

Newspaper Clips

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Finding faculty for IITs a challenge

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/finding-faculty-for-iits-a-challenge/article17489142.ece>

Reasons for institute not attracting talent under study

The Indian Institute of Technology–Madras is looking to enhance industry-academia interaction in research and development and improve the faculty strength in the coming years, said Pawan Goenka, Chairman of the Board of Governors, IIT Madras.

In an interaction with the press after being reappointed as chairman for a second term, Mr. Goenka, also managing director of Mahindra and Mahindra, said the institute was on track as envisaged in its Strategic Plan for 2020.

But there were some challenges, such as improving the academia-industry interaction in research and the faculty-student ratio.

At present, funding for research came predominantly from the government departments. Mr. Goenka said the trend needed to be reversed for the institutes to compete with international institutions.

“The biggest challenge we are facing is how to recruit faculty. The IITs have not lowered the bar for faculty. IIT-Madras is doing a study to understand what the enabling factors and disabling factors are for faculty members for joining. We are doing the same thing for students too. We are looking to see why only 10 of top 100 and not top 20 students choose IIT-M. We are also looking at why some companies do not come to IIT-M for recruiting. We are trying to understand and correct them without compromising on what IITs stand for, which is quality of education and research,” Mr. Goenka said.

The institute is actively trying to recruit Indians abroad as foreign faculty members. The target is 25 faculty members per year. By the end of the three-year period the institute hopes to make it to at least 60 or 70 if not 100, he said.

Overseas competition

The reason for focusing on foreign faculty is to meet the competition from foreign universities that score over IITs because of their diversity in research group, said Bhaskar Ramamurthi, IIT-M director.

“Ideally, IIT-M would like to add 40, but we are able to add 35 faculty per year,” he said.

The institute was receiving sufficient funds for infrastructure development, but for industry-oriented research it is imperative that the funds came from industry, he added. This year the institute has been allocated ₹750 crore against 450 crore last year, the officials added.

MIT students shine at IIT Delhi

<http://citytoday.news/mit-students-shine-at-iit-delhi/>



Students of Electronics and Communication Engineering of Maharaja Institute of Technology, Mysuru participated in an all India level robotic competition at IIT Delhi during March 3 to 5.

Out of 43 teams from all over India, who had won their regional competitions, MITians won the first prize at the national Level in 'Utkraanti- 17'. This competition was organized in conjunction with the Entrepreneurship Development Cell of IIT Delhi, the winners get cash prize and certificates.

(From L-R): Dr. Mahesh Rao, Prof and Head E&C Department, Rakesh Sharma, Darshan, Dr B G Naresh Kumar, Principal, Manikya , Mythri and Asst Prof Lavanya YS.

Indian Railways to send officers to IITs, IIMs for advanced research and studies

According to sources, the railways will be spending nearly Rs 5 lakh for each of these officers during the two years they spend at these premier institutes.

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/indian-railways-iit-iim-officer-training-research-studies/1/906040.html>

It's time for the railway babus to take lessons at countries premiere engineering and management institutes to enhance their skills.

The Indian Railways will be sending its 20 officers from various services to IITs and IIMs for rail-related research and advanced studies.

"Fellowship scheme for railway officers has been introduced at central and state universities and centres for excellence, like IITs, IIMs and IIS," said a senior railway board officer.

He said a scheme for encouraging railway employees to acquire higher qualifications at Master's level in IITs, IIMs and institutes of repute will also be introduced.

The IR has issued a notice for admission for MTech programme for 20 railway officers from the disciplines of civil, mechanical and electrical engineering.

An official said the training programme will also be opened for officers in railway PSUs, like IRCTC, IRCON and others.

Services of professional agencies would be used for evaluation of railway-training programmes. A policy has been framed in this regard, the official added.

According to sources, the railways will be spending nearly Rs 5 lakh for each of these officers during their two years of course.

AIMED AT UPDATING OFFICERS' SKILLS

"In keeping with the need to maintain pace with fast-changing transport environment and need for innovation and modernisation, the railway board has decided to update and upgrade the professional and technical knowledge and skills of the railway officers by enrolling them into academic programmes in premiere technical and management institutes in the country," said a communication from the railway ministry to all railway training institutes.

Sources said the Master's degree in Engineering will be helpful in improving the passenger safety standards in the railways as well as improving the overall train operations.

Focus will be on upgrading the tracks, signalling and electrification system on the railway tracks so as to improve punctuality and speed of the trains. This assumes greater significance in wake of the railways introducing high-speed rail network in the country.

The Indian Railways had signed an MoU with University of Mumbai in April last year for setting up a centre for railway research. A railway ministry official said an academic services agreement was signed with Beijing Jiaotong University, China, for training of 100 officers of various departments in heavy-haul technology.

IIT Kanpur launches INVENT – incubation fund for social ventures

<https://thetechportal.com/2017/03/17/iit-kanpur-invent-incubation-fund/>



Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, has announced the launch of INVENT — a fund focused on incubating startup which are working towards a social cause. The fund has been setup in collaboration with Technology Development Board (TDB) and the Department for International Development (DFID), Government of the United Kingdom.

The corpus of this fund is said to be Rs 7.5 crore and it will incubate 40 social startups that operate for-profit in the social enterprise space. Through the programme, IIT Kanpur's SIDBI Innovation and Incubation Centre (SIIC) aims to incubate

startups with an upper limit of Rs 50 lakh on each investment, said its CEO Abhijit Sathe.

This month, Innovative Ventures and Technologies for Development (INVENT) has made its third investment in a Lucknow-based startup, Decentrik Technologies. It has invested around Rs 50 lakh in the company. Previously, IIT Kanpur had invested in two other startups — Promorph Solutions and Prosoc Innovators.

Decentrik Technologies, the most recent investment of the INVENT, is headed by Vineet Vats. The company offers mobile water stations dispensing potable water. The company now intends to expand beyond UP to Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Mumbai and Delhi. He said that their solution is complete 'uberisation' of on-demand chilled, purified water available roadside at a nominal cost. The startup currently operates in Lucknow and Varanasi.

Apart from IIT Kanpur, many other IITs also have a dedicated incubation programs. IIT Patna has recently proposed an incubation center which will have programs designed to support the successful development of entrepreneurial companies through an array of industry support resources and services.

It says that the incubator would differ from research and technology parks in its dedication to start-up and early-stage companies. This is also an attempt to bring academia and industry closer to each other by providing students and faculty a platform to commercialize their research, final year projects and other technology based business ideas.

Indian Army Signs Its 5th MoU for collaborative research in Defence Technologies, this time with IIT Bhubaneswar

<https://defenceaviationpost.com/indian-army-signs-5th-mou-collaborative-research-defence-technologies-time-iit-bhubneswar/>



The Indian Army's is aggressively moving ahead in its quest for 'Winning India's Wars with Indian Solutions' and yet another major milestone was achieved by Indian Army, when a team led by Lt Gen Subrata Saha Dy Chief of the Army Staff signed a MoU, the fifth in the series, with **IIT Bhubaneswar** on Thursday (March 16, 2017).

The MoU, signed jointly by Dr R V Rajkumar, Director IIT Bhubaneswar and Lt Gen Saha forms the framework for Technological collaboration for focused application of scientific solutions to the Army's Problems in the field.

This is the fifth MOU after IIT Madras, Gandhinagar Mumbai and Kharagpur with which the Indian Army has signed in the recent past.

In the past one and a half years, the Indian Army has launched a major outreach program led by Lt Gen Saha to engage with the Industry and the Academia.

As many as 20 Army-Industry bilateral interactive sessions have been held with close to 2000 entities in attendance (that included large, medium, small, MSMEs and start-ups).

In addition 10 trilateral Academia-Industry-Army interactions have taken place with over 800 Professors and Scholars from IIT Bombay, Madras, Gandhinagar, Kharagpur, IISC Bangalore, PSG Coimbatore, Amrita University, Coimbatore, IIT Ropar and Bhubaneswar.

Alongside, in order to provide a first hand experience to the industry and academia on the issues faced by the Indian Army at forward locations, currently a group of Professors, Scholars and Industry representatives are visiting forward areas in Ladakh region from March 13 to 18, to get a first hand understanding of problems in the field requiring scientific and technological solutions.

The DCOAS presented a copy of the First Volume of Compendium of Problem Statements to the Director IITM. The Compendium was released by Ministry of Defence on 5 December last year.

Times Asia University Ranking 2017: IISc Bangalore, IIT Bombay in Top 50

<http://www.ndtv.com/education/times-asia-university-ranking-2017-iisc-bangalore-iit-bombay-in-top-50-1670358>

NEW DELHI: In a ranking where universities from Singapore, China, South Korea, Hong Kong and Japan topped, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay fared well in the Times Higher Education's Asia University Rankings 2017. IISc Bangalore was ranked in the 27th place while IIT Bombay secured 42 nd rank. Apart from IISc Bangalore and IIT Bombay, Veltech University, Chennai has also found its place in top 50. According to this ranking, The National University of Singapore is the top institution in Asia for the second year in a row.

The most-represented nation in the rankings is Japan, with 69 institutions followed by China with 54 institutions. However, according to THE ranking 2017, 'the majority of Japan's universities have lost ground in the rankings since last year, while rivals in China, Hong Kong and India have continued to rise'.

India, for the first time became the third most-represented nation with 33 universities in the ranking - double the number in last year's list.

"One of the main reasons why Indian universities fare badly in international rankings is their low research output", comments Atul Chauhan in a [Times Higher Education article](#) in which he also observes that India's upstarts in the education sector are 'revolutionising higher education'.

He said that the research infrastructure must be upgraded. "Its neglected state is a major factor in why some of India's most brilliant brains leave the country", he writes.

"The country's business sector must join the government in funding research at universities", he added.

"Globally, this is very common, but at the moment Indian industry lacks faith in the universities' capabilities and does

little to support their research efforts", argues Mr. Atul while saying 'funding for research should be normative, based on outcomes'.

In top 100 of this ranking, Indian Institute of Technology - Delhi, Indian Institute of Technology - Madras, Indian Institute of Technology - Kanpur, Indian Institute of Technology - Roorkee and Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur found its place.

This is the third time in this month, the Bangalore based IISc making news for its performance; the first one for being ranked 8th in Times Higher Education's [Best Small Universities Rankings 2017](#) and later it also found its place in [QS ranking](#) where it was ranked 152.

IIT Kharagpur to make Kolkata township 'happiest' spot in India

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/education/iit-kharagpur-to-make-kolkata-township-happiest-spot-in-india/story-p0S8v1CN3jsbkoF5xp5MGN.html>



In a bid to develop New Town, a satellite township on the north-eastern fringes of the city, as India's happiest space, IIT-Kharagpur will study the happiness index of the locality as part of a two-year project, a statement said on Thursday.

The New Town Kolkata Development Authority (NKDA) and West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation (HIDCO) has asked IIT Kharagpur's Rekhi Centre of Excellence for the Science of Happiness and Ranbir and Chitra Gupta School of Infrastructure Design and Management to help them raise the happiness index of New Town-Rajarhat.

"We have asked the institute to find out about the quality of life at New Town and how it could be enhanced. They would also be benchmarking New Town with the happy cities all over the world," said HIDCO CMD and NKDA chairman Debashis Sen.

"With the help of IIT-Kharagpur we would like to know what we can do now and in the coming years to convert this space into the happiest part of the country," said Sen.

The duration of the project will be of two years during which the institute will not only study the happiness index of New Town but would also ensure pilot implementation of the recommendations.

IIT-Kharagpur will also organise workshops with stakeholders of New Town and train the master trainers, who in turn would impart the message of positive thinking and changing the mind-set of the residents.

Technomanagement fest at IIT Ropar from Mar 22

<http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

RUPNAGAR: The Indian Institute of Technology(IIT), Ropar will organise its first edition of the technomanagement festival 'Advitiya' from March 22 to 24 . It will be inaugurated by ISRO applications centre director, Tapan Misra. Prof SK Das said Advitiya will witness a wide range of scientific and technical activities and novel events on the upcoming trending fields such as coding, robotics, finance, design and entrepreneurship with prizes worth as high as 4 lakh.

<http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

Hindustan Times ePaper 17 Mar 2017 Page-15

27% rise in summer internship stipend for IIT-Bombay's management students

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MUMBAI: The average stipend of summer placement at Shailesh J. Mehta School of Management at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) rose to Rs1.19 lakh, witnessing an increase of 27% over the previous year.

The top stipend bagged by the students this year was Rs2.80 lakh which was 40% higher than that of last year.

These internships are carried out for a period of 8-10 weeks.

The participating students bagged offers for summer place-

ments from 40 companies. The existing batch of students attracted many new recruiters and bagged new profiles from existing recruiters.

Owing to the institute's close association with the fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector, 29% of the batch has secured offers from that segment. Around 22% of the students secured from the consulting/IT sector. While the rest of the students bagged placements in manufacturing and banking, finance, securities, insurance (BFSI), healthcare and other sectors.

FMCG giants such as Asian Paints, BCCl, Colgate-Palmolive, Johnson & Johnson, Kimberly-Clark, Marico, Mondelez, Nestle, P&G and others offered profiles in supply chain management, operations and IT domains. While consulting/IT bigwigs like Accenture, Capgemini, GEP, Tata motors, and Wipro had roles in procurement consulting and technology consulting up for grabs. Manufacturing giants including BASF, Cummins, Tata motors and Whirlpool offered profiles in operations and marketing.

The BFSI sector, meanwhile,

witnessed giants like Fidelity Investments, Goldman Sachs, ICICI, Indus Valley Partners, Ocwen Financial Services and Yes Bank offering roles in investment management, relationship banking, risk management, corporate treasury and business analysis and research.

Companies like Boehringer Ingelheim, Cochlear, Pharmeas and United Health Group from the healthcare sector took part in the placement cell and offered profiles in supply chain management, strategy, sales and marketing and general management.

Dean Ramayya Krishnan Honored with 2017 IIT Madras Distinguished Alumnus Award

<http://indiaeducationdiary.in/dean-ramayya-krishnan-honored-2017-iit-madras-distinguished-alumnus-award/>



Chennai: Ramayya Krishnan, Dean of the H. John Heinz III College of Information Systems and Public Policy, and William W. and Ruth F. Cooper Professor of Management Science and Information Systems at Carnegie Mellon University, is a 2017 recipient of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) Distinguished Alumnus Award. Krishnan received the award on March 16th in a ceremony held at the IIT Madras campus.

“Prof. Ramayya Krishnan joins an illustrious group of Distinguished Alumni of IIT Madras who are academicians. Prof. Krishnan is renowned for his seminal contributions to the field of Information Systems, and has made his alma mater proud with his accomplishments as Dean of the College for Information Systems at CMU,” said Professor Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Director of IIT Madras.

The Distinguished Alumnus Awards are presented annually by the Institute. Since the inception of the awards in 1996, 147 alumni have been selected for the award.

“I am proud to represent my alma mater in all that I do, and humbled that the Institute has honored me with this award,” said Krishnan. “I look forward to visiting campus and having an opportunity to catch up and share stories with my fellow alumni honorees.”

Krishnan received his bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Madras in 1981, and both his master’s degree and Ph.D. from the University of Texas, Austin in 1983 and 1987, respectively.

Krishnan has been a member of the Heinz College faculty since 1988 and is a founding faculty member of the Master of Information Systems Management Program. He also oversaw the creation of the School of Information Systems and Management at Heinz College, complementing the existing School of Public Policy and Management.

He was appointed as the first Dean when the Heinz College was created in 2008 and was reappointed Dean upon the completion of his first term in 2014.

In 2016, under Krishnan's leadership, INFORMS, the global Operations Research and Management Science (OR/MS) Society, recognized Heinz College with the UPS George D. Smith Prize for educational excellence in Analytics. Heinz College is the only academic institution that is home to both the Von Neumann Theory Prize and the UPS George D. Smith Prize.

Since he joined CMU in 1988, Krishnan has compiled an outstanding research record in Operations Research and Management Science (OR/MS) and its applications to Information Systems. His contributions have been recognized by INFORMS through its highly-selective INFORMS fellow award, and in 2015, he was conferred with the Y. Nayudamma Award for his contributions to information technology and telecommunications management. He has been the President of INFORMS Computing Society and INFORMS Information Systems Society, and has edited premier journals in the fields of Operations Research, Management Science, and Information Science Research.

Krishnan has a worldwide reputation for his expertise in data science and analytics. He has spoken on data analytics at the World Economic Forum, served as a STEM expert on the U.S. State Department Delegation led by Sec. Clinton to APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Consortium), and briefed the ICT Ministers of ASEAN on big data technology and policy. He is a former member of the Global Agenda Council on Data Driven Development at the World Economic Forum. Currently, he serves on the IT and Services Advisory Board chaired by Governor Tom Wolf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.