

PROF PRAMOD MATHUR,
Director, IIT Indore

'We've several collaborations & MoUs with foreign universities'

Prof Pramod Mathur in the interview shares his vision about the institution and talks about the accolades the institution has garnered since its inception. Excerpts.

Even though, you are running an IIT from a temporary location, what have been the major achievements over these years?

We have got over Rs 8 crore worth sponsored research projects. We've got 64 research scholars working with us. We only have about 360 odd undergraduate students. Our ambition is to bring the ratio to 1:1. In IIT system research is as important.

What is it that you as an IIT, would've wanted to contribute to the city?

I think they (local population) are missing out on a lot that we'd like to showcase to them. As an example, this year was the year of chemistry. And we would've loved to have done events where local students could've been invited and our facilities could've been showcased.

You are being mentored by IIT Mumbai, as of now. What have you done to live up to the brand?

Brand name comes from a number of markers. One is when your students get placed after graduation. But that can only happen after five years from now, when they've graduated and are established. I'm confident about 100% placement. For an IIT graduate, that isn't a problem. They should go to good places, whether for jobs or further studies.

The second parameter is the

research output. And there, we're doing very well.

We have a very focused programme in the area of micro-electronics. We have that as our focal strength where our faculty is concentrated.

The ion-beam device is far more successful than any other IIT. In terms of our expertise, I think we're equal to IIT Mumbai which is the best in country at the moment.

In the area of chemistry, we're doing very well. All the faculty members have sponsored research projects. The 'crystallography' group here is at par with IIT Mumbai, or even better. The facility that we have is best in the country.

On the placement front, what are the opportunities that IIT-I students have today?

We have a provision where today itself, we can send a number of students for internships in Germany and France. They're willing to take our students and even provide stipends to them. In September, I'm going again to France to finalise an agreement with 7 more universities there.

Before the end of the year, I will be signing an MoU with a university in the United Kingdom.

Apart from the formal MoUs, we have in place several collaborations which are already working with universities. As far as companies are concerned, some local companies have approached us.

Do you see any potential in automobile component industry at Pithampur, for your students?

We're still working on it. I

think there is a lot of scope in the industry at Pithampur - the auto component manufacturers. I think there's a lot of scope for them to interact with us. And they can take advantage of our facility and could be beneficial for us to learn as to what the industry wants from our students.

We've designed our courses in such a way that our students in fact interact with the industry in and around the city.

**(AS TOLD TO
KARAN DEEP SINGH)**

