

IITs face 34% faculty crunch, Delhi's tech institute 29%

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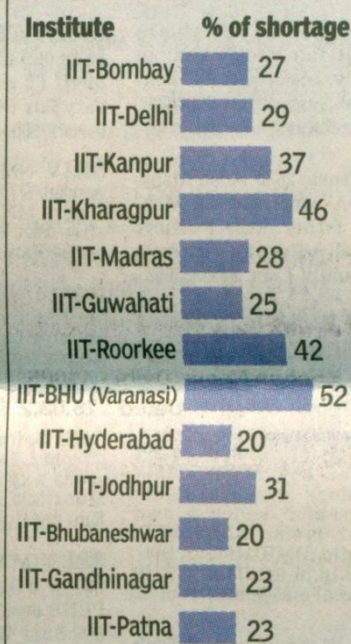
Bengaluru: India's 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) collectively have a faculty shortage of 34% as in March 2018, with only one, IIT-Mandi in Himachal Pradesh, having more than the sanctioned strength. IIT-Mumbai faces a 27% shortage in teachers.

The problem is not restricted to newer IITs like those in Palakkad, Tirupati and Goa, which don't have the sanctioned faculty, but in older ones like those in Mumbai, Kharagpur and Kanpur where the shortage is between 25% and 45%.

Last month, the ministry of human resource development said it would try and make it easier for IITs to acquire visas for foreign faculty, hoping to narrow the gap between sanctioned and existing strength of teachers.

Education expert AS Seetharamu said: "Earlier, about 15% of IIT graduates would come back as faculty,

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Source: HRD ministry

but this percentage is dropping. Now, up to 50% of

graduates go abroad to find work, while most of the remaining enter software and IT companies in India."

With the increase in number of IITs and National Institutes of Technology, the teaching staff needed is also on an increasing graph.

"However, there has been no subsequent rise in the number of people eligible and available for these positions," Seetharamu said, adding that this gap can be plugged by increasing competitiveness of salaries and encouraging graduates to take up doctoral studies as PhDs are required of prospective faculty.

Among the top five ranked institutes, Kharagpur has 46% vacancies, followed by 37% in Kanpur, 29% in Delhi, 28% in Chennai and 27% in Mumbai.

Experts pointed out that in newer IITs like the one in Dharwad, which has a 47% shortage, the challenges are of attracting teachers to stay and teach in smaller towns.