

# Ask your Alumni

## Enjoy your College Days

KID: 20190107



**Dr. Mahendra Kumar Pal,**  
Researcher  
Hyogo Earthquake  
Engineering Research Center  
(E-Defense)  
National Research Institute  
for Earth Science and  
Disaster Resilience (NIED)

### 1. Tell me a little about yourself?

Currently, I am working as an Associate Research Fellow at the Earthquake Disaster Mitigation Research Division (nicknamed as E-Defense) of the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience (NIED), Japan. Our laboratory houses the world's largest Shake table test, where full-scale building structures can be tested for their resilience against strong earthquakes.

### 2. What made you to join IIT, Hyderabad?

An interdisciplinary master's course (combining structures and geotechnical) offered at the Civil Engineering department of the institute was the primary reason for me to join the dept. Secondly, the institute was recommended to me by multiple professors at IIT Bombay and IIT Roorkee during my interview at those places.

### 3. What subject did you enjoy most? Least?

Numerical methods for Engineers and Finite Element Classes are the two subjects I enjoyed the most.

### 4. What other activities were you involved in?

- Training and Placement Representative
- Department Representative and Mesh Secretary
- Sports only for fun

### 5. What specialized training have you had?

Attended a couple of workshops and seminars jointly organized by IITH, IIIT Hyderabad and JNTU, Hyderabad.

### 6. How have your education and training prepared you for your current job role?

It has built the very foundation for my current research work. More than that, I have learnt the research attitude, which I believe is the best training I have received at IIT Hyderabad.

### 7. Best moment you can recall from yours' life @ IIT Hyderabad?

Receiving Academic Excellence Award from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam and the Graduation ceremony would be the top two moments. However, every day spent at IIT Hyderabad hostel is a nostalgic moment.

### 8. What message do you want to convey to the existing student folk @ IIT, Hyderabad?

Have confidence and faith in yourself. One fine day your dream will come true, given that you are persistent and determined.

### 9. What, as per you, is best about IIT, Hyderabad and please suggest an improvement area for betterment?

Interaction between students and teachers is the best thing about IIT Hyderabad. I don't think I am eligible to comment on what can be changed.

### 10. What is the best way to contact you?

I would say Email. It's a little old school. But, unfortunately, I am not quite active on SNSs.

### 11. Any Other message you want to communicate!

Enjoy your college days.