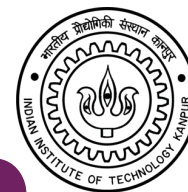


IIT KANPUR

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

NEWSLETTER

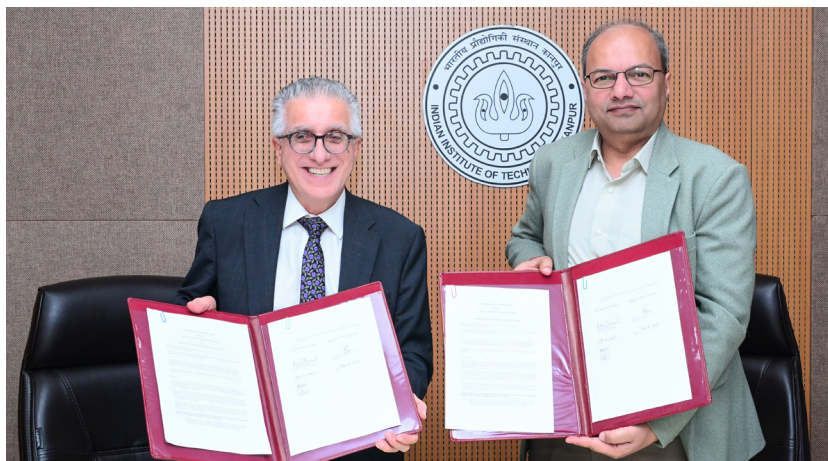


VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2 | AUGUST 2026

HIGHLIGHTS

- 95+ foreign students currently enrolled in various programs
- 16 international students graduated in 2026
- 8 PhD students selected in the LOTUS program 2026
- 11 MoUs signed with international universities
- Partnership with CentraleSupélec, France during Bharat Innovates
- Successful conclusion of the pioneer batch of the RISE internship

Visits by Foreign Delegations



New Partnerships

IIT Kanpur has strengthened its international collaborations by signing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with several prestigious universities across Asia, Europe, and North America.

- Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology - (HUTECH), Vietnam
- Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan
- TU Wien, Austria
- University of California San Diego, USA
- University of Galway, Ireland
- University of Manitoba, Canada
- Avignon University, France
- University of Guelph, Canada
- CentraleSupélec, France
- University of Western Australia, Australia
- University of Oxford, United Kingdom

MoU Signing Ceremony with the University of Manitoba

On 10 February 2026, IIT Kanpur welcomed a delegation from the University of Manitoba, Canada, led by Dr. Michael Benarroch, President and Vice-Chancellor, along with Dr. Peter Nickerson, Dean, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences; Dr. Josée G. Lavoie, Dean, College of Community and Global Health; Dr. James Blanchard, Executive Director, Institute for Global Public Health; and Dr. Marissa Becker, Director of Technical Collaborations, Institute for Global Public Health. An MoU was signed by Prof. Manindra Agrawal, Director, IIT Kanpur, and Dr.

Benarroch, aimed at strengthening collaboration in global public health and DeepTech.

Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations and Prof. Deepu Philip, Professor-in-Charge, Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre, (SIIC) shared insights into IIT Kanpur's academics and innovation ecosystem, while SIIC startups showcased their health-tech innovations. Dr. Vasanthakumar Namasivayam and Shri Vikas Gonthalwal from the UP Government also joined the discussions, marking a key step towards long-term partnership.



Kobe University Delegation at IIT Kanpur

A delegation from Kobe University visited IIT Kanpur to further strengthen the existing collaboration between the two institutions.

The Kobe University delegation comprised Prof. Eri Chatani, Department of Chemistry, Graduate School of Science; Prof. Tetsunari Kimura, Department of

Chemistry, Graduate School of Science; and Prof. Tominaga Keisuke, Molecular Photoscience Research Center. They were welcomed by Prof. Bushra Ateeq, and accompanied by Prof. Amalendu Chandra and Prof. Pratik Sen (Chemistry). The delegation toured research laboratories and interacted with faculty to discuss ongoing work and future collaborations.



IIT Kanpur Joins India–Netherlands Collaboration in Green Hydrogen and Clean Energy Research

On 6 February 2026, IIT Kanpur participated in a landmark international collaboration in the field of clean and sustainable energy. Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Prof. Jouke de Vries, President of the University of Groningen, Netherlands, along with 18 other IITs.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Former Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST); Shri Abhay Bakre, Mission Director, National Green Hydrogen Mission, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; Mr. Huib Mijnders, Deputy Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to India; and Prof. Aravind Purushothaman Velayani, Director of Hydrogen Economy, Wubbo Ockels School, Groningen University. Dr. Anita

Gupta, Head, CEST Division, DST; Dr. Ranjith Krishna Pai, Senior Director, HVIC and HFC Program Officer, CEST, DST; Professor Dharendra S. Katti, Director, IIT Goa; and Prof. Venkappayya R. Desai, Director, IIT Dharwad, along with senior officials from other IITs, were also present.

The event was hosted by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, which also launched the India–Netherlands Hydrogen Fellowship Programme. Together, the MoU and the fellowship highlight the growing partnership between India and the Netherlands and reflect a shared commitment to advancing green hydrogen research, capacity building, and clean energy goals for the future. This initiative will also contribute to India's National Green Hydrogen Mission, Energy Independence 2047, and Net-Zero 2070 goals.

Visit by the ASEAN Program Coordinator



Prof. Nomes Bhoj Kumar, Coordinator of the Doctoral Fellowship in India for ASEAN (DIA) Program and Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at IIT Delhi, visited the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur on 21 July 2026.

During his visit, Prof. Bolia held a meeting with Prof. Bushra Ateeq, who presented a detailed overview of the Institute's academic and research ecosystem. He also engaged with two DIA Fellowship scholars presently enrolled in doctoral studies at IIT Kanpur, one hailing from Indonesia and the other from Myanmar.

IIT Kanpur Signs MoU with University of Guelph

Prof. Sourav Ray, Director of the Marketing Analytics Centre, Lang Chair in Marketing, and Professor at the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, visited IIT Kanpur on 9 April 2026 to strengthen academic ties between the two institutions. He was welcomed by Prof. Bushra Ateeq and accompanied by Prof. Devlina Chatterjee from the Department of Management Sciences.

Discussions centred on faculty, staff, and student exchange, along with joint seminars, research activities, and outreach programs. During the visit, an MoU was signed by Prof. Ray and Prof. Ateeq, formalizing collaboration between IIT Kanpur and the University of Guelph. The agreement aims to facilitate joint research, publications, academic programs, and exchanges, marking a key step towards long-term partnership between the two institutions.



Kathmandu University Delegation at IIT Kanpur

On 26 December 2025, a delegation from Kathmandu University (KU) visited IIT Kanpur, led by Prof. Achyut Prasad Wagle, Vice Chancellor of KU and an IIT Kanpur alumnus, along with Prof. Dinesh Kafle, Acting Associate Director and Associate Professor at KU's School of Arts.

The delegation met with Prof. Manindra Agrawal, Director, IIT Kanpur, along with Prof. Bushra Ateeq and Prof. Vimal Kumar from the Department of Economic Sciences, to discuss faculty exchange, shared academic interests, and strengthening opportunities for future institutional collaborations.



Strengthening the IIT Kanpur-LA Trobe University Research Academy

IIT Kanpur was delighted to welcome Prof. Nick Bisley, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), La Trobe University, and Dr. Cerasela Tanasescu, Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, La Trobe University, Australia, as part of the ongoing collaboration between the two institutions through the IITK-La Trobe Research Academy.

They met with Prof. Bushra Ateeq, and Prof. Raju Kumar Gupta, Academic

Program Director of the IIT Kanpur-LA Trobe University Research Academy. The discussions focused on strengthening the strategic partnership between IIT Kanpur and La Trobe University through the IITK-LA Trobe Research Academy, with particular emphasis on advancing the joint degree program, expanding student exchange opportunities, and exploring new avenues for industry-academic collaboration from both sides.



The meeting also explored opportunities for collaboration in innovation, entrepreneurship, startup incubation, and knowledge exchange between the two institutions.

Official Visits for Internationalization

Strengthening India-Australia Academic & Research Partnerships



The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur proudly participated in the CII Industry, Academia Global Partnership Delegation to Australia from 17-24 June 2026, reaffirming its commitment to advancing international collaboration in higher education, research, and innovation.

Representing IIT Kanpur, Prof. Bushra Ateeq, engaged with leading Australian universities, research organizations, industry

leaders, and policymakers across Melbourne, Canberra, and Sydney.

The delegation visited premier institutions including Monash University, CSIRO, the University of Melbourne, RMIT University, the Australian National University, the University of New South Wales, and the University of Sydney.

The CII Industry-Academia Partnership, a flagship national forum of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), plays a pivotal role in fostering strategic partnerships between academia, industry, and research institutions to accelerate innovation, mission-driven R&D, translational research, and technology commercialization.

Erasmus Staff Training at Instituto Superior Tecnico, Lisbon

Ms. Prerna Gupta, Project Executive Officer at the Office of International Relations participated in the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility Staff Mobility for Training at Instituto Superior Tecnico (IST), University of Lisbon, Portugal from 29 June to 3 July, 2026. The 5-day training program was aimed at providing participants with an opportunity for personal and professional develop-

ment, for strengthening the partnership between their institution and IST, and promote the exchange of knowledge and best practices in various areas.

During the training, the participants were introduced to the best practices in international student admissions, student exchange programs, and fundraising for international offices. They were also taken on a tour of the IST

campus and introduced to Portuguese food and culture.



Short Term Courses

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Program

The ITEC program, run by the Government of India, offers training and capacity-building opportunities to professionals from partner countries. It promotes knowledge sharing, skill development, and international cooperation across sectors like IT, management, and sustainability.

IIT Kanpur conducted a course on “Robotics” from 9 March to 21 March 2026 under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation program of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. The program was aimed at strengthening international cooperation through technical training and knowledge exchange while enhancing participants’ understanding of robotics, automation, and modern engineering applications.

The course was designed as a capacity-building initiative to develop technical and analytical skills in robotics and related technologies, enabling participants to apply these concepts in research, industry, and public-sector innovation. The program was coordinated by Prof. Ashish Dutta and Prof. Shakti Singh Gupta from the Department of Mechanical Engineering. A total of 16 participants, including government officials, diplomats, and researchers from 11 countries - Rwanda, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Ecuador, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, and Mauritius participated in this course.

The inaugural session was addressed by Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations, who welcomed the participants on behalf of IIT

Kanpur and the Office of International Relations. The Institute also expressed its appreciation to the Ministry of External Affairs for supporting the program, noting that initiatives under the ITEC framework strengthen India’s role in fostering global partnerships in education, science, and technological development.



Engr. Deyire Yusuf Umar
Nigeria, Africa

“My stay at IIT Kanpur was highly rewarding, with excellent hospitality and well-structured course modules suitable for beginners in robotics.

The class sessions updated my knowledge and also helped me master some of the concepts I could not understand during my master’s programme. I was especially impressed by the practical lab sessions, where Arduino-based robotic systems and other prototypes developed at the institute were used to demonstrate core concepts in control and robotics. The exposure to advancements in drones, gliders, industrial robot arms, and legged robots was equally insightful.

Furthermore, the student research projects, including those conducted in collaboration with government and industry, added significant value to the learning experience. The strong culture of teamwork, where robot development involves clear division of tasks, was also noteworthy.

Beyond technical knowledge and studies, the training expanded my professional network by connecting me with participants from 10 other countries, fellow Nigerians, and experts in India.”



Mr. Danushka Buddhika Kumara Diunugala
Diunugalage, Sri Lanka

“When I first came to India, I expected only a training program, but it turned out to be so much more. I am returning home with rich knowledge, invaluable experience, and unforgettable memories, plus perhaps a few extra kilos, thanks to the amazing food! I want to express my deepest gratitude to the ITEC program and the Government of India for this wonderful opportunity. This training at IIT Kanpur has been truly invaluable. We learned a great deal about robotics and intelligent systems, and the hands-on experience made it incredibly engaging. Of course, it wasn’t always easy, sometimes the robots simply wouldn’t listen, but we always managed to figure it out!

A huge thank you to all the professors and staff members whose guidance and support made this journey smooth and enjoyable. The absolute best part was meeting amazing friends from different countries; we shared knowledge, culture, and a lot of laughter. This was not just a course; it was a life-changing experience for me. Thank you, IIT Kanpur, and thank you, India, for everything. I will carry these memories with me forever.”



It was a great opportunity, and I truly enjoyed being part of this program. The training sessions were informative and engaging, and I appreciated the dedication and support of the instructors throughout the program. The lectures were well-structured and provided valuable insights into the subject. I particularly enjoyed the lab sessions, as they gave me an opportunity to apply the concepts I learned during the lectures. Overall, the program was a rewarding and memorable learning experience.

I also appreciated how well the program was organized. The lectures, labs, and schedule were all managed smoothly, which ensured everything ran without any issues.

We also got a chance to visit Bara Imambara in Lucknow, which was a pleasant experience. We also tasted the local food, which was delicious.

My stay at VH2 (Visitors’ Hostel) was very comfortable. The accommodation was nice, and the team’s warm hospitality made me feel welcome. I also enjoyed exploring the local culture and food, which added a special touch to my time in India.

Haymanot Worge Wogasse
Ethiopia, Africa

International Students



International Students Orientation

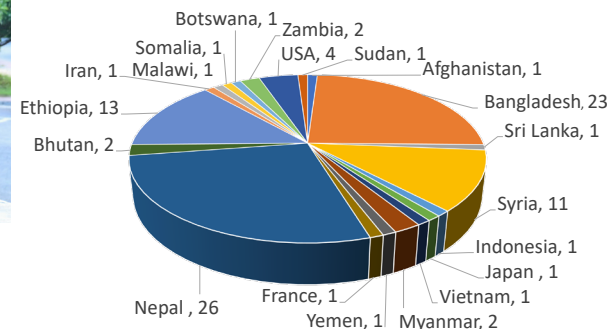
Forty-five new international students joined IIT Kanpur's full-time degree programs during Semester I of the academic year 2026–27, across various disciplines, including PhD, MTech, MDes, MSR, and MBA. To welcome them, an orientation programme was held on 08 August 2026, featuring informative sessions aimed at helping the students integrate smoothly into their academic journey and campus life.

The event began with a presentation by Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations, who introduced the Office of International Relations, highlighting the various initiatives, services, and opportunities available to international students.

Adding a personal touch to the

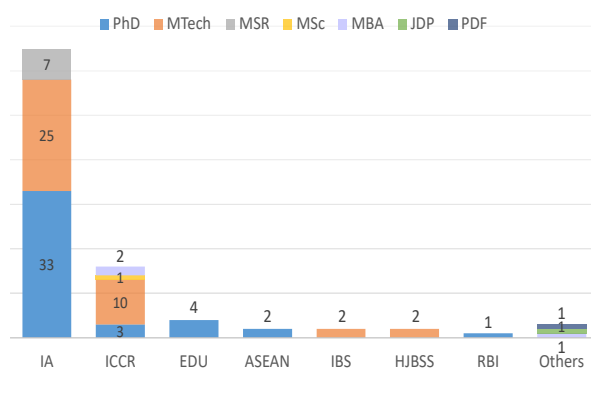
orientation, two senior international students led an engaging peer-led session. By sharing their first-hand experiences, practical insights, and tips on navigating the campus, they provided the newcomers with invaluable guidance to help them integrate effortlessly into the vibrant IIT Kanpur community.

With this new intake, IIT Kanpur's international student body has grown to over 90 scholars. The institute is proud to foster a truly multicultural campus, welcoming students from a diverse range of nations, including Japan, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Myanmar, Yemen, Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, the United States, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Mauritius, Rwanda, Somalia, Malawi, Zambia, and Sri Lanka.



Total-95 students

Distribution of international students at IIT Kanpur by country of origin



Total enrollment of International students: breakdown by academic discipline and sponsorships

IA-Institute Assistantship, ICCR-Indian Council for Cultural Relations, EDU-Ethiopian Defence University, ASEAN-Association of Southeast Asian Nations, IBS-India Bhutan Scholarship, HJBSS- Dr. Homi Jahangir Bhabha Scholarship, RBI- Reserve Bank of India

Convocation 2026

On 15 July 2026, 16 international students proudly graduated at the 59th Convocation of IIT Kanpur, marking a significant milestone in their academic journey and celebrating years of dedication and achievement.

To commemorate the occasion, Prof. Bushra Ateeq, felicitated the graduates with tokens of appreciation, congratulating them on their accomplishments and encouraging them to remain connected with IIT Kanpur as distinguished alumni while contributing meaningfully to communities across the globe.

Graduates:

1. Oswa Amro, PhD, Jordan, *Computer Science and Engineering*
2. Aya Aljaradat, PhD, Jordan, *Computer Science and Engineering*
3. Ahmed Irjoob, PhD, Jordan, *Computer Science and Engineering*
4. Preeti Jaiswal, MTech, Nepal, *Aerospace Engineering*
5. Passang Tshering Tamang, MTech, Bhutan, *Sustainable Energy Engineering*
6. Khritisha Devi Koomar, MTech, Mauritius, *Sustainable Energy Engineering*
7. Aashish Jaiswal, MTech, Nepal, *Aerospace Engineering*
8. Suyamoon Pathak, MTech, Nepal, *Computer Science and Engineering*
9. Anshuman Prakash Jha, MTech, Nepal, *Management Sciences*
10. Sneha Agrawal, MBA, Nepal, *Management Sciences*
11. Parmananda Sharma, MTech, Nepal, *Mechanical Engineering*
12. Suraj Kumar Sharma, MTech, Nepal, *Mechanical Engineering*
13. Nishan Pudasaini, MBA, Nepal, *Management Sciences*
14. Shyamratna Yadav, MTech, Nepal, *Civil Engineering*
15. Rakesh Kumar Thakur, MTech, Nepal, *Electrical Engineering*
16. Shabnoor Jahan Monire, MTech, Bangladesh, *Aerospace Engineering*



Success Stories



My name is Nishan, and I am an MBA student in the Department of Management Sciences at IIT Kanpur. From the very beginning, my experience at IIT Kanpur has been extremely positive and enriching. One of the things I admire most about the Institute is its vibrant and healthy campus environment. The lush greenery, peaceful atmosphere, and excellent facilities create an ideal setting for both academic and personal growth.

Academically, IIT Kanpur has provided me with valuable practical exposure through capstone projects and startup collaborations. Working with multiple startups during my second year gave me valuable insights into business operations, innovation, and the startup ecosystem.

I feel truly grateful and fortunate to have studied at IIT Kanpur. Recently, I was placed at ICICI Bank as a Manager in the Wholesale Banking Group, where I will be working with large corporate and global clients. IIT Kanpur has not only helped me grow academically and professionally but has also given me confidence, meaningful friendships, and lifelong memories that I will always cherish.

"Dreams often begin with a desire to explore opportunities beyond familiar boundaries, and that journey brought me from Nepal to the vibrant academic environment of IIT Kanpur."

Nishan Pudasaini
MBA, Management Sciences



Being an international MTech student in Power Engineering at IIT Kanpur has been a wonderful and life-changing journey. I got the chance to learn from inspiring professors, work in a great research environment, and meet talented people from different cultures and backgrounds. I am deeply thankful to my supervisor for continuous guidance and support throughout my academic journey. The International Relations Office was also very supportive and helped international students feel welcomed and connected through various activities and events. Beyond academics, I enjoyed technical, cultural, and sports events. Securing a campus placement was a proud moment for me. IIT Kanpur gave me unforgettable memories, meaningful friendships, confidence, and personal growth. Thank you to everyone who supported me, and a warm welcome to all the new students joining IIT Kanpur.

Rakesh Kumar Thakur
MTech, Department of EE

Internships & Exchanges



“The most valuable aspect for me of this internship was the hands-on experience working on a real-world robotics and computer vision project. I strengthened my technical, problem-solving, and research skills while learning from my mentor and collaborating in a professional research environment. Additionally, I had the opportunity to build meaningful connections with professionals, peers, and students from around the world, making the experience both academically and personally enriching. Last but not least, I love the unique culture, tasty foods and friendly people here.”

-Thiha Htun, Myanmar

Pioneer Batch of the RISE Internship Program for International Students

The Pioneer Batch of Research Internships in Science & Engineering (RISE) at IIT Kanpur concluded in August 2026, offering participants a transformative experience of working with leading researchers and immersing themselves in IITK's vibrant research ecosystem. The RISE program functions in 2-phases, Winter Online Internship and Summer In-person Internship.

- Winter Online Internship (Dec 2025): 32 students from Syria, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Japan, and Bangladesh worked under the mentorship of 22 IITK faculty through a 4 week online program.
- Summer Internship (May–July 2026): 12 students from USA, South Korea, Bangladesh, Nepal, Syria, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Madagascar joined for 6–8 weeks of in person research across diverse departments including Chemical Engineering, Aerospace, Materials Science, Design, Management Sciences, Mechanical, Economic Sciences, and Space & Planetary Sciences.

The program successfully identified talented international students keen on pursuing full time degrees at IIT Kanpur. Notably, three interns from the winter batch have joined as postgraduate students in AY 2026–27.

Feedback from both faculty and students has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the program's strong framework, impactful mentorship, and seamless support from the Institute.

The RISE @ IITK program has been initiated to give foreign students, especially those from the ASEAN and South East Asian countries, an opportunity and a pathway to experience the research environment at IITK. The Program includes a 4-week virtual internship in December and a 6-8-week in-person summer internship between May and July.

Eight IITK Students Received LOTUS Program Fellowships from Japan

Students of the IIT Kanpur have been selected for the LOTUS (India–Japan Circulation of Talented Youths in Science) Program, supported by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). The awards recognise outstanding research collaborations between IIT Kanpur and leading Japanese institutions.

The selected projects span diverse areas, including AI-driven materials design, advanced manufacturing, energy storage, computational chemistry, fluid mechanics, and biomedical sciences, in collaboration with premier institutions such as RIKEN, Kyoto University, Osaka University, Okayama University, Institute of Science Tokyo, NIMS, and Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology.

The Office of International Relations congratulates the awardees and acknowledges the valuable mentorship of IIT Kanpur faculty and the continued support of partner institutions in Japan in promoting international research collaboration and academic excellence.

The awardee students are:

- Prashant Kumar – RIKEN (Aerospace Engineering)
- Zainab Khan – Institute of Science Tokyo (Materials Science Programme)
- Dilpreet Kaur G. Sawhney – Okayama University (BSBE)
- Vikas Kokkonda – Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (ME)
- Kumar Gaurav – Osaka University (ME)
- Priyajit Tudu – NIMS University (Chemistry)
- Rakhi Bormon – Kyoto University (Chemistry)
- Swati Mahato – Osaka University (MSE)

Mehta Rice Engineering Scholars Program

Mehta Rice Engineering Scholars Program is an academic exchange fellowship that brings exceptional graduate students (typically PhD candidates) from prestigious Indian universities to Rice University in Houston, Texas. Selected students have the opportunity to participate in cutting-edge research projects, access state-of-the-art research facilities and receive guidance from leading researchers. In 2026, two students from IIT Kanpur were selected for the Program.

“The Mehta Rice Engineering Scholars Program has been a transformative milestone in my Ph.D. journey. As a second year doctoral student in the SEE Department under Prof. Soumyabrata Roy, this program allowed me to immerse myself in diverse research cultures and benefit from advanced facilities that broadened my scientific outlook. It significantly strengthened my confidence in independent research and accelerated my growth as a materials scientist.

Access to the Shared Equipment Authority (SEA) cleanroom facilities at Rice University was invaluable. Working with high precision fabrication tools and state-of-the-art characterization techniques enhanced my technical skills and provided hands on experience that will serve as a strong foundation for future work. This exposure to advanced infrastructure was truly eye opening and deeply enriching.

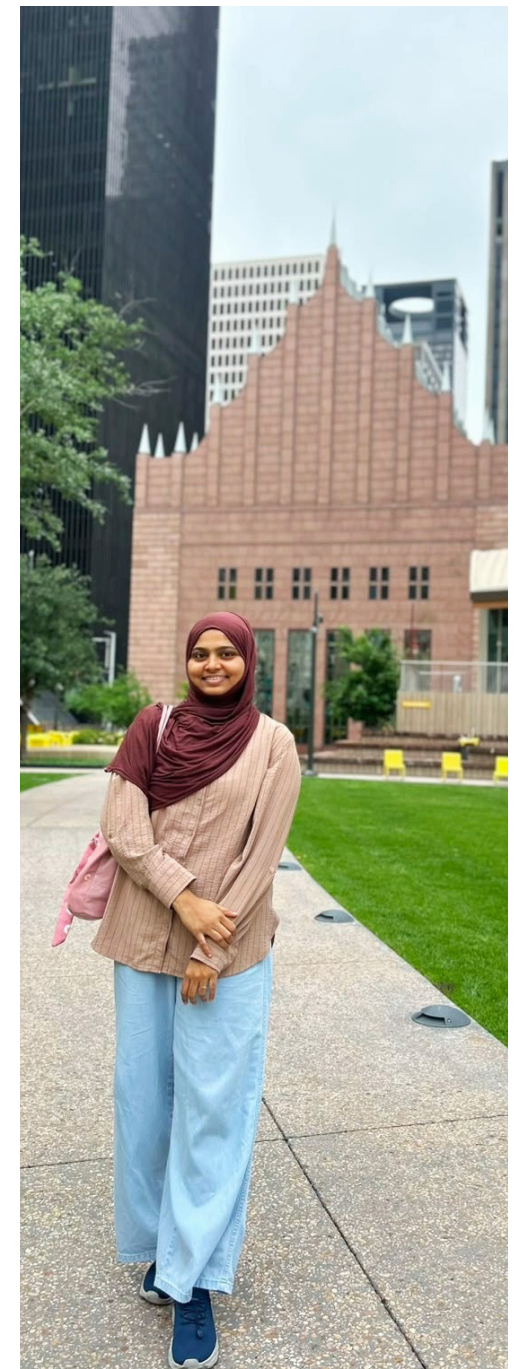
Equally important was the guidance I received in Prof. Pulickel Ajayan's laboratory, under the mentorship of Dr. Robert Vajtai. Their expertise and

encouragement shaped my approach to experimental design and critical analysis. The collaborative and welcoming environment fostered by the lab members encouraged open discussions, teamwork, and continuous learning, making the experience both productive and inspiring.

I am sincerely grateful to IIT Kanpur and the SEE Department for granting me this collaborative opportunity and extending travel support, which made my participation possible. My thanks also goes to the International Office, whose guidance from the very beginning and continued support after my arrival ensured a smooth and enriching experience.

Overall, the MRESP program has been instrumental in advancing my research journey. I remain deeply thankful for the mentorship, resources, and cultural exchange it provided, and I am committed to carrying forward the values of excellence and curiosity it embodies.

Juhina Nisar, Ph.D., Department of SEE



Student Activities



Festival Celebrations

Each year, the Office of International Relations, IIT Kanpur, celebrates Holi and Eid ul-Fitr with international students, transforming the campus into a vibrant tapestry of colours, culture, and connection. With Prof. Bushra Ateeq joining the Holi festivities, students from around the world came together to experience the joy of applying gul, enjoying traditional sweets and dancing to festive music.

The celebrations beautifully reflected the spirit of unity and cultural exchange. For many international students, they provided a memorable introduction to Indian traditions while strengthening their bond with the IIT Kanpur community.

Following the month of Ramadan, OIR also hosted a warm Eid ul-Fitr gathering, where international students, staff, guests, and visiting undergraduate students from Newcastle University came together to celebrate the festival. Joined by Prof. Dootika Vats, participants shared traditional food, exchanged festive greetings, and strengthened cross-cultural friendships.

Together, these celebrations highlight IIT Kanpur's vibrant multicultural environment, fostering meaningful connections and enriching the international student experience on campus.



Students' Happy Hour

The Office organised an "After-Exam Chill Time" session for international students, featuring the popular word-guessing game Taboo.

The event offered students a fun and relaxing opportunity to unwind after their examinations, connect with peers from diverse backgrounds, and enjoy an evening of teamwork, laughter, and friendly competition. The session reflected OIR's commitment to fostering a welcoming and inclusive campus environment for its international community.



Hindi Classes

The Office of International Relations organized a small ceremony to award certificates to international students who successfully completed the Hindi language course conducted by the OIR.

The course was designed to help international students develop basic proficiency in Hindi, enabling them to build stronger connections with the local community and gain deeper insights into Indian culture and everyday life in India.

The certificates were presented by Mr. Bhupender Singh Negi, Deputy Registrar and Officer-in-Charge, Office of International Relations, in recognition of the students' successful completion of the programme.

Students' Corner

More Than a PhD: Finding a Second Home at IIT Kanpur

Coming to IIT Kanpur was a dream long before it became a reality. I had completed my master's degree in India, where I learned a great deal and created many wonderful memories. That experience inspired me to return for my PhD. I was fortunate to receive the ASEAN-DIA Scholarship from the Government of India, which supports students from the ten ASEAN countries to pursue higher education at IITs across India. Although I received admission offers from several IITs, IIT Kanpur was always my first choice because of the opportunity to work with Prof. N. P. Sudharshana, whose research interests closely matched mine, and because of the excellent academic environment and facilities the Institute offers.

However, my journey did not begin as I had imagined. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, I had to stay in my home country for 1.5 years and attend classes online. I had been eagerly waiting to come to campus, and when I finally arrived in January 2022, I experienced the coldest winter of my life. Coming from a tropical country where winter does not exist, the freezing weather was a real shock. Yet, nothing could diminish my excitement. I prom-

ised myself that I would make the most of my years here, create meaningful memories, and grow both academically and personally.

Looking back today, I can honestly say that IIT Kanpur has given me much more than a PhD. I was incredibly fortunate to have the guidance of Prof. N. P. Sudharshana, whose constant encouragement and support shaped my research journey. Beyond academics, I found friendships that I will always treasure, with Indian friends, fellow international students, my department, and especially the wonderful team at the Office of International Relations, who made my transition into life at IIT Kanpur smooth and welcoming. Little by little, IIT Kanpur stopped feeling like a place where I studied and became a place where I belonged. Surrounded by such caring people, homesickness slowly disappeared, and I found a second family far from home.

For me, this journey has never been only about earning a degree. It has been about growing as a person, building lifelong friendships, embracing new cultures, and collecting memories that I will cherish forever. As my time at IIT Kanpur comes to an end, my heart feels



heavy because leaving a place that has given me so much is never easy. But I leave with immense gratitude for the knowledge I have gained, the people who have become my family, and the countless moments that have made these years some of the happiest of my life.

Thank you, IIT Kanpur, for being my second home. I hope this is not goodbye, but simply "see you again." I look forward to returning one day, not as a newcomer searching for a place to belong, but as someone coming home to relive the memories that will always remain close to my heart.

Fransiska Anggun Arumsari
PhD, Department of HSS



Indranil Sarkar
MTech, Department of AE

I am a student from Bangladesh, with a background in electrical and electronic engineering, and then choosing M.Tech in aerospace engineering at IIT Kanpur feels like choosing both challenge and possibility at the same time.

The whole admission process gave me a tough run-selection process, foreign student rules, documentations, visa procedures-everything was new, and I often felt like I was navigating it all alone. And it was my first time abroad. The IR department was very cooperative.

Once I reached campus, the transition into IITK life was much smoother than I expect-

ed in some cases. Seniors and professors were incredibly welcoming, academics were in English, and hostel life made me feel at home almost immediately. The only real adjustments were to be able to cope up with the intensive academic culture and, obviously, the food.

What I enjoy most here is the sense of freedom and the vibrant campus environment, late-night tea, the safety of roaming around at night, cycling, participating in games and sports, and engaging in a wide range of cultural activities. Above all, the dynamic yet flexible intramural culture and activities at IIT Kanpur are truly amazing to me.

From Nepal to the vibrant campus of IIT Kanpur, my journey has been filled with learning, growth, and unforgettable experiences. Arriving at IIT Kanpur was both exciting and overwhelming, but the welcoming atmosphere and lively campus soon made it feel like home. Surrounded by students from diverse cultures and backgrounds, I have enjoyed exchanging ideas, building lasting friendships, and becoming part of a truly inspiring academic community.

Pursuing Aerospace Engineering here has been both challenging and rewarding. The academic environment constantly

encourages me to think critically, explore new ideas, and grow as a learner. Beyond the classroom, the green campus, peaceful evenings, and vibrant student life have made every day memorable. IIT Kanpur has not only strengthened my academic journey but has also helped me become a more confident, resilient, and determined individual.

Anu Sherchan
MTech, Department of AE



My name is Yesuf Hussien, and I am an international PhD student from Ethiopia in the Department of Aerospace Engineering at IIT Kanpur. I completed my B.Tech in Aeronautical Engineering at the Ethiopian Defence University and my M.Sc. in Thermal Engineering at Addis Ababa University. Before coming to IIT Kanpur, I worked as a Lecturer at the Ethiopian Defence University.

My research is in computational fluid dynamics (CFD), with a focus on turbomachinery, especially compressor and turbine cascades. Since joining IIT Kanpur, I have had the opportunity to learn in an excellent academic environment. I have been particularly impressed by the Department of Aerospace Engineering. The professors are highly knowledgeable, and their teaching style makes even difficult topics easier to understand. I was also amazed by the modern computational and experimental laboratories and the support provided by the laboratory staff, which have greatly improved my learning and research experience.

Coming to IIT Kanpur as an international student was an exciting experience, although the admission process

required careful preparation. I had to arrange my academic documents, visa, and travel from Ethiopia to India. Throughout the process, the IIT Kanpur International Relations Office (OIR) was very helpful. They arranged transportation from the airport, assisted with registration, hostel accommodation, and other formalities, and made sure that I settled in comfortably. Their kindness and support made my first days at IIT Kanpur much easier and helped me feel at home.

My time at IIT Kanpur has been a wonderful experience of learning and personal growth. Studying with students from different parts of India and many other countries has helped me learn new ideas and build good friendships. I am especially thankful to my PhD supervisor, who has been supporting me since the day I joined IIT Kanpur. From my registration to my current research, he has always been there to guide and encourage me. He is not only my supervisor but also a mentor who cares for me like a father. Whenever I face difficulties in my research, he patiently helps me and motivates me to keep moving forward. I feel very fortunate to have such a caring and supportive supervisor.

I also found many similarities between Indian and Ethiopian culture, especially in the hospitality, sense of community, and food, which made it easy for me to adjust to life in India. Looking back, my journey at IIT Kanpur has been one of the best experiences of my life, helping me grow both as a researcher and as a person.



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