

IIIT-Delhi Newsletter

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Year 2017-2018
March 2018

Institute News

6th Convocation

The Institute hosted its 6th Convocation Ceremony at the campus in Okhla Phase -III in the presence of Padma Shri T.V. Mohandas Pai, Chairperson of the Board of Manipal Global Education Services as Chief Guest, Mr. Kiran Karnik, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIIT-Delhi and Prof. Pankaj Jalote, Director at IIIT-Delhi. During the convocation ceremony, 139 B.Tech, 97 M.Tech and 13 Ph.D. degrees were awarded from various branches. This is the first year IIITD crossed double digits in conferring the Ph.D. degrees in an year which is quite an achievement for an institute that is just 9 years old.



Ranked in top 200 in QS BRICS University Ranking

We are one of the only three institutions from Delhi that have appeared on QS BRICS list of top 200 Universities. Reaching here even before our 10th anniversary is a great achievement. In the 2018 edition, the institution performed among the top 48% in the QS BRICS Region University Rankings. Considering there are approximately 9,000 universities regionally*, this makes us one of the top 2.0% universities in BRICS Region.



Public Lecture by Ms. Sagarika Ghose

Mrs. Sagarika Ghose, eminent media personality, author, and renowned journalist delivered a thought-provoking lecture at IIIT Delhi, on “Personality Cults in Indian Democracy” as part of the Public Lecture Series.

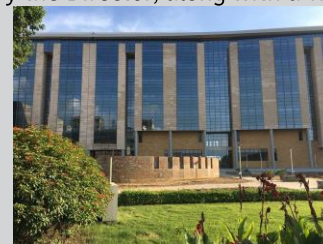
Mrs. Ghose traced the causes for the abysmal state of politics in the country, linking them to the rise in personality cults all around the world. She also talked about Indira Gandhi, and her superior personality traits as well as phenomenal communication and oratory skills. Indira Gandhi, according to Mrs. Ghose was a “half-hearted dictator” who withstood immensely difficult times, displaying bravery and grit during her reign as Prime Minister of India.



Inauguration of the New Academic Block

The much-awaited building, fondly called as the “Shopping complex” by our students, was inaugurated by Smt. Punya S Srivastava, Secretary Education, on behalf of the Board of Directors.

With the fully constructed building with better facilities and decor, the faculty, as well as students, can now look forward to a bigger space for interaction and work-related activities. The ceremony was attended by the Director, Prof. Pankaj Jalote as well as the Chairman, Mr. Kiran Karnik. Post ribbon cutting, a brief talk by the Chief Engineer of the building was followed by an opening address by the Director, along with a Thank you note.



Indraprastha Gas Limited to provide Scholarships to IIIT-Delhi Students

The scholarship will support seven meritorious B.Tech students from economically weaker sections each year. An amount of 60000 Rs will be given to these students, which can be used to cover part of tuition fee, purchase of books and stationery, and purchase of laptop and other educational material

Sarojini Damodaran Overseas Research Fellowships

The Sarojini Damodaran Foundation, founded by Mrs. and Mr. Shibulal has granted overseas research fellowships (ORF) to 60 Ph.D. Scholars in IIIT-Delhi over the next 3 years. The fellowship will be used to enable Ph.D. students to spend six months collaborating with academia or industry researchers overseas.

Shining Stars

Sports Update

The IIIT-Delhi contingent of 88 students participated in Spardha-2017, the annual sports fest of IIT-BHU. This contingent size was the largest by far to represent IIIT-Delhi in an external sports fest. It was also the third time the sports team went to IIT-BHU. It was a great opportunity for the teams and many of them had practiced really hard for this, This time we won, 6 gold medals in Tennis women, Taekwondo, Athletics. 3 Silver medals in Football, squash and TT women. 3 Bronze medals in Taekwondo and Athletics. Arsh Verma nominated the best player of the tournament in chess



Milan Jain selected for BHAVAN Award 2018 and also invited to MIT

Ph.D. student, Milan Jain has been selected for Building Energy Efficiency Higher & Advanced Network (BHAVAN) Awards 2018. He will be going to Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, U.S. for 6 months to carry forward research on identifying malfunctioned air conditioners with Dr. Osman Ahmed. He will be entitled to a stipend of 2,500 USD per month.

Milan is also invited to Massachusetts Institute of Technology to visit MIT Media Lab for 4 months. He is co-advised by Dr. Amarjeet Singh and Dr. Vikas Chandan (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, US Department of Energy). At MIT Media Lab, he will work with Prof. Joseph A. Paradiso and Dr. Nan Zhao on Mediated Atmospheres.



Presence at the COMSNETS conference

This year IIIT-Delhi had a stronger than ever presence at the COMSNETS conference with one demo, three posters, three short papers, and two long papers. We even bagged three awards at the conference.

1. Best Graduate Forum Presenter Award - Dheryta Jaisinghani Karwal (IIIT Delhi), Vinayak Naik (IIIT Delhi), Sanjit Kaul (IIIT Delhi), Rajesh K. Balan (Singapore Management University), and Sumit Roy (University of Washington)
2. The WACI Master Award (Best Paper Award) Varun Jain (IIIT Delhi), Mansi Goel (IIIT Delhi), Bangalore).
3. Best Paper Runner-up Award in the NetHealth Workshop in NetHealth Workshop to Dilnashin Anwar (IIIT Delhi), Prince Garg (IIIT Delhi), Vinayak Naik (IIIT Delhi), Anubha Gupta (IIIT Delhi), and Akshay Kumar Mukulika Maity (IIIT Delhi), Vinayak Naik (IIIT Delhi), and Ramachandran Ramjee (Microsoft Research, (IIIT Delhi).



Student Highfliers

- Tanea S Agrawaal (BTech 2014), received the student scholarship to present her paper titled “Analyzing Gender Stereotypes in Bollywood Movies” at Fairness, Accountability and Transparency (FAT* 2018) held at New York University, USA.
- Akshay Jain (Ph.D. Scholar, IIITD) received student bursary award by BMVC (British Machine Vision Conference 2017) for paper co-authored by Dr. Alexander Fell and Dr. Saket Anand.
- Sarthak Goyal, Paras Jain, Amogh Vithalkar won the Texas Instrument's DrishTI online test.
- ‘Zoodesign’ represented by Shivankar Sharma, Anish Bhardwaj, Shreyansh Nagpal, Royal Tomar, Sehaj Singh and Aman Mehra won the runners-up prize in India's first Zookackathon organized by the Embassy Of The United States Of America, TRAFFIC, India Office and WWF-India.



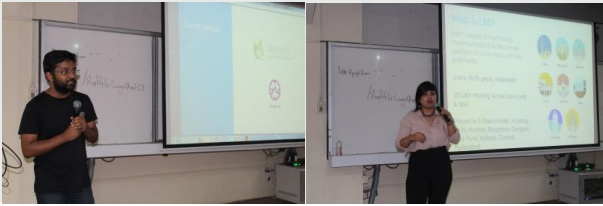
- Baani Leen Kaur Jolly is selected for Google Venkat Memorial Scholarship 2017.
- Zoha Hamid, BTech, receives the LearnIT Girl! Scholarship.
- Naveen Gupta received a travel grant to attend IEEE GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE (GLOBECOM) held in Singapore.
- Devishi Kesar (BTech CSE student) has received a scholarship worth 1500\$ to attend the 10th RECOMB/ISCB conference of DREAM challenges in New York.
- The d4rk0de team consisting of Palash Bansal and Aneesh Dogra won the international Capture the Flag competition organized by the government of India in collaboration with Cyber Peace foundation and hosted by NCIIPC during the Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) 2017.
- The team consists of Parth Mittal, Utsav Rohilla and Hanit Banga got rank third in the Chennai Regional and fifth in the Amritapuri Regional at the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest.
- Ph.D. student Ms. Devika Sondhi has been awarded the prestigious PM Fellowship. The industrial partner with her fellowship is Microsoft Research.

Alumni Update

- Ayush Goel, our BTech alum from the class of 2016, joined the Ph.D. program of the University of Michigan and received a full fellowship
- Sukrit Kalra, our BTech alum from the class of 2016, has received prestigious admits and fellowships for his Ph.D. in Stanford University, University of California, Berkeley, Carnegie Mellon University Electrical and Computer Engineering Department (awarded Carnegie Institute of Technology Dean's Fellowship), Carnegie Mellon University School of Computer Science, University of Washington (awarded Paul G. Allen School Ph.D. Fellowship), Columbia University (awarded Presidential Fellowship), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (awarded Full Fellowship), Cornell University, University of California, San Diego
- Romil Bhardwaj, an alum of B.Tech batch of 2015 received a Computer Science Ph.D. admit from University of California, Berkeley

Events

Start-Up Fair



The Start-Up Fair 2018 once again, was a great success, some of the best Start Up's presented. 300 hundred students participated in direct interaction with startups. This was an excellent opportunity for junior undergrad, and grad students to bag paid internships in some fantastic start-ups offering exciting projects.

Research Showcase



The Research Showcase, 2018 exhibited the prominent research and development work done at IIIT-Delhi and other premier institutions in Delhi NCR. Research featured 6 Events this year
1. Student Breakthroughs, 2. TECH QUIZ science, 3. INNOVATION CHALLENGE, 4. Startup interaction, 5. IBM Challenge, 6. Stalls by Research Centres.

TEDxIIITD



TEDxIIITD 2018 aimed to shatter orthodox thinking and discourage acceptance of status quo with its theme. With a diversity of speakers from professions and experiences, equal representation of both dominant genders, and youth to experienced veterans, TEDxIIITD offered an exploratory experience and wishes to broaden mindsets of the general public.

Odyssey



Odyssey'18 set out to be the most memorable one yet. The fest was spread over two days, 19th and 20th January, 2018, with an abundance of events and performances to entertain the audience and bring together the youth of Delhi to exhibit their talents. The celebration ended with the event every college student in Delhi who was at the fest, was looking forward to - The Nirvana Night. A passionate performance by Haider Saifullah, followed by a concert by popular singer Harry Sandhu.

Retrace 2018

IIIT-Delhi organised the annual alumni meet, Retrace, in the month of January. The alumni were taken on a tour of the campus, showing them the progress of Phase-II construction. They marveled at the changing landscape of the institute. After a hearty lunch, the alumni were addressed by Director, Dr. Pankaj Jalote and Dean of Alumni Relations, Dr. PK. The alumni shared their experiences. They enjoyed the splendid performances by AudioBytes and MadToes the Alums also grooved with the mood and came on stage to perform. Few of the alums satyed for overnight and cherished their memories.

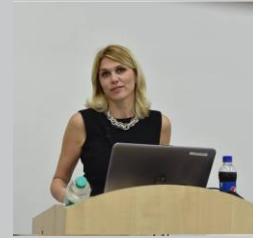


Events by Departments and Research Centres

- Centre for computational Biology organized a Symposium on "Computational Gastronomy".
- Department of SSH organised an International Symposium on Digital Politics in Millennial India hosted together by LMU Germany.
- Center for Computational Biology is organized a Symposium on "Functional Genomics".
- Infosys Center for Artificial Intelligence (CAI) and The Delhi Chapter of Women in Machine Learning and Data Science (WiMLDS) jointly organized "Machine Learning Unplugged".
- Department of Mathematics, hosted AIS/IST GRÖBNER BASES AND THEIR APPLICATIONS.
- Department of ECE Labs organized a workshop on MATLAB, the tutorial was based on Robotics Applications on MATLAB.
- The department of ECE, is organized GIAN MHRD course in association with MHRD.
- Infosys Center for Artificial Intelligence in association with Times AI Hub organised Artificial Intelligence Conclave.

Delegates from Republic to Estonia

It was an honor to host Ms. Urvi Palo, Hon. Minister of Entrepreneurship and IT of the Republic of Estonia, Mr. Riho Kruuv, Ambassador of Republic of Estonia, and Ms. Payal, Study & Work Estonia Spokesperson in India. The minister came with the business delegation of IT company's officials from Estonia. The delegation and minister interacted with the faculty and students. The faculty showcased their research work in the area of security.



We signed an MoU with British Telecom

The researchers will be working in the area of Elastic Optical Networks and Quantum Communication Technologies under this association.

We are now a part of an esteemed group of universities under the flag of BT Global Research and Innovation along with MIT-USA, Tsinghua University-China, and IIT Delhi-India. Many congratulations to Dr. Abhijit Mitra (PI) and Prof. Anand Srivastava (Co-PI). Dr. Bijoy Chand Chatterjee will also collaborate while contributing towards efficiently utilizing EON network spectrum resources. Dr. Sanat Biswas will be collaborating on the satellite constellation design aspect of Quantum Technology. The research work will aid Digital India, National Optical Fiber Network for sustaining the rise of 4G and 5G Telecom growth under an unconditionally secured environment.

Faculty/Officers Achievements

- Anuradha Sharma received a research grant for a period of three years under Mathematics Research Impact Centric Support (Matrics) scheme of DST-SERB
- Dr. Anuradha Sharma (Faculty, Department of Mathematics, IIIT-Delhi) received Open Arms travel grant
- Dr. Tanmoy Chakraborty, has received a prestigious DAAD Scholarship
- Prof. Gajendra Raghava was felicitated by the Uttar Pradesh Govt. for his contribution to science.
- Dr. Samrith Ram project has been approved for funding by SERB via the MATRICS grant for three years
- Dr. Sarthok Sircar received a grant under Mathematical Research Impact Centric Support (MATRICS)
- Wombat Security Technologies gets acquired for 225 Million US Dollars. Prof. Ponnurangam Kumaraguru's Ph.D. thesis contributed in creating Wombat Security Technologies in 2008.

Updates

New Courses

- New Mtech Specialization in artificial intelligence
- New BTech program in Computer Science and Biosciences

Incubation Centre

IIIT-Delhi Incubation Centre launched a fellowship program to support its graduating students and alumni who aim to build their own startup. Financial support will be provided to the individual candidates and their startups will be incubated at ICube Delhi.

Appointments

- Timothy Scott Moyers Jr., Kaushik Kalyanaraman, Piyus Kedia, Syamantak Das, Kumar Manohar has joined as full tenured faculty. Swapna Purandare has joined as visiting faculty, Anupam Saronwala and Alka Pande has joined as part time visiting faculty.
- In officers Rahul Verma has joined as JM(Sys Admin & Networking) and Danish Parvez has joined as Software Program Manager & Developer

