



Two local institutes in race for IoE tag

NIT-K, Surathkal And MAHE Are Contenders

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Mangaluru: Two institutions from undivided Dakshina Kannada are among 104 institutes in the country that are vying for the prestigious Institutes of Eminence (IoE) tag announced by the ministry of human resource development (MHRD).

The institutions are the National Institute of Technology (NIT-K), Surathkal and Manipal Academy of Higher Education (deemed to be university), Manipal.

Some of the other prestigious educational institutions that are in the race for the tag from the country include several IITs and Jadavpur University, among others.

From the private sector, Ashoka University, OP Jindal Global University and Amity University are in the race to get the tag, among others.

As per the plan, the MHRD will select 10 private (including deemed to be universities) and 10 public educational institutions for the prestigious IoE tag.

The establishment of 20 world-class institutions, 10 public and private institutions, is one of the flagship projects of the MHRD for internationalization of Indian campuses, and creating world-class universities.

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H S Ballal, pro chancellor, MAHE, Manipal, reacting about his institution being in the race for the IoE tag, said they are confident of coming in the top 10 list in the private category.

"However, getting into top 10 isn't an easy task. As per the requirement, a lot of documents and other details need to be submitted," he said.

Though, undivided Dakshina Kannada district has many leading educational institutions, not all of them can make it to the IoE list.

An official from another deemed university pointed out that they are all eligible to apply, but there is a clause that the assets of the institution applying should be around Rs 3,000 crore, which did not go down well with them.

The institute applying needs to deposit Rs 1 crore as a precautionary deposit.

The MHRD will refund 75 per cent of the amount, if an institution does not qualify for the tag. In November last year, NIT-K, Surathkal became the only NIT in the country to receive funding from the Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA).

The agency approved sanctioning of a loan of Rs 2,066.73 crore for NITK-Surathkal and five IITs.

Advantage of tag

According to the MHRD, the selection of the institute will be done through challenge method mode, by the Empowered Expert Committee constituted for the purpose. The committee is headed by former chief election commissioner N Gopalaswami, who serves as its chairperson.

The selected 20 institutions shall be named as IoE, which will have the freedom to choose their own path to become world-class institutions.

These institutions will be provided with greater autonomy, that is to admit foreign students up to 30% of admitted students; to recruit foreign faculty upto 25% of faculty strength; to offer online courses upto 20% of its programmes; to enter into academic collaboration with the top 500 institutions in the world ranking institutions, without permission of UGC; free to fix and charge fees from foreign students without restriction; flexibility of course structure in terms of number of credit hours and years to take a degree and complete flexibility in fixing of curriculum and syllabus, among others.