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# IIT-Madras earns Rs 174crore via consultancy, beats peers

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NEW DELHI: The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) bagged consultancy projects worth Rs 173.56 crore over the past three years, way ahead of other Indian engineering institutes.

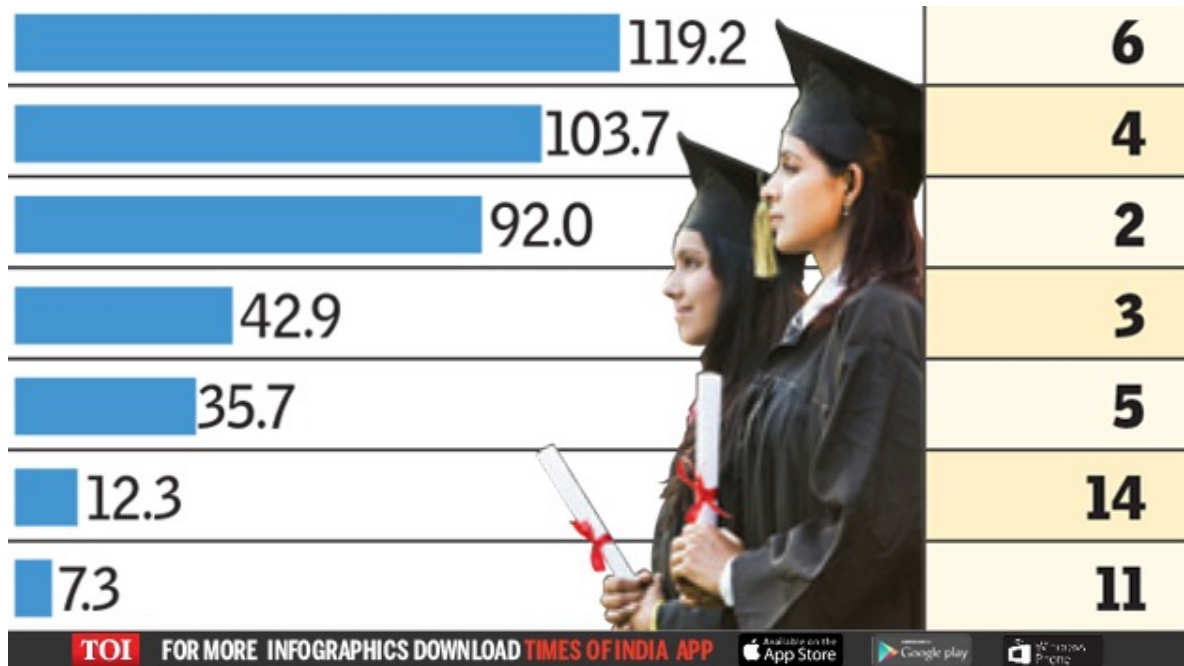
According to the Union HRD ministry's National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) report for 2016, Roorkee and Delhi are ranked second and third among the IITs vis-a-vis the worth of consultancy projects received. Together, the three IITs earned over Rs 396 crore through such projects.

In all, eight branches of the premier institute earned more than Rs 5 crore individually in consultancy projects over the past three years.





Institute	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
IIT Madras	48.7	58.6	66.3
IIT Roorkee	35.8	40.5	42.9
IIT Delhi	23.9	41.7	38.1
IIT Bombay	29.8	31.6	30.6
IIT Kharagpur	14.5	12.9	15.5
IIT Kanpur	12.2	11.9	11.6
IIT Varanasi	3.9	4.7	3.8
IIT Guwahati	2.1	2.2	3.1
<b>Total (In ₹Crore)</b>	<b>173.6</b>		
	<b>NIFR rank</b>		
	<b>1</b>		



IIT-M leads Roorkee, second on the list, by over Rs 60 crore. The fact that it was the first IIT to set up an 'Industrial Consultancy Centre', way back in 1973, is perhaps the reason why IIT-M has emerged as the preferred choice for industry and government organisations for consultancy projects.

"Our Industrial Consultancy Centre was set up in the 70s, when it primarily dealt in civil, ports and automobile engineering," professor Bhaskar Ramamurthy, IIT-M director, said in a phone interview to TOI. Gradually, it diversified to other areas, including pharmaceuticals," he added. "The head start and the fact that Chennai has a good industrial base helped the institute," he added.

According to the NIRF 2016 rankings, the institute is also the top-ranked engineering institution in India.

At IIT-M, over 45% of the faculty are engaged in industrial consultancy and "in the next four to five years, we aim to take this to 60%", Ramamurthy said.

In all, 92 projects have so far been accepted by the government under the Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana (UAY), rolled out with an aim to boost research while giving students of premier institutes a more market-oriented mindset, at an expense of Rs 282 crore. Of these, 23, worth more than Rs 100 crore over the next three years, are with IIT-M.

Over the last decade, IIT-M has prioritized research-based industrial consultancy, with a focus on product development. "The first-of-its-kind 'Research Park' facility at IIT-M has given further impetus to our engagements with the industry and more and more firms are setting up niche labs here," Ramamurthy said.