

## **PRESS RELEASE**

# **DRDO to establish Research Cell at IIT Hyderabad to meet Future Defense Technological Needs**

**‘DRDO-IITH Research Cell’ will enhance scientific and technological base of the country in critical defense technology areas & help the nation become self-reliant in select defense technologies**

**HYDERABAD, 6th July 2020:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is going to establish a Research Cell at Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad to meet the future defense technological requirements of the country. The ‘DRDO-IITH Research Cell’ will undertake basic and applied research programs in identified technology areas.

Being established as an extension of the DRDO Research and Innovation Centre (RIC), Chennai, the Research Cell is envisaged to become a Centre of Excellence in conducting scientific and applied research in advanced technologies for defense.

The MoU to establish the Research Cell was signed by Mr. K.K. Pathak, Director, Directorate of Futuristic Technology Management (DFTM), DRDO, Shri. MSR Prasad, Distinguished Scientist and Director General, Missiles and Strategic Systems (MSS), DRDO, and Prof. B.S. Murthy, Director, IIT Hyderabad.

The MoU was signed during a virtual event organized at the DRDO DG-MSS Office in Hyderabad on 3rd July 2020 in which officials from DRDO and IIT Hyderabad participated.

**Highlighting the role expected of ‘DRDO-IITH Research Cell,’ Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO, who addressed the event through video conference, said,** *“This MoU is aimed at bringing together the capabilities of DRDO and IIT Hyderabad, in order to achieve greater heights in indigenous technology through collaborative research. This DRDO-IITH Research Cell will ensure seamless execution of different projects between DRDO and IITH. IITH has a strong research base in advanced technologies, which will be strengthened for the growth of the country through this cell.”*

The DRDO-IITH Research Cell will enable tapping knowledge resources in Basic Science and Technology Industries that are interdisciplinary in nature and spread across multiple institutions. The Research Cell will help enhance the scientific and technological base of the country in critical defense technology areas. This directed Research initiative will help India become self-reliant in select defense technologies



**Addressing the event, Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Director, IIT Madras, said,** *“IITM shares a special bond with IITH from its birth. We are also happy that Prof. Murty, who is also an Institute Professor at IITM, is leading IITH. I am sure that DRDO-IITH Research Cell will make headway with its breath-taking deliverables under the umbrella of RIC, Chennai, with strong collaboration between DRDO Scientists and IITH Researchers.”*

The Research Cell will facilitate directed basic and applied research by engaging faculty and researchers at academic institutions, technology centers and other renowned institutes in the country through defined research programs based on their research capabilities.

**Thanking the DRDO for choosing IIT Hyderabad to set up the Research Cell, Prof. B.S. Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad, said,** *“Research is always a prime focus at IITH. It is indeed a pride moment for IITH to get associated with DRDO with the establishment of DRDO-IIT Hyderabad Research Cell. This cell will support various research areas at IITH that can not only focus on fundamental science but also can bring out indigenous technologies and solutions through strong collaboration with scientists of DRDO.”*

#### **The Thrust Areas of the Research Cell includes**

- Advanced Material and Processing
- Sensors for defense applications
- Hardware and Algorithms for Artificial Intelligence-based applications
- Technologies for Space applications
- Adaptive Optics and Image Processing
- UAV and Nanoornithocopter Technologies
- Quantum Technologies

Other officials who spoke during the online event include Shri. MSR Prasad, Distinguished Scientist and Director General - Missiles and Strategic Systems (MSS), Shri. Sudhir Gupta (DS & DG (TM), DRDO HQ, Dr. V. Natarajan, Director, Research and Innovation Centre (RIC), Chennai. Other officials present in the event include Directors of various DRDO Laboratories (DRDL, DMRL, CAS, CHESS, DSP & DYSL), Dean (R&D), IIT Hyderabad and Dean (Students), IIT Hyderabad.

After the event, DRDO and IIT Hyderabad officials also planted saplings at the DRDO DG (MSS) office in Hyderabad.

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#### **About [IIT Hyderabad](#)**

Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) is one of the six new Indian Institutes of Technology established by the Government of India in 2008. In a short span of around a decade, the institute built on an imposing 570-acre campus. It has been ranked among the top ten engineering institutes in India for five consecutive years in [National Institute Ranking Framework \(NIRF\)](#), released by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD),



Government of India. The Institute was Ranked #8 in 'Engineering' category and Ranked #17 in 'Overall' category in NIRF Rankings 2020

The Institute was also ranked #10 in the first edition of [Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements](#) (ARIIA) introduced in 2019 by MHRD to systematically rank all major higher educational institutions and universities in India on indicators related to 'Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development' among students and faculties. IIT Hyderabad has been placed in 601-650 Ranking Band and secured 10th Position in India as per QS World University Rankings 2021. The Research Output of the Institute was ranked as 'Very High.' The Institute was also ranked among the 10 Best Institutes in India.

IIT Hyderabad has close to 211 full-time faculty, 2,869 students of whom 20 per cent are women, nearly 200 state-of-the-art laboratories and five research and entrepreneurship centers. The Institute has a strong research focus with more than Rs. 500 crore of sanctioned research funding while Ph.D. scholars account for about 30 per cent of total student strength. IITH students and faculty are at the forefront of innovation with more than 1,500 research publications and patent disclosures, 300 sponsored/consultancy projects and 50 industry collaborations. IITH has MoUs with 50 universities in the U.S., Japan, Australia, Taiwan and Europe. IITH has been pioneering change in pedagogy with fractal academic programs that atomizes course modules, encourage interdisciplinary learning spanning innovative technology, fundamental science, liberal arts and creative arts like photography, theatre and painting.

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