

Newspaper Clips

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PREFERRED INSTITUTION

RESEARCH FACILITIES AND IT IMAGE OF HYDERABAD CONTRIBUTE

IIT-H attracts top talent

R. Ravikanth Reddy

A cosmopolitan ambience, good connectivity and strong Information Technology (IT) sector is attracting top rankers to the Indian Institute of Technology- Hyderabad (IIT-H) over other IITs in the country, including some of the established and famous ones.

The opening rank was 534 this year compared with 632 last year and the number of top 1,000 rankers from the JEE has increased enormously compared with just single digit last year. "The registration process was completed on Wednesday. We are yet to compile the figures but good rankers have chosen us over other new IITs and also some old IITs," explained IIT-H Director, U.B. Desai.

Admissions closed at 988 rank in the Computer Science Engineering (CSE), one of the sought-after streams in the IITs. The last person to get into the institute



Hyderabad is dotted with India's top scientific and defence research institutions, and students feel it is easier to get internships and jobs in the Telangana capital compared to any other city. - FILE PHOTO: MOHD ARIF

was 5,500th ranker, considered to be pretty good for an institute that started only in 2008-09. Telugu students are not more than 35 per cent thus ruling out that factor of only the locals choosing the institution.

"The credit should go to the city given its cosmopolitan nature and good connectivity with the country through rail and air networks

apart from the surging IT sector that provides lot many opportunities to students," Prof. Desai feels. The city is dotted with India's top scientific and defence research institutions, and students feel it is easier to get internships and jobs in Hyderabad compared to any other city.

Telangana IT Minister K.T. Rama Rao was vigorously pushing

Hyderabad as the start-up destination of the country thus providing ample opportunities for the bright minds and this will certainly help IIT-H students, he observed. The recently cleared plans for setting up India's biggest Incubation Centre at IIIT Hyderabad in collaboration with Indian School of Business and NALSAR University of Law spread over 60,000 sq. ft. at a cost of Rs. 35 crores, is another big plus.

Academically, IIT-H is quite attractive to any student with 1:12 teacher-student ratio while other strong factors luring students include research opportunities in the newer areas. It also offers the best bouquet of courses. It has a strong research network and the new research labs. "We have the largest number of faculty among new IITs and more than 100 labs of which nearly 50 are for research," reveals Prof. Desai.

The institute has started a Digi-Fab Laboratory for 3D printing that equips students with latest manufacturing technologies. "We are the only institute to offer such facility in India and more so for first year students," he adds.

WE HAVE THE LARGEST NUMBER OF FACULTY AMONG NEW IITS AND MORE THAN 100 LABS OF WHICH NEARLY 50 ARE FOR RESEARCH

Business Line ND 01/08/2015 P-2

Yields that weather many risks

An IIT entrepreneur makes climate work for farmers

VENKAT IYER

It was no small challenge that a few IIT students took on when they left their jobs in 2004. They wanted to help farmers adapt to climate change and profit in the process too. And at 39, Sonu Agrawal from IIT-Kanpur is quite pleased with that leap forward. As managing director of Weather Risk, which promises security against climate change, he has 150 people working with farmers in 15 states to optimise crop production, guard against weather patterns, access credit and insurance, and be part of a supply chain.

Weather Risk charges ₹3,000 per hectare to offer consultancy for a single crop season and usually works with groups of farmers. Over a decade, more than 25,000 farmers have approached the company, which also works with governments on solar energy programmes in Rajasthan and horticulture in Haryana, and tailors crop insurance schemes to suit specific areas.

Agrawal says the company has roped in corporates and agri input companies as sponsors, and set up 1,000 monitoring stations to collect data in homogenous climate zones. Each station has been built at a cost of ₹13,000.

Farm Income Groups (associations



In season An automatic weather station at a potato farm in West Bengal

The farmers are paying us for specialised data on soil, weather and rainfall, as well as for providing access to credit and insurance and supply chains

of small and medium farmers) in Haryana, Bengal and Uttar Pradesh form the bulk of the company's clientele, while some big farmers ask for specialised services.

Managing losses is a part of the work. Describing, for instance, the company's work with a group of potato farmers in Bengal over the last eight

years, Agrawal says, "We introduced soil management systems and optimised water use. Several potato farmers went into loss because of unseasonal rainfall in April and frost in winter. We analysed weather systems and advised farmers in Bengal and Punjab to sow in September-end and harvest by February." When potato is sown early, its leaves can be nipped before winter to protect them from frost, while the early harvest saves them from the unseasonal rains in March.

Apart from working with governments and farmers on crop insurance, a crucial area of intervention involves facilitating bank loans. Banks (mostly private ones) are more willing to lend to farmers if repayment is assured.

"The farmers are paying us for specialised data on soil, weather and rainfall, as well as for providing access to credit, insurance and supply chains. What we do is unique, we bundle a lot of tangible services to farmers. Our initial idea of simply selling crop insurance wouldn't work," says Agrawal.

The need for a company like this is a clear indication of how extension work by the government has failed in the country. On the other hand, it shows that farmers are willing to pay for specialised services.

The writer is an organic farmer based in Dahanu, Maharashtra

नई राह ♦ देश में उच्च शिक्षित फैकल्टी की कमी दूर करने की शीर्ष प्रबंध संस्थान ने निकाली युक्ति

कॉरपोरेट अनुभवी बनेंगे आईआईएम फैकल्टी

पत्रिका

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देश के अधिकतर शिक्षण संस्थान उच्च शिक्षित फैकल्टी की कमी से जूझ रहे हैं। वहीं कई बार बड़ी डिग्री वाली फैकल्टी तो मिल जाती है, लेकिन वो किताबी ज्ञान से इतर छात्रों को कॉरपोरेट और इंडस्ट्रियल ज्ञान नहीं दे पाती हैं। आईआईएम ने इस समस्या का हल खोज निकाला है। डिग्री को दरकिनार कर पहली बार

अनुभव के आधार पर टीचिंग की तैयारी की है। 'प्रोफेसर ऑफ प्रैक्टिस' के तहत आईआईएम में ऐसे शिक्षकों की तीन साल के लिए परमानेंट नियुक्ति की जाएगी, जिन्होंने कॉरपोरेट वर्ल्ड में टॉप पोजिशन पर काम करते हुए मैनेजमेंट की बारीकियां सीखी हैं। इंडियन इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ मैनेजमेंट (आईआईएम) इंदौर और अहमदाबाद में इसकी प्रक्रिया शुरू हो चुकी है। आईआईएम इंदौर ने ऐसी 5 नियुक्तियां करने का निर्णय लिया है। दो पदों पर प्रो. एनएम भट्ट और प्रो. कौशिक दत्ता चुने जा चुके हैं।



फैकल्टी की कहां कितनी कमी

33% आईआईटी

35% एनआईटी

20% इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज

50% एम्स

पीएचडी भी जरूरी नहीं

यूजीसी नॉर्म्स के मुताबिक पीजी कोर्सेस के छात्र-छात्राओं को पढ़ाने के लिए कम से कम पीएचडी डिग्री होना जरूरी है। 'प्रोफेसर ऑफ प्रैक्टिस' में सभी नियमों को शिथिल कर अन्य विषय की योग्यताओं को आधार बनाया है। इसमें फैकल्टी को 15 साल इंडस्ट्री का अनुभव जरूरी है। शर्त यह भी है कि उच्च पदों पर ही आसीन रहे हों। 3 वर्ष कॉन्ट्रैक्ट अवधि के बाद अगले तीन वर्ष का एक्सटेंशन भी दिया जा सकेगा।

फुल टाइम फैकल्टी का मौका

आईआईएम डायरेक्टर प्रो. ऋषिकेश टी.



कृष्णन ने कहा, हमारा फोकस प्रैक्टिकल लर्निंग पर है। छात्रों को इंटर्नशिप के लिए अलग-अलग इंडस्ट्री में भेजते हैं, बावजूद

क्लास रूम में प्रैक्टिकल ट्रेनिंग जरूरी है। इंडस्ट्री से जुड़े लोगों को अब तक बतौर गेस्ट फैकल्टी बुलाया जाता था। गेस्ट फैकल्टी की क्लासेस सीमित होने से छात्र पूरा फायदा नहीं ले पाते थे।

Kalam had conceived wind tunnel energy facility at IIT-Kanpur

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kanpur/Kalam-had-conceived-wind-tunnel-energy-facility-at-IIT-Kanpur/articleshow/48293804.cms>

Late President, A P J Abdul Kalam had a special connect with IIT-Kanpur. The wind tunnel facility at the institute was conceived by him in early 1990s. He discussed the idea with his friends (Late) Prof NN Arora and Prof NGR Iyengar, who were then senior professors of aerospace engineering in IIT-Kanpur.

It then took five years for the construction of the wind tunnel facility to come up on the institute and was inaugurated on January 24 in 1999. But Kalam had missed the function despite the fact that he was to inaugurate it. But the Missile Man returned to the institute to see the wind tunnel facility on May 29 in the same year which had impressed him much. Arora and Iyengar had showed the facility to Kalam. He was then the chief scientific adviser to the Prime Minister and the secretary of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Today IIT-Kanpur's wind tunnel facility is one of the best across the country. The institute is thankful to Kalam for his vision.

"Kalam Sir used to inquire about the development of wind tunnel from his friends (Late) Prof NN Arora and Prof NGR Iyengar. But when he had missed the inauguration function of the facility on January 24 in 1999, he had expressed sorrow during his visit to the institute on May 29 in the same year. He then saw the newly developed facility and hailed the efforts of his friends. He spoke in detail about the usefulness of the facility with his professor friends," recalled Rajeev Gupta, who is the principal engineer of the national wind tunnel facility at IIT-Kanpur at present.

Kalam had visited the institute thrice. While he made his first visit to the institute on May 29 in 1999, he visited for the last time on October 31, 2012. In 2012, he was the chief guest of the golden jubilee celebrations of Students Gymkhana.

At the student Gymkhana's golden jubilee celebration, Kalam had hit the gong to mark the start of the programmes. He had released a helium-filled balloon capable of imaging, equipped with a powerful camera. Besides taking aerial pictures, the balloon was capable to keep an eye on the campus and its surroundings.

He had spent some time at the air strip of the institute where an air show was planned by the Aero Modeling Club. Later, Kalam had inspected the wind tunnel facility at the institute.

IIT Gandhinagar to have paperless offices; First IIT to adopt a comprehensive system

<http://deshgujarat.com/2015/07/31/iit-gandhinagar-to-have-paperless-offices-first-iit-to-adopt-a-comprehensive-system/>

Gandhinagar

Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN) is all set to become the first IIT to fully automate its operational processes and seamlessly integrate them through a software platform called Institute Management System (IMS). The Institute's offices will become paperless through the new system. IMS project was launched on July 31, 2015 by IITGN Board of Governors Chairman, prof Baldev Raj.

Inaugurating the IMS, Prof Raj said, "The system will ensure transparency, which is critical for excellence agenda of the Institute."

The new system is aimed at saving time and energy for the institute's employees and students by eliminating the need to physically visit different offices. IITGN Director Professor Sudhir Jain said, "IITGN is reaching another milestone as we initiate the adoption of Institute Management System (IMS). The full-fledged software solution is designed to propel the institute towards a paperless organization. All the processes relating to academics, accounting and finance, research and development, procurement, alumni relations, placements of students, recruitment of faculty and staff etc. will get automated and seamlessly integrated."

Adoption of IMS will enhance operational efficiency of the Institute. Since the data is available at all times in digital format, report generation and data analytics are just a click of a button away. Software platforms to automate and integrate operational processes have been successfully adopted by most of the leading institutes in the world. The system, however, has yet to gain popularity in India. Professor IITGN Faculty Prof Pratyush Dayal said, "Although most of the older IITs have some of their operations automatized, IITGN is set to be the first among all the IITs to integrate all its processes on a common platform."

