

India's Top Schools Seeking Research-Oriented Faculty

IIMs, IITs, Bennett Varsity among those stressing on focus on research

Our Bureau

Mumbai | New Delhi: In a bid to build a culture of research much like their Ivy League counterparts, the country's leading tech schools, management institutes and universities are stepping up their focus on a faculty pool oriented toward this key aspect of academic life. The likes of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, Indian School of Business (ISB), Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Calcutta along with new-age institutes such as Bennett University, among others, are going all out to encourage faculty members to pursue research across disciplines on par with global standards.



"We tell our faculty that we have to compete intellectually with the Stanfords and Whartons of the world to become a global brand. We can't think about beating the system locally," said ISB dean Rajendra Srivastava.

The institute thus expects its faculty to publish in leading global journals while a reward system has been set up to compete internally. Annual raises and other incentives at ISB are driven by the quality of research and teaching along with impact.

"Research is getting more important. Industry is ahead of academia in research and the pace of research has changed, ideas are generated faster and faster. Our research must address issues related to the future," Srivastava said.

Bennett University vice chancellor Yaj Medury said research-oriented faculty members are committed to generating knowledge and ideas to enhance practices and learning in the classroom. "Faculty at top universities, such as the Ivy League and others, generally pioneer ideas with broad impact, using an interdisciplinary approach and, in the process, contribute to advancements and bodies of knowledge. Indian institutes need to move in sync with this process," said Medury. Bennett University is part of the Times of India Group, which publishes ET. Bennett University has seen a recent influx of faculty from the IITs. The teaching load at the university is lesser at about eight to 10 hours a week, giving high-profile faculty members time to work on their own research.

Older schools such as the IITs and IIMs are encouraging faculty research in a big way as well. IIM Calcutta, for instance, has a research grant policy that runs on internally generated funds. Faculty members are given anywhere from ₹3 lakh to ₹50 lakh to pursue specific projects.

IIM Calcutta faculty members are sent to international conferences so that they are familiar with state-of-the-art research and teaching, both non-negotiable components of the academic agenda. "These measures have generated a significant increase in the number of publications and research-oriented work. It also helps in international rankings and accreditation," said IIM Calcutta director Saibal Chattopadhyay. "By today's yardstick, if a higher learning institute has to survive and move ahead, research is the only way forward." IIT Kanpur director Indranil Manna agreed, adding that there are primarily three kinds of professionals engaged in research—academics, R&D labs and industry.

"Industry thinks of providing solutions for today; R&D for tomorrow and academia for the distant tomorrow. We need all three," said Manna. "Without research, we cannot create new knowledge. Unless we innovate, in tomorrow's market we will be rendered redundant."

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SN. 2. Name of the work with its location:
Electrification of additional PF lighting, circulating area, Station building with quarter wiring etc. including modification of 11 kV/33 kV at different stations between Saliwanba to Khuldil Rd in connection with doubling of Railway line from Ramna to Singrauli section and electrification of quarter wiring (Type-II 16 units, Type-III 4 units) with associated Doubling work in Jarandil to Danaea section. **e-Tender No. EL/C/S/MHX/ ETEN/08/17- 18, Approx. Cost of the work: Rs. 4,12,67,233/-, Earnest money and tender Document cost to be deposited: Rs. 3,56,340/- and Rs. 10000/- respectively.**

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