Over 38% teaching spots vacant across all 23 IITs

Sanjay Maurya
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Nearly two of every five faculty positions are vacant across all Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), official data showed, a shortfall of teachers that comes even as the coveted colleges expand their campuses, augment student capacity and add a raft of new programmes.

Of the 12,498 sanctioned faculty posts at India's 23 IITs, 4,804 spots, or 38.4%, were vacant as of January 30 this year, showed data compiled and analysed by HT. More than half the teaching spots are vacant at two IITs – Patna (54.6%) and Kharagpur (51.3%) – and more than a third of the spots are open at 12 others.

IIT directors attributed the vacancies to the competitive global market for researchers and that the institutions were competing with top universities, multinational R&D labs and deep-tech startups for high-quality PhD graduates. They also added that the IITs' "highly selective" recruitment processes mean positions often remain vacant till suitable candidates are identified.

Still, the gap threatens to hobble plans to widen the prestigious institution's footprint across India and overseas and crimp the IITs' own road maps to add courses, under the Centre's goal of adding 6,500 seats by 2028-29.

There are over 135,000 students across the IITs.

Officials in the Union ministry of education did not respond to requests seeking comment on the shortages.

Most IITs said they have intensified recruitment to reduce vacancies while maintaining stringent hiring standards. Institutes including IIT Kharagpur, IIT Madras and IIT Gandhinagar said they have adopted year-round rolling advertisements, special recruitment drives and mission-mode hiring, besides strengthening research grants, lab support, international collaborations and startup ecosystems to attract globally competitive faculty.

Of the 12,498 sanctioned faculty posts at India's 23 IITs, 4,804 spots were vacant as of January 30, showed data compiled by HT. HT

The shortages span legacy and newer campuses, data showed.

Among the first-generation IITs, Kharagpur (51.3%), Kanpur (39%), Bombay (38.4%) and Delhi (38.3%) have some of the highest vacancy rates. Among second-generation IITs, Patna tops the list at 54.6%, followed by Mandi (39.9%). Third-generation institutes such as IIT (ISM) Dhanbad (48.4%), IIT Goa (45.8%) and IIT Guwahati (42.2%) are also grappling with faculty gaps. At the other end, IIT Dharwad had the lowest rate of vacancies at 1.07%, followed by IIT Palakkad (5.88%), IIT Ropar (14.35%), IIT Tirupati (14.38%) and IIT Bhilai (15.1%).

HT analysed data uploaded on the IIT Council website after a Parliament question by Indian Union Muslim League Rajya Sabha MP Abdul Wahab, who sought institution-wise details of sanctioned, filled and vacant teaching posts in centrally funded higher educational institutions.

In his reply on February 4, minister of state for education Sukanta Majumdar said faculty vacancies were a "continuous process" resulting from retirements, resignations and promotions, and said institutions were conducting year-round recruitment, special recruitment drives and "mission mode recruitment". However, the written reply did not include the institution-wise vacancy figures sought by the MP.

Officials from the ministry in an email on January 28 asked IITs to furnish data by January 30. HT has seen the email. The institution-wise data was subsequently uploaded on the IIT Council website on March 10. The documents covered 22 IITs, while HT obtained IIT Patna's data separately from the institute. "The question is no longer whether India can attract world-class talent. The question is whether we can create the world's most exciting environment for talent to thrive," said IIT Kharagpur director Prof Suman Chakraborty.

Chakraborty said IIT Kharagpur had completed more than 215 faculty selections since October 2025, while focusing on emerging areas such as AI, semiconductors and quantum technologies.

IIT Kanpur director Prof Manindra Agrawal said faculty shortages were "not a new phenomenon" and persisted because IITs deliberately maintained rigorous recruitment standards for positions where a teacher can be hired for three to four decades for research and teaching. "...We are not getting enough candidates with high-quality PhDs," Agrawal said, adding that many of the best doctoral graduates now pursue careers abroad. He said teaching had not suffered because IIT Kanpur had adequate faculty to run its academic programmes, but shortages were affecting research in emerging fields.

IIT Madras, which has 411 vacant posts against a sanctioned strength of 1,100, said rapid hiring could create continuity problems because large cohorts recruited together would also retire around the same time. The institute said it moderates teaching loads through visiting faculty, adjunct faculty and professors of practice while continuing regular recruitment.

The documents also reveal gaps in reporting. Only nine IITs – Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Jodhpur, Kanpur, Madras, Mandi, Ropar, Tirupati and Bhilai – provided caste category-wise faculty vacancy data. The rest reported only aggregate vacancy figures. Of these nine, SC, ST and OBC posts together account for 888 of the 1,501 vacant faculty positions – nearly 60% of the total. OBC vacancies alone number 477, accounting for nearly one-third of all reported vacancies, followed by General (443), SC (261), EWS (170) and ST (150).

Faculty members said greater transparency in shortlisting could help improve recruitment outcomes. "The government prescribes reservation, but the shortlisting process is largely handled at the department level. There should be clearer and more transparent screening criteria," said a faculty member from IIT Roorkee who asked not to be named.

A faculty member from IIT Indore said there were no uniform screening norms, making shortlisting dependent on departmental committees and individual evaluators.

Yadav: Sariska a global example of successful species restoration

Jasjeev Gandhiok
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav on Sunday inaugurated a national workshop on tiger reintroduction and released three publications on tiger conservation and Project Cheetah in Rajasthan's Alwar district.

The event was held to mark 18 years since the reintroduction of tigers at the Sariska Tiger Reserve in the state.

Yadav described the Sariska tiger reintroduction programme as a historic milestone in wildlife conservation, noting that the area had no tigers in 2008 and 36 currently. He said the project represents the world's first successful scientific reintroduction of tigers into a landscape where the species were locally extinct. Across the country, the number of tiger reserves has increased from 46 to 58 in the last decade.

Bhupender Yadav

Addressing the workshop, titled "Tiger Re-introduction: Opportunities and Challenges", the minister said tiger conservation was not merely about protecting a single species, but about conserving forests, watersheds and the rich biodiversity that shares the tiger's habitat. "Sariska today serves as a global example of successful species restoration and offers lessons for future conservation initiatives," he said, noting that India has also achieved the St Petersburg Declaration target of doubling its wild tiger population by 2022.

According to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), the most recent national assessment estimated 3,682 tigers in India in 2022, representing nearly 70% of the global wild tiger population.

Yadav also said the government was working on an integrated management plan for all tiger reserves in the country, which will focus on coordination and address issues such as land encroachment.

"Our priority is to ensure that our tigers are protected...We are working towards an integrated management plan for tiger reserves, which will include working with different departments," the minister said.

Yadav also launched three publications: Road Map on Active Management of Tigers in India, Booklet on Reintroduction and Recovery of Tigers in India, and the Annual Report of Project Cheetah (Sept 2024–Dec 2025).

TWO KILLED AFTER VEHICLE FALLS INTO GORGE IN PUNE

PUNE: Two tourists were killed and 19 others injured when a vehicle carrying 22 employees of a Mumbai-based private company fell into a gorge in Pune district around 1.15 am on Sunday, police said.

The group was travelling to Rajgad Fort via the Pabe Ghat route when the driver allegedly lost control of the vehicle at the final bend near Pabe village. "The vehicle crashed through the roadside safety barrier and fell nearly 40 to 50 feet into a gorge before overturning," a police officer said.

The deceased have been identified as Vishwas Baburao Satam (25) and Dhwani Chandresh Thakkar (23), police said.

All the injured were shifted to Velhe Rural Hospital for treatment. The bodies of the deceased were sent for autopsy. Police said they have recorded the statement of the injured driver, Sandeep Gaikwad, and are investigating the exact cause of the accident. GAYATRI VAJPEYEE

{ MINISTER SAYS 'NOTHING HIDDEN' }

Oppn attacks MoS over ₹99.6-L subsidy claim

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

JAIPUR: Union minister of state for agriculture and farmers' welfare Bhagirath Choudhary came under fire from the Opposition after an English daily reported that he received a ₹99.6 lakh subsidy under a horticulture scheme administered by his ministry.

The report said that under the ministry's Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), implemented by the National Horticulture Board (NHB), a cucumber cultivation project spanning 16,592 square metres of land in Rajasthan's Deedwana Kuchaman district, owned by Choudhary, was sanctioned a subsidy amounting to 50% of project cost in 2025. The subsidy was released in March.

As minister of state, he is NHB's ex-officio vice president.

The report added that Choudhary's proposal for clearance to start work on the project under the scheme was allegedly approved in 14 days. To be sure, it also said that subsidy proposals are approved by an NHB project approval committee that does not include board's president or vice president.

Responding to the report, Choudhary said there was nothing improper in availing a government scheme for which he was eligible. "I have not hidden anything," he told reporters. He said he applied for the subsidy in 2018, well before becoming a minister, and had disclosed details of the loans and subsidy related to the project. He said the farm functions as a demonstration centre where farmers are trained in modern agricultural practices and natural farming. "The project was inspected by local officials before the subsidy was sanctioned."

Meanwhile, former chief minister Ashok Gehlot took to X to accuse the Centre of promoting a "new model of corruption" through conflicts of interest. He alleged that while ordinary farmers struggled with bureaucratic procedures, BJP leaders and favoured officials received government benefits running into crores.

More than 150 MDMK leaders join DMK, a day after party snapped ties

S Vijay Karthik
letters@hindustantimes.com

CHENNAI: More than 150 cadres of Vaiko-led Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) joined the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in the presence of party chief MK Stalin on Sunday.

The development comes a day after the MDMK ended its long association with the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance alliance on Saturday.

The MDMK functionaries hail from various districts, including Sivaganga, Tiruvallur, Virudhunagar and Tirupur districts strengthening the foothold of the DMK in these regions.

The workers were inducted into DMK at Anna Arivalayam, the DMK headquarters in Chennai, a party release said on Sunday.

Some of the key cadres who joined the DMK include Sivaganga district secretary Se Sevanthiyappan, Tiruvallur district secretary TRR Senguttuvan, MDMK propaganda secretary Azhagusundaram, Virudhunagar district secretary RMS Sekhar, MDMK state deputy secretary (election works) 'Thanjavur' Viduthalaivendhan, TRR Mathiyazhagan who was former member of the MDMK's general council.

Senior DMK leader and party treasurer TR Baalu, principal secretary KN Nehru, deputy general secretary and MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi were present on the occasion, the release added.

HT reached out to MDMK leaders on the switch by the party cadre but they did not respond.

MDMK chief Vaiko and his son and party MP Durai Vaiko have been meeting TVK chief and chief minister C Joseph Vijay. Early this month. Durai Vaiko had declared that it was 'unfortunate' that MDMK MLAs could not support the TVK in the assembly as they contested on the DMK symbol.

MDMK has two MLAs in Tamil Nadu assembly.

The dark side of the H-1B visa and American dream

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: For decades, the H-1B visa program has been the centerpiece of America's high-skilled immigration system. To its defenders, it is a vital pipeline that brings talented workers from around the world to power the United States' economy. But to its critics, it is a system rife with abuse—one that can undermine American workers while also trapping foreign workers in exploitative arrangements.

A new book, Wild Wild East: Exiled Americans, Enslaved Indians and the Systemic Abuse of the H-1B Visa Programme, takes readers inside one especially shadowy corner of this world: the universe of so-called "desi consultancies". These companies—also known as H-1B "body shops"— connect Indian tech workers to American employers through a maze of recruiters, subcontractors, universities, and corporate clients.

The book's author, Tanul Thakur, discussed his disturbing account of Indian H-1B seekers, displaced American tech workers, and the firms that profit from a deeply broken system on a recent episode of Grand Tamasha, a weekly podcast coproduced by HT and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Thakur is an award-winning journalist and film critic. In 2015, he won the National Film Award for Best Film Critic—the youngest critic ever to receive the honour.

> THE EXPERT SAID THE CONSULTANCY FIRMS ENGAGE IN 'RAMPANT WAGE THEFT AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DEVASTATION' OF H1-B VISA SEEKERS

GRAND TAMASHA

"Desi consultancies often lie to tech workers in India that they have a job in the US," Thakur explained, recounting his own firsthand experience with one such firm when he was looking for a job after finishing college in the US. "It is only when the workers arrive in the US that they find out they have been lied to—and were essentially trafficked from India to the US."

Thakur described the world of desi consultancies as "really dark." Such firms engage in "rampant wage theft and psychological devastation at a level that still makes me shudder," he said. "Pay is often delayed. There are deportation threats and legal intimidation. Given that you are so beholden to your visa sponsor or employer...you often do not protest these working conditions. You start to live a double life. At the job, you have lied and said that you have seven years of experience. Then you come back home and have to talk to someone on Skype or Webex to get your job done."

Thakur said the exploitation perpetrated by these firms is an open secret, but that US authorities have not sufficiently cracked down on them. "Corporate America benefits, and it wields a disproportionate amount of clout in keeping the H-1B program the way it is," he explained.

"This is closely followed by the laxity of the Department of Labor in detecting and penalising the bad apples. Even when firms are debarred from the H-1B program, which is rare, they often open companies under a false name and continue the same process."

Thakur suggested several reforms to close the loopholes in the H-1B scheme. "The H-1B program has long been used as a tool for cheap labour. Corporate America says it uses H-1B workers because they are the best and the brightest, and it talks about a STEM crisis that cannot be satisfied by the domestic market. Yet these same corporations are often paying wages well below the local median wage," he said.

Listen: Scan the QR code to listen to the full episode.

EGI CONDEMNS FORMER EDITOR'S PASSPORT DELAY

NEW DELHI: The Editors Guild of India (EGI) on Sunday condemned the alleged stalling of passport renewal for former editor of English daily The Telegraph, R Rajagopal, following the deletion of his name from West Bengal's electoral rolls during the special intensive revision (SIR), even as Opposition parties said that the plight of Rajagopal reflected a wider erosion of citizens' rights.

"Mr Rajagopal, despite decades of work in the public domain as a journalist and editor, today finds himself not only disenfranchised as a voter due to the deletion of his name from the electoral rolls, but also unable to renew his passport since more than 100 days..." the Guild said in a statement on Sunday. It said an "adverse report" from Kolkata police during verification appears to have been given because his name was not on the electoral rolls. EGI urged Election Commission to restore his name on the rolls and extend "similar consideration to all those who have suffered the same fate".

Rajagopal, in a detailed note, said his intention was not to portray himself as a victim but to highlight the predicament faced by ordinary citizens. Congress Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha said the episode reflected "the level of irrationality" the country had reached.

TMC Rajya Sabha MP Sagarika Ghose said: "If this can happen to R Rajagopal, former editor of The Telegraph, imagine what citizens with far fewer resources are enduring". CPI(M) general secretary MA Baby alleged that the SIR exercise was being used to disenfranchise people and "determine citizenship in furtherance of the BJP's divisive Hindutva agenda". PTI

{ SPACE ROBOT TO UNDERTAKE MISSION }

Nasa races to save its ageing Swift telescope from falling back to Earth

Associated Press
letters@hindustantimes.com

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA: Nasa is racing to save an ageing telescope from falling back to Earth with a daring rescue mission. The $30 million salvage operation gets underway as soon as this week with the planned launch of a robotic lifesaver.

Nasa hired startup Katalyst Space Technologies to boost the Swift Observatory to a higher orbit where it can continue hunting for some of the universe's biggest explosions. A three-armed spacecraft built by Katalyst will chase after Swift once it takes off from an atoll in the Pacific's Marshall Islands aboard an airplane-launched Pegasus rocket. Liftoff could occur as early as Tuesday.

Scanning the cosmos since its launch in 2004, Swift has been sinking faster and faster because of recent intense solar activity. It needs to get to a higher, more stable orbit to survive.

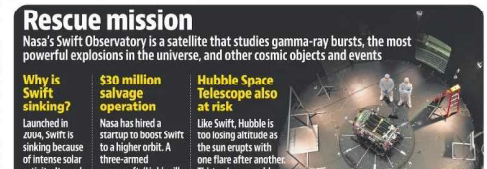
Nasa's Hubble Space Telescope — also at risk — could be next. Like Swift, Hubble is losing altitude as the sun erupts with one flare after another. Katalyst Space CEO Ghoulhee Lee said his company's next-generation robot, still in development, could save the much bigger Hubble in a couple years.

Only China has attempted a mission like the upcoming one, successfully boosting a satellite into a higher graveyard orbit four years ago.

"This is the first American space robot to go up and do anything like this," Lee told AP.

It will take Katalyst's autonomous spacecraft, named Lift, about a month to rendezvous with Swift and catch it, and another couple months to raise its orbit from the current 360 kilometers to the desired 600km.

The 1.6-ton (1.4-metric ton) gamma ray observatory must be above 300km for the rescue to work. It's expected to reach that point of no return in October. If all goes well, Swift could be back in business by September, Lee said.



India's history will be studied in 2 phases, before 2014 and after: Shah

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

AHMEDABAD: Union home minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the first 100 years of independent India's history will be studied by dividing it into two phases — before 2014 and after 2014.

Shah made the remarks after inaugurating the pilot project of the PM Family Care Tracker (PM-FCT) and Health Passport in Gujarat's Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency, describing it as a key initiative for transparent, technology-driven welfare delivery that ensures no eligible beneficiary is left behind.

Shah said a new era of welfare for the poor began in India after 2014.

"Under the Prime Minister's transparent governance, every rupee released from Delhi is now deposited directly into the bank accounts of the poor".

Describing 2014, the year when Modi assumed office as PM, as a "historic turning point" in independent India's history, he said: "Whenever the history of India's first 100 years of Independence is written, it will be divided into two phases — before 2014 and after 2014."

Amit Shah

Launching the pilot, Shah said the integrated digital platform would strengthen governance through a common identity system and ensure that no eligible beneficiary is deprived of welfare benefits.

"These initiatives had fulfilled the dreams of generations of poor families," Shah said, quoting Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Ram Rajya and emphasising that good governance extends beyond formulating schemes to caring for every citizen.

Shah explained that the PM-FCT integrates databases relating to birth and death registration, health, nutrition, education and social welfare into a unified digital system.

Under the system, alerts will be generated automatically if a child misses vaccination or drops out of school.

Notifications will reach local officials, legislators and MPs, enabling volunteers and government authorities to intervene promptly. The platform will digitally track the health and nutrition of children from the prenatal stage until the age of 16, he added.

एनटीपीसी NTPC Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) for Lifting of Pond Ash on Free of Cost, First Come First Served Basis from NTPC-Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Plant - FY-2026-27

EOI No. VSTPS/POND ASH/2026-27/01 Date: 29.06.2026

NTPC-Vindhyachal invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from interested Ash Users for lifting of Pond Ash, for one year duration, on **'free of cost', 'First Come First Served'** and **'as is where is'** basis from **NTPC-Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Plant** situated at Singrauli district, Vindhyanagar, Madhya Pradesh-486885. Lifting and Transportation of the ash shall be the responsibility of the interested Ash User.

Interested parties are requested to submit their requirement(s) in the specified standard format to **rahulverma@ntpc.co.in/ smpandey@ntpc.co.in** by **18:00 hrs. of 09.07.2026.** For any clarification please contact on **9426125018** or **9650997385.**

'General Information' and **'Standard format for application'** for Expression of Interest have been uploaded on **www.ntpctender.ntpc.co.in.**

Registered Office: NTPC Bhawan, Scope Complex, 7, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.
www.ntpc.co.in, CIN: L40101DL1975GOI007966

Leading the Power Sector

अयं बंधुरयं नेति गणना लघुचेतसाम्

Government of Maharashtra
Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri
Office : University Engineer, MPKV, Rahuri

Phone No. 02426-243272 / 243235,
Fax No. 02426-243601,
e-mail: uniengineermpkv@gmail.com

Address: Central Campus, Administrative Building, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Tal- Rahuri, Dist- Ahilyanagar. Pin-413722.

No.MPKV/WRK/TC/1857/2026 Dated : 25/06/2026

E-Tender Notice

The University Engineer invites online e- tenders in B-1 form for the following works under at MPKV Jurisdiction.

Sr.	Name of work	Estimated cost (Rs.)
1	Construction of Boys Hostel Building for College of Agriculture at Dhule.	8,61,76,350.00
2	Construction of Boys Hostel for RCSM Agriculture College at Kolhapur.	9,08,25,234.00
3	Construction of Boys Hostel Building for College of Agriculture at Pune.	7,58,91,758.00
4	Construction of Boys Hostel Building at Central Campus MPKV Rahuri.	8,38,46,226.00
5	Construction of Compound wall along boundaries of Sy.No. 48, 57/1,59, 60 and 62 at College of Agriculture, Pune	4,88,93,390.00
6	Construction of Administrative Building, sale counter & Farm Structures for Agriculture Technical School and various farm & allied structures for Kuran Dairy Farm at Manjri, Dist-Pune.	10,85,45,710.00

For Detail Tender Notice please see website Portal https://mahatenders.gov.in,
Organization- Department of Agricultural,
Department- Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri.
Division-University Engineer

Sd/-
(Milind Dhoke)
University Engineer