

# 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, 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 Insti-

## SHORT-STAFFED



Institute	% of shortage
IIT-Bombay	27
IIT-Delhi	29
IIT-Kanpur	37
IIT-Kharagpur	46
IIT-Madras	28
IIT-Guwahati	25
IIT-Roorkee	42
IIT-BHU (Varanasi)	52
IIT-Hyderabad	20
IIT-Jodhpur	31
IIT-Bhubaneshwar	20
IIT-Gandhinagar	23
IIT-Patna	23

Source: HRD ministry

tutes 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," Seeth-

aramu 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.

While IIT-Mandi is in the best position with four faculty members more than the sanctioned strength, IIT-Bhilai, in Chhattisgarh is the worst-hit, with 58% vacancies for professors.

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. "Just putting up an institute isn't enough. Faculty members have families and they weigh options like availability of schools for their children, access to healthcare for parents and children and other factors before accepting offers," an expert said.

Among other challenges facing the HRD ministry are the attractive private sector, better research opportunities in MNCs and the lack of quality candidates.

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**Source:** Times of India Sunday times (Pg.No.9)

**Date:** 01/04/2018