

Invitation to contribute to the making of a premier institute in Punjab, India-IIT Ropar

Greetings from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar

The state of Punjab better known as the granary of India is one of the most progressive states in the country. The progress of the state owes much to the enterprising Indians who resettled in other countries and brought back tangible and intangible benefits to their land.

The non-resident Punjabis have contributed enormously to the economic development of the state, a fact endorsed by the policymakers of the state at various public platforms.

The setting up of the maiden Indian Institute of Technology at Ropar in Punjab, after 65 years of independence is a landmark event for the province, precious to every Punjabi and is perceived to fetch long term fruits for the industry and agriculture in the state.

The research projects undertaken at the IITs cater to the needs of various sectors in the given geographical area. The stagnation in agriculture and lack of innovation in industry in Punjab in the last two decades has hugely undermined the per capita income in the state. These issues can be addressed in a cost effective manner by creating an interface between various stakeholders and IIT Ropar.

To substantiate this, I may like to share with you that within two years of its operation, IIT Ropar developed an appropriate technology for this region to convert agriculture waste to useful energy, which is being used by some nearby villages. Furthermore, sophisticated research facilities established in IIT Ropar are made available to other Institutes/Universities/Industries of the region. The Institute shall also be helping in capacity building of engineering colleges of the State. IIT Ropar can be a game changer in the development of the state and its people.

Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar is one of the eight new IITs set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India, to expand and enhance the quality of technical education in the country. This Institute, in tune with the other IITs, is committed to providing state-of-the-art technical and scientific education in a variety of fields and also for facilitating transmission of knowledge in keeping with the latest developments in pedagogy. At present, the Institute offers Bachelor of Technology (B. Tech) programme in the following disciplines: Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering. In addition, the Institute offers a doctoral programme in several disciplines apart from the three Engineering disciplines in which it offers a B.Tech. These are: Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and the Humanities and Social Sciences.

It is quite understandable that the development of such a premier Institute is a big task. A great deal of societal and financial support is required to complement the efforts of the government. I know that the people of the state are great entrepreneurs and have contributed substantially to the economy and development of not only India, but several other counties as well. In addition, they

are known for their emotional attachment and loyalty to the nation at large and Punjab in particular. I am aware of several success stories pertaining to the people of the state at the international level. Further, as is well known IIT alumni have contributed and continue to do so significantly as leaders in several domains at the national and international level. To name only a few, Narayan Murthy, Nandan Nilekani, Raghuram Rajan, Subra Suresh, Romesh Wadhvani and Arun Majumdar.

Keeping in view all these facts, I invite you to join us in this journey of building this infant Institute. As we take our steps into the future, we seek your support and your guidance. The journey is both challenging and exciting, but I am sure the fruit of our joint efforts will be beneficial to the state of Punjab and to India at large.

You may participate in this mission in several ways.

Academic participation: you can facilitate the academic growth of the institute by mentoring our students, through faculty internship, and collaborative research projects.

Financial support to achieve excellence: you may endow faculty chairs and scholarships for students. In addition special incentives to our bright young faculty doing exceptional research contributions need be provided. Alternatively you can contribute by sponsoring some research activity, or propose and sponsor a new centre-of-excellence entirely based upon your expertise or needs of the people of the state, or sponsor some infrastructure for the permanent campus of the Institute. In fact we would be glad to name the entire school or department to honour the sponsor in line with the practice existing in other IITs. For example, Vinod Gupta School of Management in IIT Kharagpur, Shailesh Mehta School of Management in IIT Bombay.

Needless to say IIT Ropar will acknowledge all contributions and participation in an appropriate manner.

To further elaborate on our plans we wish to meet with you/ your organization. I shall greatly appreciate if you could consider planning a meeting of prominent NRIs in the USA during the Pan IIT meeting in December, 2013, so that Professor M.K Surappa, Director IIT Ropar can provide a glimpse of IIT Ropar.

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Convener,
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