

IIT can do to Bengaluru what Stanford did to Silicon Valley

Karnataka has been sanctioned an IIT. If this has to happen, it should be in Bengaluru.

IITs have had a very positive effect on the Indian IT scene. Due to a high entry bar, they have had the chance to nurture very bright students. To put things in perspective, the entry bar to an IIT based on GRE scores have been the same as premier institutes like UCB, Harvard and Stanford; around 690. This, along with high quality infrastructure, ensures that most IIT graduates are high value tech resources.

Now, although the first product companies in India were originally from Hyderabad, Bengaluru has truly embraced the startup and product tech company culture. Some of the greatest Indian start-



BY INVITATION

VIVEK PRAKASH
CO-FOUNDER & CTO,
HACKEREARTH

tup stories have come from Bengaluru, and many of them have IIT alumni as founders.

The impact of Stanford on the Silicon Valley boom is very well documented. Now, I'm not equating our IITs to Stanford, or Bengaluru to Silicon Valley, but the two entities might have a similar effect on each other. What an IIT in Bengaluru ensures is more quality technologists. And when you put a quality technologist in touch with the fast paced tech culture in Bengaluru, and you are sure to see some synergies.

If IIT is to come to Bengaluru, you'll soon start to see more top quality tech talent coming in to the city's technology scene. And that can only be a good thing. Furthermore, the research at IIT in the DNA of a Bengaluru startup can only mean a good thing.

Of course, you won't see these changes immediately. This will take at least a few batches. And by then, Bengaluru's startup culture would have also matured. And bright talent in a mature startup ecosystem is a recipe for success.

The writer is an alumnus of IIT-Roorkee

MPs WRANGLE OVER IIT

Tribute to Bharat Ratnas

If IIT comes to Chikkaballapur, people of six districts, including Bengaluru, stand to benefit. I have already asked the CM to consider it

Veerappa Moily FORMER UNION MINISTER, WHO REPRESENTS CHIKKABALLAPUR IN LOK SABHA
He has written to the CM demanding that IIT be set up in his constituency considering the backwardness of the region and as a tribute to Bharat Ratnas Sir M Visvesvaraya and C N R Rao, who hails from the district

class institution. He will soon meet the CM to pressure him to gift the institute to his home district

Why not Hassan?

Former Prime Minister Deve Gowda wants IIT in Hassan, his Lok Sabha constituency. He has met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and HRD minister Smriti Irani and requested them to sanction IIT for Hassan district

N K'taka makes a pitch

With the state government indicating that IIT may be preferably located in a backward district, all north Karnataka MPs are working hard to see the IIT comes to them. However, they have to contend with competition from Dharwad and

Raichur MPs, betting on the recommendation made by a high-power committee D M Nanjundappa on regional imbalance

Govt in dilemma

We are in a dilemma as there is demand for IIT from almost every MP in the state

An officer in the CM's office

The government is likely to leave it to an expert panel to sift through the proposals and identify the most suitable place for IIT in Karnataka

Land available here

Hubballi-Dharwad is well-connected by road, rail and air and the standard of educational institution is a bonus. Government land is also readily available. So I hope the government will consider it. I am writing to the CM and meeting the HRD minister in New Delhi soon to apprise them of the location

Pralhad Joshi | STATE BJP PRESIDENT AND DHARWAD MP

Joshi says that as an MP he wants IIT to be established in Dharwad but as party president he would happy with any location in North Karnataka



Heritage city banks on culture

Bengaluru is too congested. Mysuru would be ideal since it has land, ambience as well as culture for an IIT

Pratap Simha | MYSORE-KODAGU MP

Simha says Mysuru has everything for a world-

Shed misconceptions

The debate over IIT is a reflection of the misunderstandings prevailing over academic institutions. There is no question that all regions of the state should be developed and need colleges/universities. However, IIT is an institution of excellence that is supposed to attract teachers and students of the highest quality. For faculty, it is important to have other academic institutions nearby, access to airports and, most importantly, jobs for their spouses who are often highly educated. For students, it is important to have access to industry leaders, perhaps to get lectures from executives or get help with incubators.

The natural place for an IIT would be Jnanabharathi campus of Bangalore University. There is so much unused land and an IIT would bring life there. I don't understand why 500 acres are needed. My alma mater, Johns Hopkins University, had only 100 acres and is ranked 14th in the world

Give other areas their due

Choosing IIT's location has raised several questions. There's a need for Karnataka's holistic development, with reputed institutions located across the state rather than being restricted to one place. While Bengaluru has IIM and IISc among others, it is important

that the rest of the state gets its share of reputed institutions. There is no evidence to prove that only students from IITs in Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai manage to get the best placements or are better than their peers from non-metros

Rajeev

House it on BU campus

BU has a sprawling campus in Jnanabharathi and can spare land for the IIT in Bengaluru. Besides, there is a proposal to quadfurcate the varsity. The three affiliating universities can be moved to places like Ramanagaram, Chikkaballapur and Kolar so that the unitary varsity at Jnanabharathi will have enough land to share with the proposed IIT

Lakshmana Reddy Karenn