharagpur, named “Team Insidious”, received a cash prize of Rs 1 Lakh along with certificates and the winning trophy. Another team from IIT Kharagpur, “Team Panacea”, comprising Anshul Gupta, third-year UG, Department of Chemical Engineering, and Anjali Bharti, third-year UG, Department of Metallurgical and Material Science Engineering, also made it to the finals although the team could not lift the trophy. Pre-placement interview offer was extended to all the 6 teams selected for the national finals.

Congratulating the students Prof. Sudhir Kumar Barai, Dean, Undergraduate Studies at IIT Kharagpur, acknowledged Data Analytics as the new big thing with customer choices, habits even latent ones, history driving the market, and also marketing strategies based on it influencing our choices, product development, and services offering.

“Be it our tri-institutional Postgraduate Diploma in Business Analytics or the upcoming Centre for Excellence in Artificial Intelligence Research or the Hospital or several other initiatives at IIT Kharagpur, we can see the growing importance of and absolute integration with data analytics. The students at IIT Kharagpur, through their academics and co-curricular activities, have been successfully acquiring skills in this area which also boosts employability. The students have proven their mettle in data analytics by offering practical solutions to real-life problems,” he said

Of the winning team, Shreshth had earned an EXL internship when the company visited the campus for recruiting interns in early October last year. Sanskar is also interested in gaining expertise in data analytics and considers the field alluring given the power of data in today’s world.

“This success will help me pursue my career in an analytics company and will also inspire other IIT Kharagpur students to take part in EXL EQ and other such competitions,” says Sanskar. Shreshth chips in, “Our win proves the prowess of our students even in fields not exactly related to their academic course structure.”

## **Decision to Remove Stray Dogs from Campus Bites IIT Kanpur**

<https://swarajyamag.com/insta/decision-to-remove-stray-dogs-from-campus-bites-iit-kanpur>



The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K), decided to remove two stray dogs from its campus after concerns on increasing cases of dog bites. The action, according to this report, has led Union Minister Maneka Gandhi taking up the matter with the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and asking the ministry to take action against those responsible for removing the canines at the campus.

There have been 87 instances of dog bites reported at the campus in a year. In February, four guards at the IIT campus were in trouble for allegedly causing injury to the stray dogs while trapping them at the campus, after complaints about the increasing numbers of stray dogs and the risk posed to students and people.

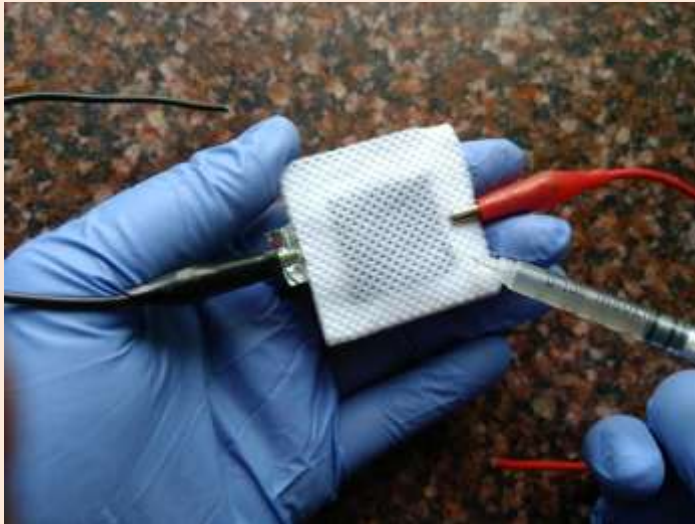
“We have also got a video in which the guards are seen trapping dogs with the help of a net, stuffing them in a sack and then bundling the hapless animals into a vehicle on IIT premises. We are trying to identify the guards with the help of the video which is doing rounds on social media. An FIR under Section 11 of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 (Conveying or carrying animals whether in or upon any vehicle, in any manner or position which causes discomfort, pain or suffering is a punishable offence under the act), has been lodged against four unidentified IIT-K security guards,” the SHO said.

Maneka Gandhi is known for her animal rights activism and the report says that the minister acted on complaints submitted by IIT Kanpur students.

## **Students build smart helmets, oil spill absorbers for design contest**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/education/students-build-smart-helmets-oil-spill-absorbers-for-design-contest/story-O4m5ekC6d4iIns7yyntZLI.html>

Winners of KPIT Sparkle 2018 will now get incubation assistance to turn prototypes into commercial products.



The green battery, created by a PhD student of IIT Kharagpur, uses bacteria to produce electricity.

**A helmet** that allows you to listen to music and sends alerts to emergency contacts in case of an accident. A battery that produces electricity from sewer water. A device that separates oil from water. These are some of the innovative projects that won at the KPIT Sparkle 2018, a design and development innovation contest for engineering and science students organised by KPIT, a multinational tech company. This is the fourth edition of this innovation contest. Winners get access to incubation centres to turn their models into ready products.

The theme this year was “convenience” and the ideas were aimed at being green and easy to use. “The ideas have tremendous potential in transforming the energy and transportation landscape of the country, which is aiming to lower its carbon footprint and make cities cleaner and greener,” says Ravi Pandit, co-founder, chairman and group CEO, KPIT.

Here is a look at some of the projects and how they came to be.

### Smart helmet



The smart helmet, designed by a team from Sahyadri College of Engineering & Management, Mangalore, alerts an emergency contact in case of an accident.

A two-member team, SmartGear, from Sahyadri College of Engineering & Management, Mangalore, has devised a helmet that allows one to listen to music and receive calls while riding. It also provides

an accident alert that shares the location of the accident to emergency contacts in the rider's phone, including ambulance services that can ensure immediate help.

In case of an incoming call to the rider, the helmet intimates the rider about the call and only when the rider halts does the helmet connect the call

"GPS technology embedded in the machine keeps track of the speed of the rider and ensures that he does not talk on the phone while riding," says team member Navajith Karkera.

He says that this idea was inspired by the fact that many bikers hate wearing helmets and tend to only wear them to avoid fines. The electronic system in the helmet has been designed to be lightweight and has been placed inside in a way that it is protected from impact forces.

If the project is out in the market he estimates it to cost around Rs 2,500, which is higher than that average price of Rs 1,200, he says.

## आईआईटी दीक्षांत समारोह में आएं पीएम, मिली सहमति

<https://www.livehindustan.com/jharkhand/dhanbad/story-dhanbad-1839302.html>



आईआईटी आइएसएम धनबाद के पहले (तत्कालीन आइएसएम के 38वें) दीक्षांत समारोह में देश के प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने धनबाद आने की सहमति दे दी है। प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी की सहमति मिलने के बाद पीएमओ (प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय) ने आईआईटी आइएसएम को सहमति पत्र भेज दिया है। अब पीएमओ से कार्यक्रम तिथि मिलने का इंतजार किया जा रहा है। संभावना है कि अप्रैल के पहले या दूसरे सप्ताह के किसी भी दिन दीक्षांत समारोह के लिए तिथि मिल सकती है।

पीएमओ का सहमति पत्र मिलने के बाद प्रबंधन ने तैयारी शुरू कर दी है। प्रबंधन की ओर से विभिन्न कमेटी का गठन कर दिया गया है। कई कमेटी ने प्रारंभिक तैयारियां भी शुरू कर दी हैं। दीक्षांत समारोह का आयोजन लोअर ग्राउंड में होगा। दो सत्र के छात्र को मिलेगी डिग्री पूरी संभावना है कि वर्ष 2016 व 2017 बैच के दो से ढाई हजार छात्रों को डिग्री दी जाएगी। छात्रों की सूची को अंतिम रूप दिया जा रहा है।

दो दिन दीक्षांत समारोह हो सकता है। पहले दिन पीएम के हाथों छात्र-छात्राओं को डिग्री दिलाई जाएगी। इस मौके पर केन्द्रीय विद्यालय, गर्ल्स हॉस्टल का उद्घाटन कराने की तैयारी है। प्रबंधन ने मुख्यमंत्री रघुवर दास से सेकेंड कैंपस के लिए जमीन की मांग की है। ताकि प्रधानमंत्री के हाथों सेकेंड कैंपस का शिलान्यास कराया जा सके। बताते चलें कि छह सितंबर 2016 के प्रभाव के आइएसएम को आईआईटी बनाया गया है। आईआईटी बनने के बाद यह पहला दीक्षांत समारोह होगा। आइएसएम के रूप में 37वें दीक्षांत समारोह का आयोजन 8 व 9 अप्रैल 2016 को हुआ था। तत्कालीन केन्द्रीय शिक्षा मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी मुख्य अतिथि थी।

### **AICTE takes on UGC burden of regulating standalone institutions**

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/663613/aicte-takes-ugc-burden-regulating.html>

All standalone institutions will be regulated by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) from this year.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has given up its authority to regulate these institutions, which are categorised as those offering diploma level courses in various streams.

Higher education institutions, which are not affiliated to any university but recognised by various councils or ministries of the government, as well as polytechnics fall under the category of standalone institutions.

The decision to hand over the responsibility of regulating these institutions to the AICTE was taken by the UGC at its recent meeting, ending confusion over jurisdiction of the two regulatory bodies to regulate various types of standalone institutions as a major chunk of these institutions offer teachers' training courses.

A committee of experts, set up to review the rules for allowing higher education institutions offer distance education in various streams except in engineering, had recommended placing all standalone institutions under the jurisdiction of the AICTE.

#### **Power to regulate**

"The AICTE has a provision in its Act which vests authority in it to regulate standalone institutions," a UGC official said.

There are 11,669 standalone higher education institutions. Of them, 3,672 institutions offer diploma courses in technical education, 4,308 teachers training, 3,077 nursing, 433 post-graduate diploma in management and 179 institutions are functioning directly under various government bodies.

Only 24% of the standalone institutions are run by the government and the rest are private.

## March 8

### **India's top innovators under 35**

<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/QwmwtJkbUYtTXAzTO5OTVL/Indias-top-innovators-under-35.html>

Mint and MIT Technology Review present the winners of the Top 10 Innovators under 35, who automatically qualify for the TR35 Global competition

Bottom of Form



The winners: (Clockwise from top) Danish Contractor, research scientist, IBM Research India; Akash Gupta, co-founder and chief technology officer, GreyOrange, Gurugram; Kaushik Mudda, co-founder, Ethereal Machines, Bengaluru; Deblina Sarkar, research scholar, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA; Deepak Solanki, founder and CEO, Velmenni; Manan Suri, assistant professor, department of electrical engineering, IIT Delhi; Shreyas Sen, assistant professor, Purdue University; Swapan Rajdev, co-founder and CTO, Haptik Inc., Mumbai; Abilesh Malli Gunasekar, chief executive officer, Kyvor Genomics, Chennai; Vikram Goel, Founder and CEO, Incredible Devices Pvt. Ltd, Chandigarh.

New Delhi: Mint and MIT Technology Review, published by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), are pleased to announce the Top 10 Innovators Under 35 from India.

These innovators will also present a three-minute pitch at the EmTech India (emtech.livemint.com) conference, to be held on 8-9 March.

TR35 India opened nominations on 3 November 2017 and closed this window on 20 January. Past winners have come from start-ups, large companies, government agencies, and non-profits, as well as from universities around the world. It is no different this year.





The jury: (Clockwise from top) Kavi Arya, professor of computer science and engineering, IIT Bombay; K.S. Viswanathan, vice-president (industry initiatives), NASSCOM; Sunil Mathur, managing director and CEO, Siemens Ltd; Nivruti Rai, general manager, Intel India, and vice-president, Data Center Group at Intel Corporation; Alok Nath De, CTO, Samsung R&D Institute Bangalore; Srinivas Prasad, CEO, Philips Innovation Campus; Anusha Rammohan, regional product strategy leader, General Electric; Vinay Kumar, co-founder and CEO, PathShodh Healthcare; Vijay Sethi, CIO and Head, corporate social responsibility, Hero MotoCorp Ltd; Sanchit Vir Gogia, Chief analyst, founder and CEO, Greyhound Research; Shalini Kapoor, CTO and director of Watson IoT & Watson Education, IBM; and Dilipkumar Khandelwal, president, SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud, SAP SE and managing director, SAP Labs India.

The 10 candidates were chosen from hundreds of applicants and span across areas like biomedicine, computing, communications, health, education, digital, energy, materials, cybersecurity, fintech, wearables, robotics, education and transportation.

The Top 10 winners of this competition automatically qualify for the TR35 Global competition as well.

The jury for this competition included acclaimed names from academic institutions, big technology companies and industry bodies including the editors of Mint and MIT Technology Review.

TR35 India comprises the top innovators under the age of 35 from India. Nominees must be under the age of 35 as of 1 October 2017 and must be citizens of India.

Organized by MIT Technology Review since 1999, the prestigious TR Innovators Under 35 global competition has honoured some of the world's most brilliant tech minds including Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg, Tesla Motors Inc.'s J.B. Straubel, and Google's Larry Page and Sergey Brin. Originally established as TR100, the annual TR35 global list recognizes the world's 35 most outstanding innovators who are under 35 years of age.

The awards span a wide range of fields including biomedicine, computing, communications, energy, materials, web and transportation. The goal is to recognize the development of new technology or the creative application of existing technologies to solve problems. To access details on the competition and nomination process, please go to [emtech.livemint.com](http://emtech.livemint.com).

The broad themes of the second edition of EmTech India to be held on 8-9 March this year at Westin Hotel in Gurgaon, include digital life, cutting edge technologies—machine learning, deep learning,

computer vision and a suite of other artificial intelligence technologies—virtual reality, augmented reality, mixed reality, robotics, 3D printing, smart cities and connected health.

Speakers at this year's event include Barak Turovsky, head of product, Google Translate and machine learning; Raghu Raghuram, chief operating officer, products and cloud services, VMware; Fiona Tan, senior vice-president, customer technology, Walmart Labs; Arvind Gupta, chief executive officer, MyGov; Anish Shah, group president (strategy), Mahindra Group; Karan Bajwa, managing director, IBM India; Alok Ohrie, president and managing director, Dell India; Dipesh Shah, corporate senior vice president and managing director, Samsung R&D Institute Bangalore; and Prakash Mallya, managing director, sales and marketing group, Intel India.

### **IIT-Guwahati, USTM sign MoU for rural development**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/iit-guwahati-ustm-sign-mou-for-rural-development/articleshow/63211415.cms>



GUWAHATI: The Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IIT-G) and the University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to work together on rural technology and rural development to ensure 100% literacy and healthcare facilities in villages selected by both the institutions.

The MoU was signed by IIT-G director Gautam Biswas and USTM chancellor Mahbubul Hoque in the presence of several deans, USTM vice-chancellor RK Sharma, and pro vice-chancellor Alaka Sarma.

IIT-G director Biswas said the agreement is a step forward to integrate the premier institute with Assam as well as its neighbouring states through social and educational outreach programmes. USTM chancellor Hoque expressed hope that the MoU will create a bond for cooperation between IIT-G and USTM.

According to the pact, IIT-G will provide faculty support to USTM and host USTM students for attending special classes.

## March 7

### **IITs Warn of Fee Hike as Loan System Replaces Funding Grants, DU Too Voices Concern**

<https://www.news18.com/news/india/iits-warn-of-fee-hike-as-loan-system-replaces-funding-grants-du-too-voices-concern-1680945.html>

**Representatives of IITs met the President on Tuesday to raise concerns that raising fees to repay loans to HEFA is not an option and that internally generating the required funds would be difficult.**

New Delhi: Indian Institutes of Technology have expressed concern that taking loans from the newly-constituted Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA) for infrastructure projects may force them to increase fees.

Representatives of IITs met the President on Tuesday to raise these concerns, saying that raising fees to repay loans to HEFA is not an option and that internally generating the required funds would be difficult.

“The concern is repayments of these installments from the internal resources may result in shortage of fund available for the regular recurring expenditure of the institute,” said the source from IIT Bombay.

The Delhi University Teachers Association has also expressed concern about HEFA, saying that this direction of government policy is destroying public character of higher educational institutions, making them dependent on the market by requiring them to incrementally fund their expenditures out of revenue generated through commercial (educational) services. “This is privatization of education,” they said.

In August 2017, Ministry of Human Resource Development had directed all centrally funded higher education institutes to send their project funding proposals to HEFA instead of the ministry.

HEFA was announced in the Union budget 2018-19, scrapping grant-in-aid for new infrastructure in centrally-funded institutions (CFIs) such as the IITs, NITs, IIMs, IIITs and central universities. HEFA will finance these projects through 10 year loans.

Earlier, these institutes would send project proposals to MHRD, which provided grants to fund those projects it approved. However, with the establishment of this new agency, these institutes now have to borrow the money required to fund their projects.

There is still ambiguity regarding the repayment of the interest component of the loan, whether it would be borne by the ministry or the institute. An MHRD source told News18, “The principal portion will be paid by the IIT and the Government will assist in paying the interest portion.”

The IIT-B source said, “The initial understanding was that interest component of the loan would be

borne by the ministry, which has not been cleared till now.”

A separate dispensation is being considered for the newer IITs which do not have resources to service the loan, details of which are still being worked out, the MHRD source said.

HEFA approved projects worth ₹2,066.73 crore in six institutions in November 2017.

IIT-B has sought Rs 521 crore for the projects like construction of 17 hostels, 64 faculty quarters, construction of combined building for 3 departments and a research park under the new initiative called - Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE).

If that amount is sanctioned, the Institute would repay Rs 52 crore per annum as repayment. Furthermore, interest would also have to be paid over and above that amount. It could not be specifically calculated as there is no official rate of interest. A source said that informally IIT-B has been told that 8.5% interest will be levied.

The IIT-B is planning the re-payment of loan from the internal revenue generated by the institute, which comprises research and consultancy, income from tuition fee etc. They have a requirement of another Rs 200 crore for the coming year for infrastructure development.

Apart from them, IIT Delhi took Rs 200 crores last year and has again asked for an Rs 250 crore loan. An IIT-D source said that funds for repayment of these loans will come from increasing the charges for some of the subsidized facilities on campus like hostels and dining hall.

“The charges for some utilities will increase to pay the loans. Some services are heavily subsidized. There is no clarity on interest payment - if we have to bear the burden or the government. It is not written anywhere. If interest payment also falls on us there will be drastic changes,” the source said.

NIT Surathkal in Karnataka took an Rs 80 crore loan for a Central Research Facility Central Research Facility (CRF), where all departments will avail the research facility in one roof. Such center is expected to attract more industry for Industrial consultancy. “From the revenue generation, institute would require to repay the Principal Loan amount. For that the institute is planning to earn more revenue through the Central Research Facility, where in all the departments will avail the research facility in one roof. Such a center will attract more industry for Industrial consultancy,” An NIT source told News18.

With a target range of 10 to 15% increase in the Revenue generation every year, NIT Suratkal is planning to generate more revenue by exploring more avenues in the areas like industrial consultancy, testing and consultancy, attracting more Alumni contributions and usage charges for existing facilities – like canteens, banks, shops, playgrounds, swimming pool, lab facilities. Student fee will not be affected, they said.

### **After girls, IITs to have quota for foreign students**

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-after-girls-iits-to-have-quota-for-foreign-students-2591398>

After creating supernumerary quota for girls, Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are going to have reservation for foreign students in PhD and M.Tech admissions.

This is being done to improve the number of foreign students in IITs, which is currently just one percent of the total students. Last year, IITs had approved reservation for girls in order to address the gender parity in these institutions.

The decision to introduce foreign students' quota was discussed in the meeting of IITs and Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) with the President, who is the Visitor of these institutes, on Tuesday.

According to sources, this move has also been taken in order to improve international rankings of IITs. Currently, there are only one percent foreign students across all IITs and the Ministry of Human Resource Development wants to take this number higher in order to improve the position of IITs in world rankings.

"Currently IITs get just one percent of foreign students, which is why they always lag behind in parameters for foreign students and rank behind other institutions in world rankings. It is important for IITs to have more foreign students to improve their international rankings," said a senior official who was a part of the meeting, adding that all IITs agreed to the plan and the modalities will be worked out.

The ministry is also going to launch scholarships for students from ASEAN countries for admission to IITs. This was earlier discussed in a meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with all the heads of ASEAN countries around Republic Day.

Other issues that were discussed in the meeting included financing through HEFA where IITs raised their concerns about raising funds through the scheme and recruitment of foreign faculty. Ways to ease visa norms for foreign faculty, which has always been an issue for IITs when it comes to recruitment of foreigners, was also discussed in the meeting.

### **Encourage women participation in field of science: President**

<https://www.indiatoday.in/pti-feed/story/encourage-women-participation-in-field-of-science-president-1183519-2018-03-06>

New Delhi, Mar 6 (PTI) President Ram Nath Kovind today called for encouraging participation of women in science in every way possible, saying if gender disparity was not addressed, scientific achievements would be "less than perfect and less than desirable".

Addressing the directors of IISc, IITs and IISERs in the concluding session of the meet, the president said the country was facing enormous challenges like ensuring peoples health and well-being, lifting them out of poverty, or attaining food and energy security.

These institutes could play an important role, he said and suggested that the incubation centres could also help develop solutions to the problems experienced on a daily basis -- from pollution of natural resources to the traffic jams in rapidly expanding cities.

## **JJ School of Art, IIT to design ITS smart card**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/education/jj-school-of-art-iit-to-design-its-smart-card-5088698/>

The MMRDA had launched the competition to design the brand name, logo and the smart card for the ITS in January with a prize money for each category set at Rs 25000 for the winner. The prize for the runner-up was announced as Rs 15,000.

After holding a competition to finalise the design of the card for the proposed Integrated Ticketing System (ITS), the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) will now rope in Sir JJ School of Art and Indian Institute of Technology, to design the card. “The steering committee for the ITS did not find anything suitable among the entries received from the competition. So I have asked them to extract a few designs and then give it to the JJ School of Art and IIT, Bombay. They will now modify and design the card,” said Sanjay Khandare, Additional Metropolitan Commissioner, MMRDA.

The final design will be approved by the steering committee comprising Public Transport Operators (PTOs) and headed by the Metropolitan Commissioner UPS Madan. The MMRDA had launched the competition to design the brand name, logo and the smart card for the ITS in January with a prize money for each category set at Rs 25000 for the winner. The prize for the runner-up was announced as Rs 15,000.

With ITS, all transportation corridors within the city will be integrated and commuters can use a single smart card-based ticket to travel in all modes of transport, including suburban railway system, Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport buses, the monorail and the existing and upcoming metro corridors. The consultants, PricewaterhouseCoopers, have prepared the Detailed Project Report and the MMRDA will soon invite bids.

## **IIT Patna Director Pushpak Bhattacharyya to Head Committee for Standardisation in AI**

<https://analyticsindiamag.com/pushpak-bhattacharyya-to-head-ai-standardisation-committee/>



IIT Patna director Pushpak Bhattacharyya

The new committee for standardisation in artificial intelligence, set up by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), has now got a new chairman — Pushpak Bhattacharyya, director at Indian Institute of

Technology, Patna. The committee has been set up by BIS, which in turn falls under the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

According to media reports, the committee would focus on standardisation of projects that revolve around cyber security, legal and ethical issues in the IT sector, technological mapping and leveraging AI for national missions, among others.

Bhattacharyya, who also heads the Natural language processing research group Centre for Indian Language Technology (CFILT) lab at IIT Bombay, told a newspaper, "A lot of work is being done in artificial intelligence in US and Europe. The Indian government is also working on this front and the committee that has been formed will work on standardisation of projects in artificial intelligence. Since many start-ups are working on different projects in AI, the committee's main task will be to go through the projects to find if or not standardisation has been maintained in the projects."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been showcasing a strong inclination for working towards supporting a tech-driven future. Other initiatives that revolve around artificial intelligence and data science are also being supported by the Indian government.

For example, a special committee headed by the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar was founded with the sole purpose of laying out a roadmap for the country's research and development in the field. Reportedly, the decision to form the committee came after news of China's intense and growing commitment in the field of AI.

Earlier, the Commerce and Industry Ministry constituted a task force to prepare for the industrial Revolution 4.0 and the resulting economic transformation late in 2017. V Kamakoti, a professor from the department of computer science and engineering at Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, heads the panel for the same.

Industry insiders are happy to see that the Modi-led NDA government is working towards supporting a tech-driven future. This year, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has also doubled the allocation on Digital India programme to ₹3,073 crore in 2018-19.

### **Interactive: 100+ Indian AI Researchers, Ranked by H-Index, Citations**

<https://factordaily.com/interactive-100-indian-ai-researchers-ranked-h-index-citations/>



AI researchers are an elite priesthood even among computer scientists and this interactive data graphic is an attempt at mapping India's top-tier AI talent pool. Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, the country's Indian Institutes of Technology, and the Indian Institutes of Information Technology shine in academia, while companies such as Flipkart, IBM, Microsoft, and Tata Consultancy Services do well among companies with such talent. (Early disclosure: We have so far mapped less than one-third of the top AI talent in India.)

India's top AI researchers don't run into thousands. The recent Global AI Talent Report 2018 estimates the number of Ph.D educated AI researchers in India at just 386 of the some 22,000 worldwide.

The graphic takes a look at the most influential researchers in the field of AI and machine learning from India, based on citations, location, and H-Index of authors. The H-index measures the productivity and impact of the published work of a scientist or scholar.

To spot these Indian researchers, we mined the top 500 profiles on Google Scholar, ML India, and LinkedIn for keywords such as artificial intelligence, deep learning, machine learning, artificial neural networks, computer vision, natural language processing, and robotics. Data on the H-Index, published papers, total citations was sourced from Scopus, an abstract and citation database of information and analytics provider Elsevier.

We counted only AI researchers physically based in India, or are currently teaching in Indian universities. We have data on 126 researchers at the time of publishing, which is around 33% of the number of Ph.D AI researchers in the country counted by the AI talent report, authored by Jean-François Gagné, CEO of AI solutions provider Element AI.

The data does show some clear trends – Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata has four people in the top 10 – profiles by the H-Index. Soumen Chakrabarti (61) of IIT Bombay, Padma Shri award winner Sankar Kumar Pal (47), and Nikhil R. Pal (41) are some of the country's leading lights in AI and machine learning research. Bengaluru (23), New Delhi (17), Mumbai (15), and Hyderabad (14) are the leading cities in terms of AI hotspots for research work. IITs (44) and IIITs (12) lead in academia, while Flipkart (9), IBM (5), Microsoft (4), and TCS (3) are industry hotspots for researchers.

If there are any researchers that you would like to add to this visualisation, fill in this Google form. With your feedback, FactorDaily will hopefully have a more robust database on Indian AI hotshots.

On the graphic, a couple of points: Researchers are randomly distributed here with the size of each of the circles representing their H-index or number of citations. Mouse over or press a circle to get details of a researcher including name, expertise, H-index, number of citations, and location. The colour of the circles represents the cities they are in or are associated with.





### March 6

#### **IITs excel in research but down in QS subject rankings**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/education/iits-excel-in-research-but-down-in-qs-subject-rankings/story-GDivomAjEQCvwCD5puq7kK.html>

All of it was not bad news though. Delhi University again achieved India's highest position, ranking 17th for development studies



IIT Roorkee emerged as India's strongest research institution in the QS subject rankings as eight of its departments achieved an average citations per faculty (CPF) score of 80.9 out of 100 (Courtesy: iitr.ac.in)

Despite excellence in research and academics, India's Indian Institutes of Technology are continuing their slide down global rankings, the QS World University Ranking by Subject, 2018, has revealed.

Released recently by global higher education analysts Quacquarelli Symonds, the rankings of the world's top universities for the study of 48 different subjects indicate that India's IITs are ranked 80 times across the 48 subject tables. Their ranks have, however, dropped 25 times and improved just five times.

All of it was not bad news though. Delhi University again achieved India's highest position, ranking 17 for development studies.

IIT Roorkee emerged as India's strongest research institution as eight of its departments achieved an average citations per faculty (CPF) score of 80.9 out of 100. This was better than the average of the Indian Institute of Science Bangalore – its 12 ranked departments scored 79.09 out of 100 for CPF.

However, pointing to an overall 'regressive' trend, the QS rankings said Indian universities were ranked in the top 50 of a subject table on three occasions this year, one fewer than in 2017. The institutes had achieved 20 top 100 ranks, four fewer than last year.

In total, 25 Indian institutions were ranked 142 times overall – nine times fewer than in 2017.

India also had two of the world's top 50 schools for the study of mining engineering. The Indian School of Mines ranked 29th, while Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, was at number 40. Both institutions, however, had dropped five places year-on-year.

Three Indian universities featured in the top 100 for QS's electrical and electronic engineering table.

When it came to citations per faculty, which enables QS to measure a department's research impact, the score achieved by India's ten ranked electrical engineering departments was 83.37, indicating "particular research strength in the area," the report said.

### **IIT Roorkee, Pratham Raise Funds to Make Youth Employable**

<https://www.ndtv.com/education/iit-roorkee-pratham-raise-funds-to-make-youth-employable-1820421>

The IIT Roorkee campaign in partnership with non-profit organisation Pratham Education Foundation has so far raised Rs. 29,604, according to a statement.

A pan-India fund raising campaign has been launched to sponsor a skill-based training programme

ROORKEE: IIT Roorkee Cognizance, an annual technical festival of the campus, has launched a pan-India fund raising campaign to sponsor a skill-based training programme for 40 unemployed youth and help them get jobs. The campaign in partnership with non-profit organisation Pratham Education Foundation has so far raised Rs. 29,604, according to a statement.

With the cost of helping one student acquire vocational skills at Rs. 2,500, the cognizance team aims to raise Rs. 1 lakh to help at least 40 people to "stand-up confidently in the job market", the statement said.

"The annual technical festival has been taking up various social problems and working on them over years. The Cognizance team has contributed to the generous cause, but because of being a not-for-

profit student organisation, we are able to produce just a tiny ripple of change," Cognizance 2018 Convener -administration- Manmohan Singh Charan said in the statement.

After the training, Pratham has ensured placement and entrepreneurship support to these youth.

"Pratham has been closing the skills gap by providing industry-specific training to underprivileged youth, helping them accumulate experience and transition to employment in new professions and localities," said the statement.

### **IIMB and IIT set to merge technology and management education**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/iimb-and-iit-set-to-merge-technology-and-management-education/article22939452.ece>

#### **The 10-month programme, for those with work experience of three years or more, will look to combine inputs from research and industry**

The Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru (IIMB) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras have joined hands to offer a unique Certificate Programme in Technology and Management.

So far, they have piqued the interest of hundreds of working professionals. While majority of them are from India, there are a few from countries such as Nepal, Burma, Bangladesh, Singapore and Malaysia.

The programme is for those who have work experience of three years or more, but it is also open to IIMB and IIT Madras students.

The 10-month programme, which includes learning of cross-functional technical and business skills, comprises online courses and 12 campus-connect sessions in each institute over three modules, delivered by faculty of both institutes. There will also be online discussion forums, case studies, webinars, and interviews with industry professionals so that students can stay abreast of industry trends.

P.D. Jose, Chair, IIMB Digital Learning Initiatives, and faculty in the Strategy area at IIMB, said 15 eminent faculty members from IIMB and IIT Madras would teach and mentor the students. Learning from faculty from both institutes, combining inputs from research and industry, will help the students acquire and apply application-oriented perspectives at work, he said.

Courses from the management discipline will empower students with a 360-degree view of all management aspects, while technical courses will expose them to relevant data science and computing technologies, helping them to become well-rounded professionals, Prof. Jose added.

#### **Ten courses**

The programme will consist of 10 courses across management and engineering disciplines. Prof. Jose aid students have a choice of picking one of two technology streams for specialisation: data sciences or computer science. They have to complete these 10 courses spread across three modules. "In each module, the learner will have the opportunity to experience the IIT-M and IIMB classrooms through

campus connect sessions. During these day-long sessions, the students will interact with faculty for case study and project discussions,” he said.

Prof. Andrew Thangaraj of IIT Madras said: “IITs, as leading technical institutes, will offer courses in Data Analytics, Cloud Computing, and Machine Learning.”

Registrations are open in March, and admissions and enrolments will begin later.

### **Satellite building info now on Wiki, thanks to IIT-B**

<http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-satellite-building-info-now-on-wiki-thanks-to-iit-b-2591102>



Pratham Satellite File photo of IIT-B students with the Pratham satellite

Over a year after Pratham, a satellite designed and built by students of IIT-Bombay was launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) into space, the makers of the satellite have now launched a wiki page to make the information about its make and functioning accessible to all.

Called 'Satellite 101', the page has been created exclusively by the members of the IIT-Bombay Student Satellite Project (IITBSSP). It gives a step-by-step guide to building a student satellite, right from building a team for the task to developing the satellite sub-systems.

"We are hopeful that this Wiki page would lead to many more Prathams across several colleges of India, thereby leading to an overall improvement in the science and technology sector in the country," said one of the members of IITBSSP.

The wiki page clearly warns students that the information provided by the team cannot 'replace' the efforts that go into the making of a satellite, but can only 'supplement' them.

Pratham, a weather satellite, was launched into space on September 26, 2016, as a part of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) of the ISRO. The students of the institute are now working on the second student satellite — Advitiy (meaning unparalleled). The students hope to add to the contents of the wiki page with updates on the developments in the work of Advitiy. "We decided to maintain this wiki as a parallel to our work on Advitiy, so that it can keep evolving in tandem with our experience," states the page.

## IIT-M students develop mobile unit that turns plastic waste into fuel oil

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/2018/mar/06/iit-m-students-develop-mobile-unit-that-turns-plastic-waste-into-fuel-oil-1782717.html>



The IIT-M team that has developed a solar-powered plastic fuel mobile unit.

CHENNAI: A team of students from IIT-Madras has developed a solar-powered mobile unit that converts non-recyclable plastic waste into fuel oil that is cheaper than diesel and can be used as a substitute in generators, industrial boilers, furnaces, diesel-powered engines and agricultural pumps.

The technology, when scaled up into a full-fledged commercial product, can be the ideal solution for city corporations to manage plastic waste. This green technology — Plastic Pyrolysis — essentially breaks down polymer chain in plastic at 350-500 degree Celsius in the absence of oxygen to get the low density fuel oil.

The best thing about this technology is that even waste such as plastic bags, packaging material and other miscellaneous plastic stuff that are not normally picked up by ragpickers for recycling can be used as raw materials. These non-recyclable varieties are a real nightmare as they do not degrade, but clog drains, choke livestock and mar the environment.

As per the study conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), India generates about 5.6 million tonnes of plastic waste annually, of which 2.24 million tonnes remain uncollected. Chennai ranks second among all the cities with 429 tonnes of plastic waste being generated daily.

Research scholar G Divyapriya, who is part of the student team, said there are large-scale pyrolysis plants with a capacity of five tonnes per day. “There is one at Alandur, but these plants are not optimised due to low input of raw materials. Ours is a completely decentralised mechanism, where the vehicle can go to the corporation collection points once in a fortnight and process the waste. We are also working on different catalysts that can improve the yield of the fuel. One kilogram of plastic will give 0.9 litre of fuel oil. The primary objective of the plastic fuel mobile unit is waste management,” she said.

A couple of industries like Indian Oil Corporation have already shown interest in the technology. Indumathi M Nambi, professor, Environmental and Water Resources Engineering Division, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT-M, said the mobile unit can cater to the waste management needs

of big residential complexes and industries. This mode of plastic disposal can also come under CSR activity of the corporate sector.

Sriram Narasimhan, managing trustee of Samriddhi foundation and industrial mentor for the project, said the team has done a good job understanding the issues with the current largescale technology. "Finding a solution that is not bound by unavailability of raw material, catering to urban, semi-urban and rural needs is commendable. Compared to furnace oil, the plastic fuel is cheap and less polluting," he said. The team has won the Zero Carbon Challenge-2018 recently and looks to incubate with IIT Madras Research Park.

### **IIT head is AI brain**

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/states/bihar/iit-head-is-ai-brain-213435>



Pushpak Bhattacharyya

**Patna:** Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Patna director Pushpak Bhattacharyya has been appointed chairman of the committee for standardisation in artificial intelligence set up by the Bureau of Indian Standards under the ministry of consumer affairs.

Artificial intelligence or AI is the theory and development of computer system which is able to perform tasks that requires human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making and even language translation.

Apart from IIT-Patna, the committee headed by Bhattacharyya has members and representatives from premier educational and research institutes such as Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, IIT-Delhi, IIT-Bombay, IIT-Madras, IIT-Kanpur, IIIT-Hyderabad.

The committee will also have representatives from TCS, Google India, IBM India, Samsung, CSI (Computer Society of India), IBM Research, Intel Research and Microsoft Research. Representatives from ministry of electronics and information technology (Centre for Artificial Intelligence & Robotics) will also assist other team members.

The committee will be focusing on cyber security, safety, legal and ethical issues in IT, technological mapping, leveraging artificial intelligence for national missions and other projects. Bhattacharyya said: "A lot of work is being done in artificial intelligence in US and Europe. The Indian government is also working on this front and the committee that has been formed will work on standardisation of projects in artificial intelligence."

He said: "Since many start-ups are working on different projects in artificial intelligence, the committee's main task will be to go through the projects to find if or not standardisation has been maintained in the projects."

Bhattacharyya is professor of computer science and engineering at IIT-Bombay. Bhattacharyya has a BTech from IIT-Kharagpur (1984) and an Mtech from IIT-Kanpur (1986). He is known for his contributions to natural language processing and has several distinctions in the field.

### **Panel suggests cooling off period before IIM director's third term**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/education/panel-suggests-cooling-off-period-before-iim-directors-third-term-5087435/>

In 2015, IIM Bangalore's Board had last written to the HRD Ministry requesting an exception for its then head Sunil Vachani by raising the retirement age to 70 years.

A government panel set up to frame rules under the IIM Act is learnt to have prescribed "a cooling off period" of five years before an IIM director, who has served for two consecutive terms, becomes eligible to be appointed as the head of the same institute again. The panel, headed by IIM Sirmaur Chairman Ajay Shriram and with IIM-Bangalore director G Raguram and IIM Rohtak director Dheeraj Sharma as members, has also backed the longstanding demand of the premier business schools to extend the retirement age of an IIM director to 70 years.

The current retirement age of 65 years is unique to the 20 institutes even as heads of IITs and central universities are permitted to serve their term up to the age of 70. In 2015, IIM Bangalore's Board had last written to the HRD Ministry requesting an exception for its then head Sunil Vachani by raising the retirement age to 70 years. The above recommendations will be part of the draft rules that will be vetted by the law ministry before being notified. Clause 34(1) of the IIM Act empowers the government to make rules to carry out the provisions of the law. The rules will lay down terms and conditions of service of the director and the powers and duties of the Board of Governors (BoG) among other things.

The eight-member committee's recommendations include:

In case of sudden vacancy of a director's post because of any reason, the institute will initiate the process for filling up the post within a month and wind up the process within six months.

An IIM director can be removed by the board only with 2/3rd majority of the board, excluding the director.

A director can resign from the post with three months' notice. The board may not accept the resignation in case an inquiry against the director is going on or being contemplated by BoG.

The first Coordination Forum – the IIM equivalent of the IIT Council- will be constituted by the government.

Every year all 20 IIMs will have to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the government spelling out performance parameters and output targets.

## March 5

### **4 IITs, IISc Bangalore to Have Research Parks**

<https://www.ndtv.com/education/4-iits-iisc-bangalore-to-have-research-parks-1819940>

Department of Science & Technology, Government has decided to set-up five new Research Parks at IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati, IIT Kanpur, IIT Hyderabad, and IISc Bangalore at a total cost of Rs.75.00 crore each.



Research parks will be set up at a total cost of Rs.75.00 crore each.

NEW DELHI: Department of Science & Technology, Government has decided to set-up five new Research Parks at IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati, IIT Kanpur, IIT Hyderabad, and IISc Bangalore at a total cost of Rs.75.00 crore each. This has been done based on the recommendations of the National Expert Advisory Committee (NEAC) constituted by the DST.

According to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the government has also approved continued funding of two Research Parks at IIT Bombay and IIT Kharagpur at a cost of Rs.100 crore each.

The Research Park at IIT Gandhinagar at a total cost of Rs.90 crore is funded by the Department of Science & Technology, Minister of State (HRD), Dr. Satya Pal Singh told Lok Sabha today.

IIT Madras Research Park is fully functional with 43 R&D clients, 4 Incubators, 55 Startups, and 5 Centres of Excellence, he added.

"Government provides necessary budgetary support to the IITs for campus development by using environment-friendly methods. The government intends to undertake review periodically of the functioning of research parks," the minister said.

According to the minister, the Government has also announced the decision to launch a Smart Campus Campaign under which educational institutions will be encouraged to optimise the use of water, electricity and also adopt measures for generating power through solar installations.



The institutions which perform on the parameters of saving, conserving and recycling would be identified and honoured, the minister said.

### **Shift from grants to loans for infrastructure has IITs worried, matter to raised during meet with President**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/education/shift-from-grants-to-loans-for-infrastructure-has-iits-worried-matter-to-raised-during-meet-with-president-5086080/>

Under the Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) initiative, there will be no further grant-in-aid for new infrastructure in centrally-funded institutions (CFIs) such as the IITs, NITs, IIMs, IIITs and central universities. President Ram Nath Kovind will meet heads of all IITs, NITs and IISERs on Tuesday in his capacity as the Visitor of all centrally-funded technical institutions.

The Union government's big announcement on the new funding model for all future infrastructure development across centrally-run institutions has evoked concern among the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), The Indian Express has learnt.

Under the Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) initiative, announced in the Union budget this year, there will be no further grant-in-aid for new infrastructure in centrally-funded institutions (CFIs) such as the IITs, NITs, IIMs, IIITs and central universities. Instead, they will have to finance these projects through 10-year loans taken from the Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA), which was set up by the government to mobilise funds.

As first reported by The Indian Express on February 26, a quarter of the loans on offer, that is roughly Rs 25,000 crore will be set aside exclusively for the 23 IITs. However, the complete shift from grants assistance to loans has prompted the older IITs to express concern that the move could hurt their financial position.

Some of them are now planning to raise the issue at the upcoming meeting with the President this week, said an IIT director on condition of anonymity. President Ram Nath Kovind will meet heads of all IITs, NITs and IISERs on Tuesday in his capacity as the Visitor of all centrally-funded technical institutions.

As a first step in the direction of moving away from grant-in-aid model for capital development, the government cut its budget assistance for the IITs by almost 20 per cent, from Rs 6,326 crore (budget estimate) last year to Rs 7,856 crore (budget estimate) this year.

The concerns regarding RISE are limited to the older IITs as they, unlike the technical institutes set up between 2008 and 2014, will have to repay the whole principal amount over ten years. The interest will be taken care of by the government. The younger institutions, on the other hand, will have to repay 25 per cent of the principal amount. The balance principal and loan interest will be paid by the government.

“There are primarily three sources of income generation for an educational institution — research projects, tuition fee and alumni endowments. The problem with research funding in India is that the

overhead expenditure is not paid separately to the institute. So, we don't end up earning much from these projects," said another IIT director, who also did not wish to be named.

"Alumni philanthropy hasn't really picked up in India. As for tuition fee, education in the IITs is highly subsidised. That isn't enough to generate adequate revenues to pay off loans that may run into crores," he added.

"We don't have a problem with the initiative, but we do want clear commitments from the government with regard to our recurring expenditure," said the director of another IIT.

The government, however, feels the concerns are misplaced. "Some of the old IITs generate an annual revenue of up to Rs 40 crore. Under RISE, they can borrow up to 10 times the amount they escrow. The government is committed to continue funding the running expenses of all institutes such as salaries. So there is no question of the loans hurting them financially," said a source.

### **IITB-Monash Research Academy PhD Scholarships 2018**

<https://www.siasat.com/news/iitb-monash-research-academy-phd-scholarships-2018-1325539/>



#### **IITB-Monash Research Academy PhD Scholarships 2018:**

IITB-Monash Research Academy invites applications for IITB-Monash Research Academy Ph.D.

Scholarships 2018 from MTech, ME, MSc, BE, BTech, BSc students. It aims to provide significant and innovative research outcomes.

The joint venture of IIT Bombay and Monash Research Academy enhances research collaborations between Australia and India.

#### **Who can apply for this scholarship:**

First class in MTech, ME; or First class in MSc; or First class BE, BTech, BSc and a valid GATE score

NOTE: Candidates without a valid GATE score or research fellowship can be considered for admission if they have a minimum two years of professional experience.

#### **How can you apply:**

Step 1: The candidate has to fill (EOI) Expression of Interest.

Step 2: If the EOI is selected, the candidate will get a unique (FAN) Form A Number via email invitation.

Step 3: Login to upload all the required documents. Note: Candidate has only one opportunity to use their FAN to log in to the site to upload all of your documentation related to the application process.

So it will be most optimal if you collect all documentation relating to your application before visiting the site.

**FAQS:**

Q. Is there an English Language pre-requisite for entry into the Academy Ph.D. program?

A. Proficiency in the English language is a must.

This is assessed on the basis of the manner in which the response made to specific questions in the Form-A and during the face-to-face interview.

The GRE/GATE/IELTS/TOEFL will be considered as part of the assessment process if available.

**Q. When is the best time to apply?**

A. Apply when in the final year of BTech, MTech, ME or MSc. The program is open to all candidates with a first class degree in MTech, MSc from a reputed university or a graduation/ post graduation with a high GPA from the IIT, NIT or BITS.

**Terms and Conditions:**

The amount of scholarship:

INR 3,72,000 per annum scholarship for the first two years

INR 4,20,000 per annum after first two years

A grant of up to AUD 25,850 per annum in Australia

A minimum of one year in Australia working with your Monash University co-supervisor, waiver of international student tuition fees at Monash University.

**AICTE panel suggests new way to test engineering students**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/education/aicte-panel-suggests-new-way-to-test-engineering-students/story-Ki3ThUNj0XHq5ZaQDbohGO.html>

The committee has suggested a number of measures including a focus on projects, training and “situational questions”, an official said.



An AICTE committee has suggested changes to the way students are tested in engineering colleges across the country.

An All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) committee has suggested changes to the way students are tested in engineering colleges across the country along the lines of the system used in premier institutes like IITs and NITs, officials familiar with the matter said on Sunday.

In premier institutes, students are rarely grilled on theory, but on concepts and application with an emphasis on analysis and ‘quants’ or quantitative problems. AICTE had setup the committee on

exam reforms comprising of experts from various fields in earlier this year which submitted the draft report in March. Over 3,500 institutes are approved by the AICTE.

The AICTE, the apex body and regulator of technical education in the country, has called a meeting on Monday of vice-chancellors of technical universities, deans, directorate of technical education officials, and teachers, to discuss the report, according to an AICTE official, who did not want to be named.

The committee has suggested a number of measures including a focus on projects, training and “situational questions”, the official added.

“Currently we have descriptive questions that encourage rote-learning rather than promoting the critical thinking of the students. It also focuses more on testing the subject knowledge of the student,” the official said. The committee’s report also includes model exam papers prepared along the lines of the new method.

The plan now is to “have clear-cut learning outcomes for each programme and have an exam to test each of those outcomes,” said the official.

Explaining the new system, the official said that the committee modelled its approach on Bloom’s taxonomy, which is a tool to help develop learning objectives. The system classifies educational objectives in a hierarchy as cognitive, sensory and affective.

Experts think the move will help students develop thinking abilities. “It’s definitely a good step. For instance, Bloom’s taxonomy has been in existence for quite some time and the sensitisation that AICTE is doing is quite important. Framing of questions is significant as it can force a student to think, Even during the accreditation, institutes are currently also asked what outcomes have been achieved and how have you achieved it?” said Dheeraj Sanghi, a professor of computer science at IIT Kanpur.

### **Rajalakshmi Institutions wins pan-IIT event**

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2018/mar/05/rajalakshmi-institutions-wins-pan-iit-event-1782139.html>

CHENNAI: Rajalakshmi Institutions, Chennai (Chennai Cluster) won the Pan-IIT Alumni Leadership Series (PALS) for its project “Chitin Cellulose Beads for Textile Effluent treatment.”

The event was an education initiative with exhibition of the finalists’ projects for ‘innoWAH’ the Innovation Challenge Competition, on the theme - “Sustaining our fragile environment through application of engineering and technology.” It was an initiative supported by the IIT Alumni Center and IIT Madras Alumni Charitable Trust.

KSR College of Technology, Tiruchengode, bagged the second prize for its project “Extraction of Methane from sewage using seaweeds” while the third prize was shared by Adithya Institute of Technology, Coimbatore for the project “Auto Irrigation, soil monitoring and control for better crop yield” and RVS College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore for “Prevention of air pollution by exhaust gas ionising technique.”

Twenty five teams from 22 engineering colleges of Tamil Nadu participated in the finals and demonstrated their projects to the panel of judges.

The main aim of “innoWAH!” was to recognise promising young innovators and provide a platform for them to showcase their talent.

### **Saving the nature**

The event was an education initiative with exhibition of the finalists’ projects for ‘innoWAH’ the Innovation Challenge Competition, on the theme - “Sustaining our fragile environment through application of engineering and technology.” It was an initiative supported by the IIT Alumni Center and IIT Madras Alumni Charitable Trust.

## **National Virtual Library of India: C-DAC spearheads massive virtual library project**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/national-virtual-library-of-india-c-dac-spearheads-massive-virtual-library-project-5086698/>

“The idea was to have a massive online library, where resources from across fields available in all possible forms, could be collated and made available on a single platform,” said Dinesh Katre, senior director and head at C-DAC’s Human-Centred Design and Computing Group



A limited-version launch of the NVLI portal was recently held in Mumbai.

This is the quantum of multi-lingual ‘knowledge resources’ to be made available in the form of documents, books, images, audio, videos and other forms in the coming months.

Spearheaded by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), headquartered in Pune, the massive the National Virtual Library of India (NVLI) will be an online platform covering tens and hundreds of fields, ranging from arts, music, dance, culture, theatre, science and technology to education, archaeology, literature, museums, cartography maps, e-papers and manuscripts, among others. This programme is a part of the National Mission on Libraries initiated by the National Knowledge Commission under the Ministry of Culture. A limited-version launch of the NVLI portal by Shraavan Kumar, joint secretary in the ministry, was recently held in Mumbai.

“The idea was to have a massive online library, where resources from across fields available in all possible forms, could be collated and made available on a single platform,” Dinesh Katre, senior director and head at C-DAC’s Human-Centred Design and Computing Group, told The Indian Express.

This would largely benefit researchers, students and subject experts, among others, who would no longer need to hunt or spend hours for reference material in traditional library buildings. Moreover, these contents will be preserved permanently for future requirements too, he added.

Once formally launched, this could be one of the world's largest virtual libraries where information on such diverse subjects are available. Currently, Australia operates a similar facility named Treasure Trove. The biggest advantage for India is the federal government system, where data gathering from government-run institutions is easier. "We are also open to contributions from private parties, but for that MoUs will be signed," he said.

While C-DAC is working on developing softwares to accommodate such multi-lingual data, a portal will be open for common users in the coming months. Other partnering institutions for this project include IIT-Mumbai, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata, and Kalyani University, West Bengal.

"We have nearly 40 institutions which will share their data in whatever available formats. It will be reviewed by a team of experts before it is classified into categories. Once launched, the platform will be freely accessible for editing or contributions from outsiders or subject experts, making it more user-friendly," added Katre. C-DAC has been conducting training workshops and seminars at these 40 institutes so that there is a standard format for documenting the varied contents, presently measuring a few terabytes.

## **March 4**

### **Smart gadget can detect TB in an hour**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/smart-gadget-can-detect-tb-in-an-hour/articleshow/63152540.cms>



NEW DELHI: There may soon be a cost-effective, time-saving gadget to detect mycobacterium tuberculosis. Researchers from IIT Delhi, Jamia Hamdard University and Indian Council for Medical Research have developed 'iMC2 TB Test', which promises to bring down the detection time from four days to an hour.

At present, smear microscopy is used to diagnose pulmonary TB by analysis of sputum samples. The new gadget needs no expertise or heavy infrastructure to test sputum.

The gadget is the brainchild of Seyed E Hasnain of IIT-D who is the VC of Jamia Hamdard, Ravikrishnan Elangovan of IIT-D and Nasreen Ehtesham of ICMR. "TB is a dangerous disease that should be diagnosed and treated at an early stage. The existing diagnosis method is time-consuming and lacks desired sensitivity. We studied 49 people who were not diagnosed with TB earlier. But we found 84% of actually had TB," said Hasnain.

The diagnostic kit costing up to Rs 500 would be designed to minimise exposure among clinical workers. Six samples could be tested at a time. The gadget is already being tested at Jamia Hamdard. The project has cost Rs 2.28 crore and comes under a centrally funded IIT-IISc joint programme.

In future, the researchers are hoping to make it as popular as the diabetes strips.

### **March 3**

#### **IIT KGP to set up center of excellence in Artificial Intelligence**

<https://www.brainbuxa.com/education-news/iit-kgp-to-set-up-center-of-excellence-in-artificial-intelligence-8046>



IIT KGP is all set to establish first of its kind Center of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence (AI) research which will cover everything such as education, training, research, projects, incubation, and entrepreneurship related to the field of AI and the will be seed funded by the Capillary Technologies Limited with an amount of 5.64 crores. The seed amount will be used for setting up computing infrastructure, hardware simulation platforms, software and designing the coursework.

"IIT KGP has developed a deep expertise in the overall area of Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Data Sciences and its applications in several critical domains over a long period of time, among others. It is time that we lead this initiative in AI to fulfill the need of AI technologies in the 21st century" said Prof. P P Chakrabarti, Director, IIT Kharagpur.

A statement from the institute said "IIT KGP would start the Center with teaching and learning and knowledge dissemination program and the faculty from the Institute, Capillary specialist, and deep-learning industry experts would work together to prepare the curricula".

According to the IIT KGP, the curricula will involve short-term credit courses and a certificate program for internal students and for the external students as well.

"The way we look at AI, it is the future not just in our industry but in every aspect of life. We wish to support the envisaged programs of the AI Center in various ways. Over the last few years, we have invested over Rs. 40 lakh annually in various research projects that hold the promise of shaping the future of our industry. We wish to continue our association with IIT KGP by investing a similar amount over a period of time to make this AI Center a truly industry-leading one." said Aneesh Reddy, Co-Founder and CEO, Capillary Technologies.

### **UGC Drafts New Policy for Teacher Recruitment – Major Highlights**

<https://chandigarhmetro.com/ugc-new-policy-for-teacher-recruitment-highlights/>

UGC drafts new regulations in context to the appointment of the teachers.

After seeking feedbacks in context to the appointment of the teachers as well as the other academic staff in the different colleges and universities, UGC has drafted a new set of regulations regarding the minimum qualification of the teaching faculty at various places. UGC which stands for University Grants Commission had sought feedback from many different stakeholders till 28th February 2018 and has now laid regulations regarding the same.

The UGC NET is conducted every year in order to determine the eligibility of the Indian Nationals for the Eligibility of the Assistant Professor only or the Junior Research Fellowship as well as the eligibility of Assistant Professors both in the Indian Universities and colleges.

#### **UGC to Introduce Minimum Qualification for Teachers**

UGC has proposed regulations related to appointment as well as the rest other service conditions for the teaching faculty of various universities and colleges. A minimum qualification for the appointment of the teachers as well as the other academic staff will now be required so as to maintain the standards in the higher education, 2018. However, the CBSE conducted UGC NET will remain to be the minimum eligibility test for the interested students applying for the assistant professor as well as the equivalent positions.

Additionally, a PhD degree will now be considered important in order to qualify for the appointment as well as the promotion for the associate professor post. in the different universities and colleges



with effect from 1st July 2021. A PhD degree shall be mandatory if the date of eligibility falls on the qualification after 1st July 2021.

### Know UGC's Proposed Regulations Here

Adding to the need of having a PhD degree for qualification necessarily, the interested students should note that anyone who obtains the PhD degree from any university or institution which is on the list of the top 500 World University ranking by QS, the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) as well as Times Higher Education (THE), the candidate shall be eligible to be hired to work at the position of assistant professor through direct means. Also, the teachers' workload in case of full employment should be at least 40 hours per week for a number of 180 teaching days that is 30 working weeks. The induction program for the assistant professors should be conducted for a period of 1 month.

## March 2

### Indian Universities Fare Poorly as Only Six Feature in Top 400 of Global Rankings

<http://www.india.com/news/india/indian-universities-fare-poorly-as-only-six-feature-in-top-400-of-world-university-rankings-2018-2922999/>

New Delhi, Mar 2: In the QS World University Rankings 2018, only six Indian universities have featured in the top 400 rankings. Out of the six, five are Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). The only non-IIT, which has ranked in the World University Rankings 2018, is Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru.

IIT-Delhi is the top-ranked institutes among the Indian varsities to have appeared in the rankings. IIT-Delhi has been ranked at 172. It was ranked 185th in 2017. The rest in the line include IIT-Bombay (179), IISc (190), IIT-Madras (264), IIT-Kanpur (293) and IIT-Kharagpur (308). The university which has topped the list is Harvard University.

172	 Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)	More	
179	 Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)	More	
190	 Indian Institute of Science	More	
264	 Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM)	More	
293	 Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK)	More	
308	 Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT-KGP)	More	
431-440	 Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR)	More	

“As for this year’s results, Harvard University can once again proudly boast of being ranked number one for more subjects than any other institution. The Massachusetts University tops 14 different

subject tables, one fewer than it did last year. The next two universities with the most number one positions are Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the University of Oxford. These institutions are top of 12 and four subject tables respectively,” the official release said.

However, “universities in the US across all subjects have gone down more than they’ve gone up, something which is likely to be of concern to Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos and the wider Trump administration.”

### **In QS World University Rankings 2018, IITs gain in the arts**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/education/qs-world-university-rankings-2018-iits-gain-in-the-arts-5083407/>

While the IITs have either maintained their performance or made significant gains on the arts and humanities front, they found themselves slipping in the rankings for some of the core engineering subjects and sciences

In a striking trend thrown up by the latest QS World University Rankings by subject, the country’s premier engineering schools have broken into the top 500 league for subjects covered under arts and humanities.

IIT Delhi and IIT Mumbai, for instance, have made their debut in the global rankings this year for their performance in linguistics. IIT Delhi figures in the 201-250 band, IIT Bombay in the 251-300 band. IIT Kharagpur and IIT Kanpur, meanwhile, have entered the top 500 for social sciences & management.

In a year when Delhi University, one of the country’s top institutions for arts and social sciences, slipped 42 spots — from rank 210 last year to 252 now — for this faculty, IIT Delhi gained 57 ranks in arts and humanities.

The QS World University Rankings by subject is in its eight year, and covers 48 subjects. The top 500 institutes for each subject are compiled by judging performance on four parameters — international reputation among academics, among employers, research citations, and H-index in the relevant subjects. The H-index is a benchmark that uses citation analysis to determine a scholar or a scientist’s research impact.

While the IITs have either maintained their performance or made significant gains on the arts and humanities front, they found themselves slipping in the rankings for some of the core engineering subjects and sciences.

IIT-Bombay, for instance, slid in five subjects — physics and astronomy, statistics and operational research, mathematics, environmental sciences and biological sciences. IIT-Madras’s performance slipped in computer science and information systems, biological sciences, chemistry, mathematics and physics & astronomy, and IIT-Delhi’s ranking dipped in chemical engineering, electrical and electronic engineering and biological sciences.

IIT directors, however, are wary of making year-on-year comparisons. “The fluctuations in rankings can be for different reasons,” said IIT Madras director Bhaskar Ramamurti. “For instance, we are in the process of building and expanding the computer science department and we have hired new

faculty to take the total number [of teachers] up from 18 to 30. The research published by new faculty will obviously be small in number. So I maybe hit in terms of rankings, but I can't let that stop me from building my department. We have to look at long-term gains, and not year-on-year comparisons."

<b>THE SILVER LINING</b>			
<b>IIT</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>RANK CHANGE</b>
<b>ARTS &amp; HUMANITIES, FACULTY</b>			
Delhi	351	401-450	Up 57
Bombay	401-450	-	New
<b>SOCIAL SCIENCES &amp; MANAGEMENT, FACULTY</b>			
Bombay	227	342	Up 115
Delhi	232	299	Up 67
Kanpur	451-500	-	New
Kharagpur	401-450	-	New
Madras	451-500	401-450	Up 1
<b>LINGUISTICS, SUBJECT</b>			
Delhi	201-250	-	New
Bombay	251-300	-	New

Ramamurti added, "If you look at our physics department, and this is probably true for all IITs, more than half our physicists work with materials. Many of their papers are in journals that the rankings classify as material sciences journals. They don't go by which department we put our faculty in. They go by which journals they publish in. What they [QS rankings] call physics is particle physics. Our strength in that is not very large."

"The changes are marginal and not significant," IIT Bombay director Devang Khakhar told The Indian Express. "You also need to understand that these rankings too have some inherent flaws and small changes up or down do not mean too much."

IIT Delhi director V Ramgopal Rao said: "Our overall rankings in engineering and technology [faculty] has increased [from 71 to 64]. So there is a gain. As for pure sciences, they will always play a secondary role in the IITs. For example, we will not be able to compete for physics and chemistry with, say, IISc."

Asked about the dip in core engineering subjects such as chemical and electrical and electronics, Rao said the institute is still analysing the subject-wise breakup.

**Made By IIT Scientists, This Wearable Innovation Can Protect You From Air Pollution!**

<https://www.thebetterindia.com/132888/airlens-nasal-filter-persapien-iit-aim/>

Developed by scientists of IIT, AIIMS and Stanford University, this unique technology can efficiently filter polluted air with minimal breathing resistance!

Recently, the dense pollution and smog enveloping New Delhi halted traffic on highways, forced schools to shut down and sent worried residents scurrying to buy air purifiers and masks. With the level of carcinogenic pollutants in this toxic haze becoming roughly 10 times the reading in Beijing (a city globally infamous for its polluted air), the situation in Delhi was rightly called a major public health emergency by experts.

In fact, according to the World Health Organization, poor air quality causes seven million premature deaths every year, making it the planet's largest single environmental health risk. According to a study by The Lancet, India accounts for the maximum number of premature deaths from pollution in the world, with as many as 2.5 million people dying prematurely in the country in 2015 due to pollution-linked illnesses.

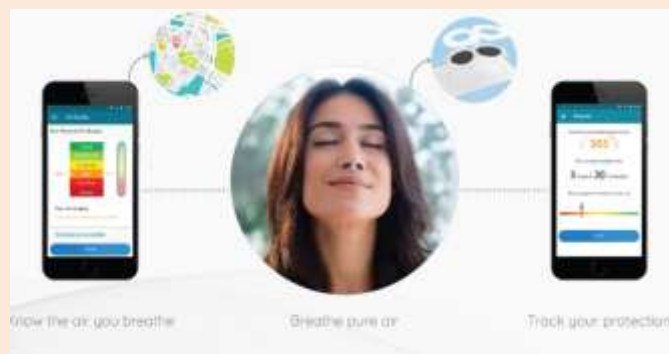
This is why reducing health risks caused by air pollution has become a matter of utmost urgency for India.



It was the aim of tackling this burgeoning health crisis that a bunch of scientists, doctors and engineers (from IIT, AIIMS, and Stanford University) gave up their high-paying jobs to plunge into the uncharted territory of entrepreneurship.

Under the aegis of Padmashri Prof. Randeep Guleria (Director of AIIMS) and Prof. Paul Yock, (Father of Biodesign, Stanford University), the talented team of Shashi Ranjan, Debayan Saha, Yogesh Agarwal, Akanksha Gupta and Harsh Sheth set up PerSapien Innovations in 2015.

In October 2017, PerSapien launched a nasal wearable device that can restrict the entry of pollutants into lungs. Since then, the amazing innovation has already touched more than 10 thousand lives!



“When we tried to develop a comfortable and user-friendly nasal filter, we realised that the state-of-art air purification technologies currently in use have high resistance to air flow and so, are not suitable for nasal filters.

It took our team two years of rigorous research to invent the Active Molecular Technology (AMT) that can efficiently filter PM 2.5, PM 10 and harmful gases with minimal breathing resistance.

We have applied for a patent on this technology in the name of PerSapien, which stands for saving (per) each human (sapien) life”, says Debayan Saha, the co-founder of PerSapien who is also a former IITian, and Stanford-India Biodesign fellow.

Based on this novel air purification technology, PerSapien’s easy-to-carry device — called Airlens — does not require any attachments and is barely visible when in use. The tiny product (its around 2 cm in size) does not need washing or cleaning either and has an use-and-throw component that economical enough to be replaced every day.



The talented team behind PerSapien.

Bio-compatible according to ISO 10993, the medically safe device is also CE certified according to European Standards for Medical Devices. Airlens’s purification efficiency has also been tested through independent NABL certified labs, with the results showing that the device effectively purifies the air to the safe levels as recommended by regulatory bodies.

PerSapien has also backed up Airlens with a support-and-feedback mobile app — called Airlens Data —that assesses the amount of protection achieved. This is done through an Air Quality Data System (also self-developed by the start-up) that informs users about the real-time quality of air in their immediate environment (within the radius of 1 km).



According to the PerSapien co-founder, the idea is to empower every citizen with the ‘Right to Information’ on air quality at a personal level.

“Currently, the government-installed sensors that provide the Air Quality Index (AQI) are typically located about 10-20 km away from users’ present location. As the AQI varies every 1 km and with time, this data is not in real time.

So, the team realized that personal-level AQI is required in real time to help users understand what is in the air that they are breathing. To achieve this goal, we developed an advanced data system that relies on GPS locations and powerful algorithms to take input data from satellite, traffic, weather forecasts and sensors.

This enables both healthy and sensitive users to take better decisions for their own health,” explains Debayan.

As of now, the device (which costs around Rs 500 per month i.e. Rs 15 per day) is available only for children aged 8 to 14. But the team is working on a device for adults and plans to launch it soon. The Airlens Data app, on the other hand, is for free to all and PerSapien’s contribution towards a cleaner, healthier India.

“Our vision is to empower children — arguably the worst sufferers of air pollution — with the right to breathe pure air. With this in mind, we have also taken the feedback of school children on Airlens to understand their perspective,” says Debayan.



Unsurprisingly, PerSapien's incredible work has won the start-up several national and global accolades, including being the national winner at Pfizer-IIT Delhi Innovation programme, the runners-up at Berkeley California's Global Health Innovation Challenge and among the Top 10 Promising Changemakers of Asia at DBS-NUS Singapore 2017.

Asked where PerSapien sees itself in the coming years, Debayan says that they will remain on the quest to innovate and create user-friendly solutions that will help the people of India. Understanding that the nasal filter can only provide short-term relief, the start-up is also focussing on long-term solutions for a sustainable future.

For instance, the team is already working on algorithms that can trace and pinpoint sources of pollution in different parts of Indian cities. This will help the government implement its pollution abatement policies in a better manner and actually measure its direct impact.

"We are also incorporating the feature of forecasting air quality, at least 2 days or more in advance, to enable both the citizens and the government plan for emergency situations such as severe pollution levels. The core idea is the same — to help reduce air pollution and safeguard the health of Indian citizens," Debayan signs off.

## **World University of Design appoints Dr Sanjay Gupta as its First Vice Chancellor**

<http://indiaeducationdiary.in/world-university-design-appoints-dr-sanjay-gupta-first-vice-chancellor/>



Sonipat: Dr Sanjay Gupta has been appointed as the first Vice Chancellor of World University of Design (WUD), Sonipat – India's first and only university dedicated to education in the creative domain. He has assumed charge with effect from 28.02.2018.

Dr Gupta is a seasoned academician, who has led and championed the cause of design education in the country for the past 30 years. With his unique vision and passion for integrated education, he has successfully bridged the gap between design, art and technology education in the country by designing curricula that meet the current as well as future demands of the design space. He is an alumnus of IIT Delhi and IIM Ahmedabad and has served as UNDP fellow at Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), New York.

On being appointed as the VC, Dr Sanjay Gupta said, “I feel honoured to be appointed as the founding Vice Chancellor of WUD and would like to thank the management for providing me this opportunity to create from scratch, an institute of excellence in the emerging segment of design education in India.

WUD will bring in a fresh perspective on the way creative programs are taught and practiced in the country by treating design as a transdisciplinary process in which methods of scientific, technical and artistic investigation are combined with an understanding of human and functional needs to modify and affect almost any aspect of the environment. As VC of WUD, I aspire to make WUD the “go – to” destination for design education in South East Asia”.

Prior to joining WUD, he established the Textile Design Department, introduced Masters & Doctoral degree programs, and spearheaded the setting up of various NIFT centres round the country in his capacity as Dean (Academic) at National Institute of Fashion Technology. He was involved in the key initiative of establishing the International Foundation of Fashion Technology Institutes (IFFTI), an umbrella organisation of fashion schools worldwide. Subsequently, he founded the School of Design at GD Goenka University, Gurgaon.

Dr. Gupta is widely travelled and has vast experience of teaching, research and networking with prestigious design institutes across the world.