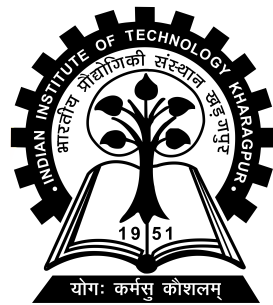

Proposals for the Post of Vice President, Technology Students' Gymkhana

Indian Institute of Technology
Kharagpur
Academic Session: 2025-26

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Roll Number: **22ME3EP10**



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OVERVIEW

1. **Establishment of Entrepreneurial Hub (eHub):**

The proposal aims to create collaborative spaces at the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur to encourage innovation, teamwork, and entrepreneurship. These spaces will provide a supportive environment for idea-sharing, problem-solving, and project development, thereby strengthening the startup culture on campus.

2. **Inter-Hall Transit System:**

The proposal establishes controlled access to boys' halls for girls and vice versa during specific hours, fostering academic collaboration. With designated spaces and security measures, it aims to ensure professionalism, safety, and an inclusive academic culture.

3. **Appointing Counselors to Train Student Wellbeing Ambassadors in all Halls of Residence:**

The proposal seeks to improve student well-being by creating a supportive environment within the Halls of Residence. It emphasizes proactive mental health support, raising awareness, encouraging peer sensitivity, and ensuring better access to professional help through a structured system.

4. **Empowering PG and RS Students:**

This proposal aims to empower PG and RS students at IIT Kharagpur through four key initiatives: Deferred Placement Opportunities for research scholars, Dedicated Postgraduate Excellence Awards, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Research Supervision, and Institutional Support for the Scholars' Cup under the Technology Students' Gymkhana. These initiatives ensure equitable opportunities, academic transparency, career support, and enhanced student engagement, fostering a more inclusive and dynamic academic environment.

Proposal 1: Establishment of Entrepreneurial Hub (eHub) for Start-Ups

Overview

The proposal aims to establish dedicated collaborative spaces within the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur campus, creating an environment where students can seamlessly connect, innovate, and exchange ideas. These spaces will serve as hubs for problem-solving, project development, and teamwork, promoting a culture of creativity and inclusivity. Additionally, they will provide aspiring student entrepreneurs with the ideal setting to brainstorm business ideas, network with like-minded peers, and cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset. By nurturing a supportive ecosystem, this initiative will drive innovation, enhance collaboration, and strengthen the startup culture on campus.

Needs

1. Lack of Dedicated Space for Collaboration and Innovation:

- An eHub is essential to establish collaboration, innovation, and productivity.
- Provides essential resources like high-speed internet and meeting rooms, fostering accountability, discipline, and a professional atmosphere.

2. Need for Nurturing Startup Ecosystem for Student Entrepreneurs:

- Many promising business ideas lack sufficient space and resources.
- A formal co-working environment would offer mentorship, networking, and peer support to help translate ideas into success.

3. **Strengthening Commitment:**

- A distraction-free workspace enhances student productivity.
- An isolated co-working facility helps in fostering discipline, responsibility, and motivation, preparing students for long-term projects and career success.

4. **Flexible and Accessible Workspaces for Students:**

- Due to diverse schedules, flexible work hours are crucial.
- 24/7 accessibility ensures students have robust, equipped spaces for learning, innovation, and collaboration.

Proposal Details

An Entrepreneurial Hub (eHub) will provide a professional, collaborative, and innovation-driven environment for entrepreneurial and research-based projects. Inspired by successful models like IIT Bombay's Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), the initiative aims to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, facilitate networking, and support student-led startups and research initiatives.

Features

- **24/7 Access:**

The space will be open round-the-clock to accommodate diverse work schedules.

- **Essential Infrastructure:**

- High-speed internet connectivity for research and virtual collaboration.
- Uninterrupted power supply with backup generators.

- **Mentorship & Networking Events:**

- Regular sessions with alumni, faculty, and industry experts.
- Investor meetups to connect student startups with potential funding sources.

- **Security & Surveillance:**

- CCTV surveillance and access control systems for safety and prevention of unauthorized entry.

Implementation Plan

- **Phase 1: Leverage Existing Infrastructure**

- Use available campus spaces and equip them with basic amenities.
- Initiate a pilot test with current startups to gather feedback.

- **Phase 2: Collaboration & Expansion**

- Collaborate with campus incubators and the Entrepreneurship Cell for expanded funding and networking.
- Organize formal mentorship programs and grant access based on merit and administrative criteria:
 - ★ **Approval by a Professor**
 - ★ **Startup Traction**
 - ★ **Funding/Grants**
 - ★ **Collaborators/Partners**

- **Phase 3: Creation of a Separate Facility**

- Identify an appropriate campus location and develop a specialized eHub with state-of-the-art infrastructure.

Impact

- **Enhanced Collaboration, Innovation & Professionalism:**
 - Fosters interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation-driven solutions.
 - Enhances discipline, time management, and productivity.
- **Academic Success & Small Business Growth:**
 - Encourages group research and access to high-speed connectivity for uninterrupted work.
- **Stronger Networks & Institutional Impact:**
 - Improves mentorship access and exposes students to entrepreneurial ecosystems.
- **Career Development, Sustainability, and Adaptability:**
 - Develops entrepreneurial and problem-solving skills, ensuring resource-efficient growth and future scalability.

Groundwork

- **Discussions with Faculty & Experts:**
 - Faculty members from Rajendra Mishra School of Engineering Entrepreneurship (RMSoEE) and the Dean of Infrastructure have shown interest and support.
- **Available Spaces on Campus:**
 - DIY Lab, Takshashila, M.N Faruqui Innovation Centre, and Sir J.C Bose Laboratory Complex.
- **Survey Insights & Student Demand:**
 - A survey revealed a strong need for a co-working environment for entrepreneurial activities.

- **Successful Models from Other IITs:**

- IIT Bombay's SINE and IIT Delhi's Innovation Park have set effective precedents.

Would a dedicated collaborative space help improve your productivity, innovation, and quality of teamwork?

(Promoting Co-ed Academic Collaboration: Student Perspective Survey)

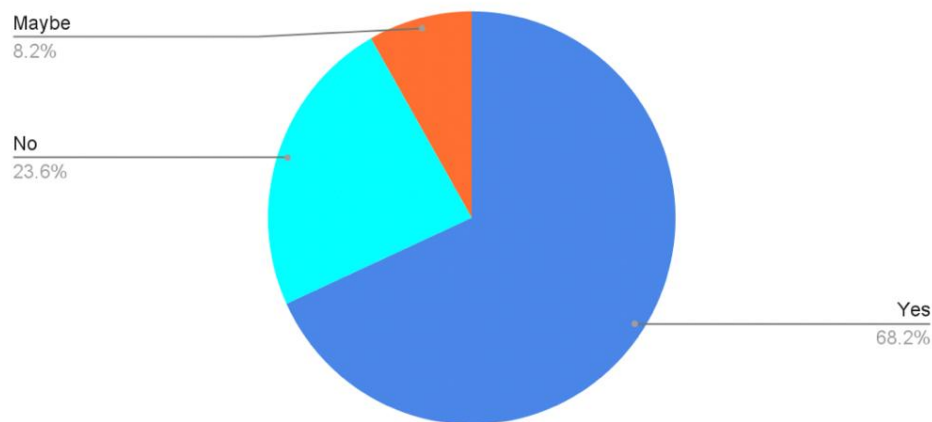


Figure 1: Survey results

Proposal 2: Inter-Hall Transit System

Overview

To promote academic association and gender inclusivity, this proposal introduces a systematic inter-hall transit system. It allows girls access to boys' halls and vice versa during specified study hours, facilitating project work, research forums, and academic collaboration while maintaining security.

Needs

1. Increased Research and Project Collaboration:

- Current restrictions hinder effective collaboration, delaying project implementation and limiting face-to-face interactions.

2. Insufficiency of Peer Learning and Mentoring:

- Limited hall access restricts study groups essential for academic progress and skill acquisition.

3. Gender Equality in Learning and Equitable Learning Experience:

- Asymmetrical learning settings due to hall restrictions hinder networking and academic growth.

4. Encouraging a Collaborative Campus Culture:

- A more open inter-hall movement would enhance cross-disciplinary cooperation and networking, aligning IIT Kharagpur with international standards.

Proposal Details

A controlled inter-hall transit system will enable girls to access boys' halls and vice versa under defined and secure conditions, modeled after successful implementations at IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, and IIT Kanpur.

Features

1. ID-Based Entry System & Defined Timings:

- Students must present their ID cards at security checkpoints.
- A single entrance and exit will be used with pre-specified timings (e.g., 10 AM – 7 PM).

2. Access to Common Spaces:

- Students will have equal access to common spaces for club meetings, group projects, and collaborations.

3. Security & Monitoring:

- CCTV and security staff will monitor designated areas to ensure compliance.

Implementation

• Phase 1: Limited Hall Access to Common Spaces in Selected Halls

- Access for halls with fewer than 500 boarders, limited to areas like common rooms, music rooms, and canteens.
- Use of ID-based entry systems, security checkpoints, and regular feedback sessions.

• Phase 2: Expansion of Common Space Access to All Halls

- Extend access to common spaces across all halls while enhancing security measures.

• Phase 3: Full-Scale Access in Selected Halls of Residence

- Provide time-bound access to rooms in select halls with robust security and regular evaluations.

• Phase 4: Full-Scale Access Across All Halls of Residence

- Upon successful implementation in Phase 3, extend controlled access to all halls with weekly reviews and feedback.

Impact

- **Improved Academic Cooperation & Quality of Research:**

- Facilitates face-to-face interactions for research, hackathons, robotics projects, and other academic activities.

- **Strengthen Peer Learning & Mentorship Culture:**

- Enables efficient study groups, cross-disciplinary learning, and peer mentoring.

- **Gender Inclusivity & Equal Learning Opportunities:**

- Ensures equitable access to academic resources and diverse perspectives.

- **Institutional Growth & Competitive Advantage:**

- Enhances IIT Kharagpur's reputation as an inclusive and forward-thinking institution, encouraging industry partnerships.

Groundwork

- **Student Representatives:**

- Positive feedback from the Institute Women's Representative and Ex-Vice Presidents.

- **Administrative Stakeholders:**

- Endorsements from wardens, hall senators, and the Senior Security Officer.

- **Survey Insights & Community Support:**

- A campus-wide survey indicated overwhelming support for inter-hall transit to enhance academic and social development.

- **Successful Implementation at Other IITs:**

- Proven success at IIT Bombay and IIT Kanpur serves as a benchmark.

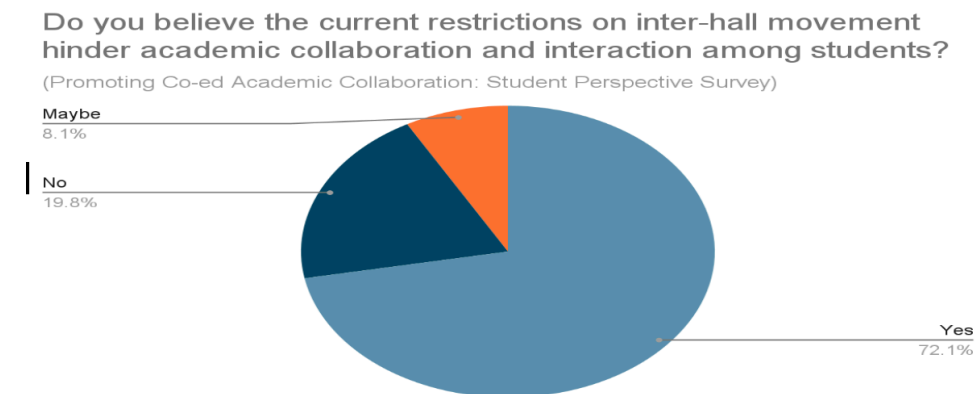


Figure 2: Survey results

Proposal 3: Appointing Counselors to Train Student Wellbeing Ambassadors in all Halls of Residence

Overview

The initiative focuses on improving student mental health by creating a decentralized, community-based support system within the Halls of Residence at IIT Kharagpur. It combines professional counseling with peer support to proactively address mental health issues.

Needs

1. Increasing Mental Health Challenges Among Students:

- Rising issues like stress, anxiety, and burnout affect academic performance and personal development.

2. Gaps in Accessibility and Utilization of Existing Services:

- Social stigma and limited resources delay support; an onsite support system is necessary.

3. Absence of Early Identification and Intervention Mechanisms:

- Early signs of distress often go unnoticed; training wing representatives can lead to timely interventions.

4. Need for Strengthening Support Systems in Halls of Residence:

- A formal support arrangement in the Halls will help establish strong peer networks and easier access to help.

Proposal Details

This proposal outlines a decentralized mental health support system by appointing 10 professional counselors who will train selected wing represen-

tatives in each Hall of Residence. These representatives will act as mental health ambassadors, ensuring early identification and referral of issues.

Features

- **Appointment of 10 Professional Counselors:**

- Enhance the existing mental health infrastructure by hiring additional counselors to provide direct support and training.

- **Training and Deployment of Wing Representatives:**

- The General Secretary (Students' Welfare) will nominate 2-3 wing representatives from every academic batch in each Hall.
- These representatives will be trained by professional counselors to serve as the first point of contact.

- **Peer-Led Early Identification and Referral Mechanism:**

- Wing representatives will recognize early signs of distress and refer peers to professional counselors.

- **Counselor-Student Group Engagement Model:**

- Each counselor will be assigned specific student groups, fostering trust and reducing stigma through regular interactions and group discussions.

Implementation

- **Phase 1: Foundation and Resource Setup**

- Obtain administrative permissions and finalize the budget.
- Establish an oversight committee and begin recruitment for 10 counselors.

- Conduct orientation sessions for new counselors.
- **Phase 2: Community Mobilization and Capacity Building**
 - Nominate 2-3 wing representatives from each academic batch.
 - Organize sensitization sessions to introduce the initiative's objectives.
 - Deliver targeted training covering active listening, early detection, referral procedures, and confidentiality protocols.
 - Equip representatives with mental health toolkits and informational materials.
- **Phase 3: System Deployment, Outreach, and Monitoring**
 - Assign each counselor to designated Hall(s) of Residence for continuous support and supervision.
 - Officially launch the support network with awareness campaigns and introductory sessions.
 - Organize regular wellness workshops and open discussions on mental health.
 - Implement a structured feedback mechanism with monthly surveys and periodic reviews.

Impact

- **Improved Mental Health and Emotional Well-being:**
 - Increased access to trained counselors and peer support helps students manage stress and anxiety better.
- **Early Detection and Reduced Escalation of Issues:**

- Trained wing representatives facilitate timely interventions to prevent serious mental health crises.
- **Enhanced Approachability and Trust:**
 - Peer support reduces stigma and encourages students to seek help in a non-judgmental environment.
- **Strengthened Sense of Community and Belonging:**
 - Regular interactions and wellness workshops create a more connected and compassionate residential community.

Groundwork

- **Professional Insights:**
 - Mr. Vikas Jha, a counselor at the Counseling Centre, estimates that around 10% of students face mental health issues at any given time.
 - **Staffing Challenges:**
 - The current support staff is understaffed, necessitating a better professional-to-student ratio (ideally 1:1000).
 - **Counselor Commitment:**
 - Counselors at the Counseling Centre have agreed to expand their involvement in mental health initiatives, providing training and support to student representatives.
-

Proposal 4: Empowering PG and RS Students

Part 1: Implementing Deferred Placement Opportunities for Research Scholars

Overview

Research Scholar (RS) students at the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur face challenges in career advancement due to placement policy restrictions. Addressing these issues through a Deferred Placement Policy will significantly enhance career prospects. This initiative aims to ensure that research scholars receive access to career opportunities through campus placements.

Need

- The current placement policy bars research scholars who submit their thesis before December from participating in placements, leading to limited career options.
- The process of synopsis submission, thesis defense, and finalization extends well beyond standard placement cycles, placing research scholars at a disadvantage.
- Scholars often miss out on job opportunities available to peers in other institutions where deferred placements exist.
- Institutions such as IISc Bangalore and IIT Bombay have successfully implemented deferred placement systems, ensuring seamless academic-to-career transitions.

Proposal

Introduce a **Deferred Placement Policy** that allows research scholars to participate in placements irrespective of their thesis submission date.

This policy will: - Align the placement process with the academic timeline of research scholars. - Reduce disadvantages caused by current policy restrictions. - Involve discussions between the Hall Management Council and the Career Development Centre to ensure research scholars can engage in placement-related activities regardless of their residential status on campus.

Implementation

Policy Revision and Coordination

- Collaborate with the Career Development Center (CDC) and Dean (Academics) to revise placement guidelines.
- Ensure administrative adjustments are made to integrate this policy within the placement framework.

Dedicated Deferred Placement Window

- Establish a separate placement cycle for research scholars that aligns with their thesis submission timeline.
- Design a structured placement schedule post-thesis defense, enabling scholars to engage with recruiters at an optimal time without conflicting with standard placement cycles.

Industry and Research Lab Collaborations

- Partner with leading corporate firms, R&D organizations, and research labs to secure exclusive placement opportunities for research scholars.
- Explore collaborations with institutions like IISc and IIT Bombay to establish a robust placement pipeline.

Impact

1. Academic and Professional Balance:

Scholars can focus on research without compromising job prospects, promoting both academic excellence and career security.

2. **Enhanced Career Outcomes:**

The policy will enable scholars to secure roles that align with their expertise and research focus, leading to more fulfilling professional trajectories.

Groundwork

- Current policies restrict research scholars, causing missed opportunities.
 - Comparative examples from IISc Bangalore and IIT Bombay demonstrate the benefits of deferred placement systems.
-

Part 2: Introducing Awards for Postgraduate Excellence at IIT Kharagpur

Overview

The current award structure under the Technology Students' Gymkhana recognizes student excellence across various domains. However, due to the longer duration of undergraduate (UG) and research scholar (RS) programs, these students have more opportunities to build a track record. Postgraduate (PG) students, despite significant contributions in academics, research, leadership, and extracurricular activities, have a shorter time frame to showcase their achievements. This proposal introduces a dedicated awards framework for PG students to ensure their contributions are acknowledged fairly and to encourage greater participation across all domains.

Need

- PG students face challenges in competing effectively due to their shorter academic tenure.

- UG and RS students naturally have more opportunities to engage in institute-level initiatives.
- A dedicated awards system for PG students will better reflect their unique circumstances and achievements.

Proposal

Introduce a dedicated awards framework for Postgraduate students that:

- Recognizes excellence in leadership, sports, social and cultural activities, technology activities, and voluntary contributions.
- Complements existing awards while promoting inclusivity for PG students.

Implementation

- Consult with relevant stakeholders (e.g., General Secretaries, Coordinators) of Technology Students' Gymkhana.
- Ideate awards in fields such as Technology, Sports and Games, Social and Cultural.
- The Executive Council will make the final decision on implementing these awards.

Impact

1. Equitable Recognition:

PG students will receive due recognition for their contributions, fostering a sense of appreciation and motivation.

2. Encouragement of Holistic Development:

The awards will motivate PG students to actively participate in academics, research, leadership, and extracurricular activities.

3. Strengthening IIT Kharagpur's Legacy:

Showcasing PG student achievements will enhance the institute's reputation and attract top talent for postgraduate programs.

Groundwork

- In the past 5 years, no postgraduate student has received an award from the Technology Students' Gymkhana.
 - Discussions with multiple PG stakeholders indicate that dedicated awards would promote postgraduate excellence.
-

Part 3: Introduction of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Supervisors and Strengthening Academic Grievance Redressal

Overview

A well-defined Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for research supervisors is essential to ensure consistency, transparency, and academic excellence in postgraduate research. Research supervisors play a crucial role in guiding students through their research journey, and an SOP will help streamline processes related to supervision, supervisor transitions, and contingency measures in cases of supervisor absence.

Need

- Current policies regarding research supervision vary and lack a structured operational framework.
- Issues such as prolonged absence, supervisor transitions, and unclear administrative responsibilities create disruptions in academic progress.
- An SOP will provide clear guidelines for supervisor responsibilities and streamline administrative decision-making.

Proposal

Develop and implement an SOP that establishes a structured and transparent process for research supervision, with key aspects including: - **Definition of Roles and Responsibilities:**

Clearly outline duties for primary supervisors, co-supervisors, and students.

- **Change of Supervisor Mechanism:**

Create a standardized process for changing supervisors when necessary, protecting student interests.

- **Guidelines for Supervisor Absence:**

Establish clear measures to manage situations when supervisors take long-term leave or exit the institution.

- **Periodic Review and Feedback:**

Implement mechanisms for regular student feedback on supervision quality and make necessary improvements.

Implementation

- **Development of SOP Document:**

Draft a comprehensive document detailing supervision policies, transition protocols, and student rights.

- **Approval and Dissemination:**

Review and finalize the document with academic authorities and circulate it among faculty and students.

- **Training and Awareness:**

Conduct workshops and orientation sessions to familiarize students and supervisors with the SOP.

- **Monitoring and Review:**

Introduce a periodic assessment process to evaluate the effectiveness of the SOP and implement refinements as needed.

Impact

- **Enhanced Clarity and Transparency:**
Provides a well-defined structure for both students and faculty.
- **Minimal Disruption to Research:**
Clear contingency plans ensure continuity of academic progress during supervisor transitions.
- **Improved Administrative Efficiency:**
Standardized procedures streamline decision-making and reduce delays in supervision-related matters.

Groundwork

- Feedback from various research scholars indicates a high demand for a standardized SOP.
 - Consultations with faculty members have highlighted the need for transparency and clarity in research supervision.
-

Part 4: Proposal for Financing and Revamping the Scholars' Cup under Technology Students' Gymkhana

Overview

The RSPL (Research Scholars' Premier League) is a prestigious academic and extracurricular event that showcases students' knowledge, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills across various disciplines. Currently, such initiatives lack structured institutional support in terms of funding and organization. Revamping the Scholars' Cup under the Technology Students' Gymkhana (TSG) at IIT Kharagpur will ensure better financial backing, broader student participation, and an enhanced competitive environment.

Need

- Interdisciplinary academic competitions at IIT Kharagpur do not receive structured institutional support, limiting their impact.
- Logistical and financial constraints prevent many students from participating.
- Aligning the Scholars' Cup with TSG will provide necessary resources, encourage greater student involvement, and establish a sustainable model for future editions.
- The event will contribute to a culture of intellectual excellence and peer-driven learning.

Proposal

Integrate the Scholars' Cup into the annual calendar of Technology Students' Gymkhana by: - **Official Recognition:**

Establishing the Scholars' Cup as an annual event under TSG for institutional credibility.

- **Financial Backing:**

Allocating a fixed budget from TSG funds to cover operational costs, prizes, and logistics.

Implementation

- **Formation of an Organizing Committee:**

Appoint a dedicated team under TSG to plan and execute the event.

- **Budget Allocation and Sponsorships:**

Set up a financial framework with contributions from TSG, institute funds, and external sponsors.

- **Event Structuring and Promotion:**

Develop a well-defined event format and launch promotional campaigns to maximize participation.

- **Logistics and Execution:**

Coordinate with campus authorities for venue allocation, participant registration, and smooth event execution.

- **Post-Event Evaluation:**

Establish a feedback mechanism to assess impact and improve future editions.

Impact

- **Encouraging Academic Excellence:**

A high-profile competition will motivate students to engage in interdisciplinary learning and critical thinking.

- **Enhanced Prestige of IIT Kharagpur:**

A well-organized event will boost the institute's reputation for academic and extracurricular excellence.

- **Broader Student Involvement:**

Increased institutional support will enable more students to participate, fostering a culture of intellectual rigor.

Groundwork

- Consultations with research scholars indicated a high demand for the Scholars' Cup with proper funding.
 - Discussions with the Dean of Student Affairs have identified potential funding sources.
 - Conversations with General Secretaries of Sports and Games confirmed the feasibility of revamping the event into a sustainable framework.
-