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भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान हैदराबाद
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad

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Dear Esteemed Readers,

Greetings!!

As we present the latest edition of किराIITH, we take this opportunity to extend our sincere gratitude to each one of you. Your steadfast support and engagement continue to be a source of immense encouragement for our entire team.

Your keen interest, insightful feedback, and enduring curiosity about the developments at IIT Hyderabad consistently motivate us to strive for excellence and deliver content that is both informative and impactful. It is your meaningful connection with our publication that renders this endeavour truly rewarding.

As always, this edition, Vol 6, Issue 4, Oct - Dec 2024 (Issue - 21) is dedicated to one of IITH's key thrust research areas, "Robotics&Automation@IITHHyderabad". In today's rapidly advancing technological landscape, Robotics and Automation have emerged as pivotal drivers of innovation, efficiency, and transformation across a wide spectrum of industries. Their growing relevance is not merely a testament to technological progress, but a reflection of society's evolving needs and aspirations.

As we move toward a future shaped by Industry 4.0, the role of Robotics and Automation will only become more pronounced.

Robotics and Automation research in a technical institute serves as a catalyst for innovation, bridging theoretical knowledge with real-world application. It empowers students and faculty to pioneer intelligent solutions that shape the future of industry and society.

At IITH, Robotics and Automation research delves into the convergence of intelligent systems, advanced control, and human-machine collaboration—pushing the boundaries of science to engineer transformative solutions for a rapidly evolving world.

This edition presents a thoughtfully assembled overview of the remarkable progress unfolding in Robotics and Automation at IITH, highlighting groundbreaking research, inventive thinking, and the collaborative ethos at the heart of our academic journey. Your continued encouragement inspires us to come back with even more engaging and insightful editions of "किराIITH."

Wishing you an enjoyable read—stay tuned and stay engaged!



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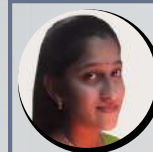
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Dear Readers,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I present to you the latest edition of the IITH Newsletter, capturing some of the significant milestones and transformative initiatives that reflect the dynamism and vision of the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH).

At IITH, we remain steadfast in our commitment to addressing pressing societal challenges through cutting-edge research. Our recent work on developing an Urban Flood Information System (UFIS), led by Dr. Satish Kumar Regonda, is a commendable step toward mitigating the recurrent issue of urban flooding in Hyderabad. By integrating data collection, modeling, and forecasting, this system aims to support policy-makers and city planners with timely and actionable insights.

In the field of infrastructure, IITH researchers have proposed the use of GFRP rebar and discrete fiber-based reinforcement systems in concrete, offering a sustainable and long-lasting alternative to traditional construction materials. This innovation aligns with our broader vision of contributing to national development through durable and cost-efficient engineering solutions.

Our ecosystem of innovation continues to thrive. The BUILD Program, launched in collaboration with Greenko, is nurturing student innovators by providing financial and institutional support to 75 bold and unique ideas. Meanwhile, the iTIC Incubator has expanded its reach through strategic collaborations—be it with Hexagon Capability Center India to establish a Precision Lab, or with the College of Defence Management (CDM) to foster defence-oriented startups under the ABCD - Boot Camp initiative.

International engagement is another area of significant growth. The signing of an MoU with Monash University, Australia, during inauguration of

Australia India Education and Skill Council meet, marks a major step toward global academic collaboration. The presence of education ministers and dignitaries from both nations underscores the importance of this partnership. The launch of India's first Nikon Centre of Excellence on our campus, a milestone in imaging research and education.

Our involvement in national initiatives such as Yuva Sangam Phase III, in collaboration with BHU and IRCTC, continues to promote cultural exchange and unity among youth from diverse backgrounds. Similarly, our collaboration with NXP India and the Fabless Chip Design Incubator (FabCI) has yielded impressive results, recognizing top semiconductor startups that are poised to shape India's technological future.

Lastly, we celebrated our 4th Annual Alumni Day in hybrid mode, honoring the achievements of our growing alumni network and their contributions to entrepreneurship and social impact.

IITH is also emerging as a powerhouse in Robotics and Technological Innovation. With multiple dedicated research labs and interdisciplinary programs, our faculty and students are engaged in pioneering work spanning autonomous systems, industrial robotics, biomedical devices, and AI-integrated automation. These efforts are supported by strong industry linkages and international partnerships, reinforcing our vision of developing solutions that not only advance the frontiers of technology but also address societal needs.

Each of these accomplishments reflects the tireless efforts of our faculty, students, staff, and partners. At IITH, we remain driven by our vision to innovate, collaborate, and serve humanity.

~ Prof B S Murty

Director
IIT Hyderabad

A Note from “Head of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering”

KID: 20240401



As we have been entering into the age of intelligent machines in the field of teaching, sports, defence, entertainment, healthcare, space technologies, socializing with newborn and the elderly, the research and development have been ongoing in the development of robust artificial intelligent algorithms based on cognitive process utilizing different sensory organs found in nature [1] and robotics systems of different types and sizes [2]. The future lies in the development of error free communication systems among such automated systems. Recent articles by Billard et al. [3] cites this roadblock in the selection of appropriate AI models developed based on datasets rather than the physical human model. To develop robots of the future generation, more emphasis needs to be given on the human centric collaborative and lifelong learning mechanisms of the robots for safe and sustainable integration of robots with humans. To accelerate the research in this area, automation and intelligent systems/algorithms have been developed in various research verticals such as robotics, mobility, experimental mechanics, smart manufacturing, aerospace and space technologies, theoretical and applied mechanics, computational mechanics, and biomechanical systems. To name a few intelligent technologies, an automated metal 3D printing system, automatic moment of inertia measurement system, stiffened flexible arm manipulator, piezo actuated complaint micropump, system for incremental sheet forming and hybrid fabrication were developed.

To produce the trained manpower for the futuristic intelligent systems, the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering took the lead to start minor programs in “Robotics” for undergraduate students in 2024 and subsequently starting a postgraduate MTech program in “Robotics and Intelligent Systems (RIS)” in 2025 [4]. The foundation of the RIS program is based on multi domain robots comprising the Soft, Marine, Aerial, Recreational and Transport (SMART) systems.

The important courses such as probability and optimization, machine learning and its applications, control systems designs, robotics kinematics and dynamics supported specialized labs such as sensors and actuators, robotics vision, robotics and automation, advanced robotics lab. Furthermore, specialized elective courses like soft robotics, underactuated robots, marine robotics, autonomous robotics systems, vehicle dynamics.

The current research focus comprises the development of humanoid robotic systems for adaptive locomotion and interaction, engineering and design of aerial-aquatic multirole drones with tilttable thrusters for cross-medium mobility, development of unmanned surface vehicles (USVs) for water quality monitoring and sludge mapping, design of a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) for underwater close-range inspection, creation of GNSS-denied indoor drones for inspection in complex industrial environments, fabrication of a soft, pneumatically actuated autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) for aquaculture, design and development of AUV for tunnel inspection, TO-SoFiT: topology optimization of soft fish tail design, TO-SoCrawl: topology optimization of soft crawling insect, TO-BiSoGrab: topology optimization of bidirectional soft grippers, design of flexible devices for medical device applications, design of soft grippers and tires for space applications, and human centric control strategy for driver. Apart from these areas, there is immense potential for interdisciplinary research across the disciplines such as artificial intelligence, computer science, electrical engineering, biotechnology, industrial engineering. I am sure the reader will benefit from the contents of the current issues to explore further the interesting field of robotics and automation.

[1] Amos Matsiko, taking inspiration from nature is a no-brainer. Sci. Robot. 8, eadi 2720 (2023). DOI:10.1126/scirobotics.adi2720

[2] <https://www.nature.com/immersive/robotics-ai/index.html#group-section-Features-jS2s0IQWaq>

[3] Billard, A., Albu-Schaeffer, A., Beetz, M. et al. A roadmap for AI in robotics. Nat Mach Intell 7, 818–824 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42256-025-01050-6>

[4] <https://mae.iith.ac.in/files/2025/MTechRIS-Flyerv3.pdf>

Prof Ashok Kumar Pandey
Department of Mechanical & Aerospace
Engineering

CERBRUS: An Open-Source Quadruped Robot with a Front-Mounted Gripper Inspired by Ant Morphology

KID: 20240402



[1]



[2]

Inspired by the functional anatomy of ants, CERBRUS is an open-source quadruped robot equipped with a front-mounted gripper designed for mobility and manipulation in constrained environments.

Unlike traditional quadruped robots that mount manipulators on the torso or back, CERBRUS integrates the gripper at the front “mouth” area, mimicking the ant’s mandibles. This bio-inspired design streamlines interaction with the surroundings while improving balance and reducing mechanical complexity.

The motivation stems from the limitations of conventional designs, such as shifting centre of mass and reduced reach, which complicate locomotion and interaction in narrow spaces. Drawing from nature, CERBRUS proposes a compact alternative that blends locomotion with manipulation capabilities in one elegant, insect-like form.

Mechanically, CERBRUS is designed using SolidWorks and optimized through several iterations to balance weight and strength. The final structure measures 550 mm in length, with a 300 mm shoulder width and weighs approximately 3.6 kg. Structural analysis under a 20N load for each leg has been carried out, indicating a load-bearing capacity of up to 8 kg (80N) considering all four legs. The gripper, actuated via servo-driven gears, offers 2 degrees of freedom and rubber-ended tips for better grip, suitable for simple pick-and-place tasks.

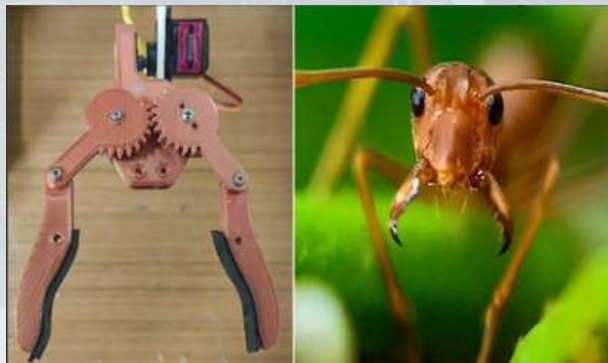


Figure 1: Comparison of the designed Gripper and an Ant for reference

Electronically, CERBRUS is powered by a Raspberry Pi 5 paired with Arduino Mega and Nano boards. A variety of sensors, including BNO055 IMU and voltage sensors, support telemetry and stabilization. Communication between the robot and its custom-built controller is handled via HC-12 radio modules. The controller features joysticks, potentiometers, and a touchscreen LCD interface, making the system fully interactive and field-ready. The software stack is built around ROS2 (Jazzy), hosted on Ubuntu 24.04, with modular packages handling tasks like gait control, hardware interfacing, pose estimation, and fall recovery.

Custom ROS messages streamline data transmission, while nodes such as commander-node and pose-detect-node manage locomotion and visual feedback. A PID-based balancer maintains robot orientation, actively adjusting leg heights to stabilize the robot in real-time.

In terms of motion, CERBRUS employs a trot gait, where diagonal pairs of legs move simultaneously. Cycloidal trajectories have been implemented to create smooth, biologically inspired footpaths. Trajectory generation scripts are optimized for control loop frequencies of up to 103 Hz, offering real-time responsiveness.

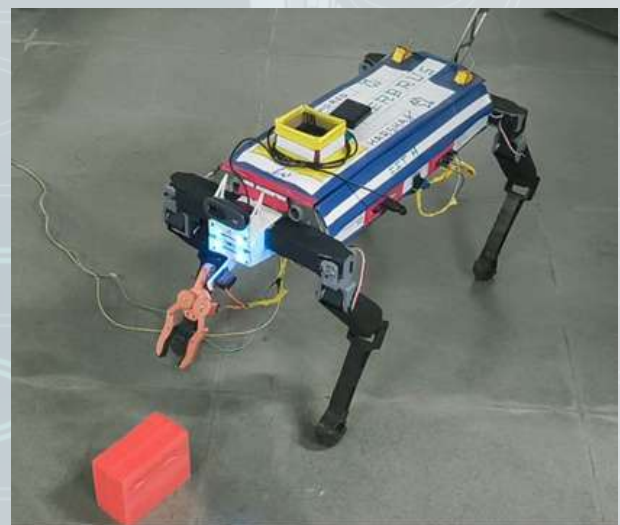


Figure 2: Final Design of the Robot

A key highlight is the project’s modularity. The user guide enables seamless operation from boot-up to execution, and a dedicated developer mode allows for code modifications via SSH or HDMI interfaces. The robot’s capabilities were validated through indoor and outdoor testing across different terrains.

CERBRUS bridges a critical gap in mobile robotics by fusing bio-inspiration with robust design and open-source accessibility. It holds potential for applications in search and rescue, exploration, and other domains where volume, weight, and environmental interaction are crucial.

Future directions include enhancing autonomy with sensors like LiDAR, integrating machine learning for gait optimization, and exploring swarm robotics to enable cooperative robotic behaviors.

[1] Mr B V Harshavardhan

BTech(Final year)

[2] Prof R Prasanth Kumar

Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering

Open-Loop Centering of Parts on a Horizontally Vibrating Frictional Table



KID: 20240403

Parts manipulation refers to the process of handling, orienting, and assembling mechanical or electronic components in industries such as manufacturing, robotics, and automation.

The simplest type of manipulation is parts feeding, which involves the automated movement of one or more objects to a target position. Prehensile and non-prehensile feeding techniques are two major categories used in automation. Prehensile techniques involve grasping or holding the part using robotic grippers, which are common in robotic arms and are used to pick and place objects precisely.

On the other hand, non-prehensile techniques do not involve direct grasping but rely on pushing, sliding, vibration, rolling, or controlled motion to guide parts to the desired location. Examples include vibratory bowl feeders, conveyor belts, air jets, etc.

Reznik [1] proposed using a flat rigid frictional table as a universal planar part manipulator. Time asymmetric vibrations are given to the table to ensure the continuous net frictional force is acting on the particles that are placed on the table.

However, closed-loop control was used for manipulation, with feedback of the part's position using a camera. Vose et al. [2] achieved open-loop control of parts on a vibrating table by exciting it in all six degrees of freedom using six actuators. In our work, we introduce a novel open-loop method to vibrate the table purely horizontally, causing parts placed on it to move toward the center due to friction.

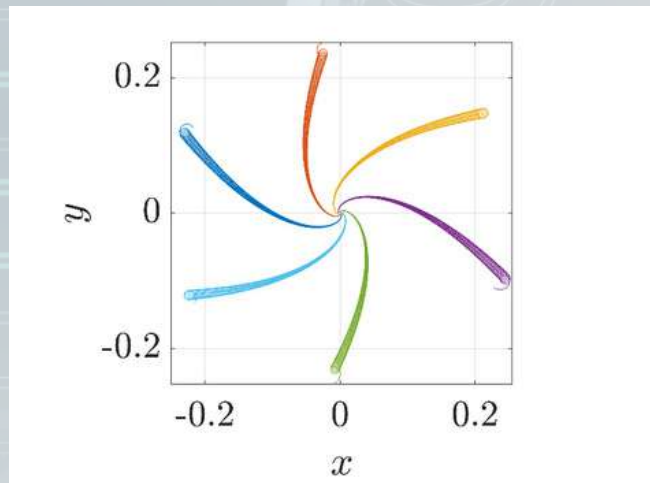
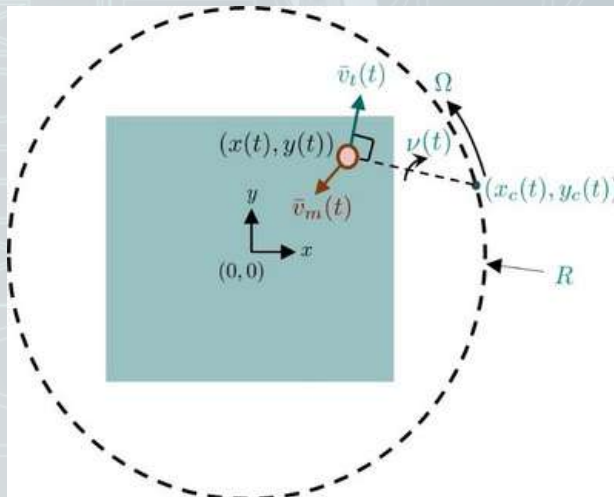


Figure 1 (a). Schematic representation of the horizontally vibrating table and the particle. The table moves in the x - y plane. It rotates about its instantaneous centre with angular velocity. The sliding particle is instantaneously at the point in space. The velocity of the sliding particle is, and the velocity of the physical point of the table instantaneously touching the particle is given by. (b) Trajectories of the particle in the x - y plane for different initial conditions show the approach to the target location (the origin).

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Prof C P Vyasarayani

Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering

Development of Unmanned Surface Vehicle Platform for Lake Monitoring and In-Situ Water Sampling: An Initiative for lake health monitoring in and around GHMC

KID: 20240404



[1]



[2]



[3]

1. Introduction

Urban lakes are vital ecological assets that provide water for domestic and industrial use, regulate microclimates, and offer recreational value. However, many such lakes are increasingly under threat due to untreated sewage, industrial effluents, and unregulated dumping. Traditional monitoring methods—manual water sampling and periodic laboratory testing—are labour-intensive, limited in spatial coverage, and often lag in detecting pollution trends. To address this challenge, IIT Hyderabad is developing a modular Unmanned Surface Vehicle (USV) platform based on the Blue Robotics Blue Boat, equipped with a comprehensive navigation and environmental sensing suite. The system aims to autonomously monitor, map, and sample urban lakes, generating high-resolution spatio-temporal datasets to support lake health monitoring and enable informed decision-making for sustainable water resource management.

2. System Architecture and Capabilities

The IITH-USV platform shown in Figure-1 is a compact, modular robotic system tailored for real-time monitoring, autonomous navigation, and adaptive sampling. Key hardware and software features include:

2.1. Navigation and Control

- GPS-aided INS for navigation and control
- Autopilot controller with real-time mission execution
- Path planning and obstacle avoidance algorithms
- Vision camera for obstacle detection and situational awareness

2.2. Environmental Monitoring

- Real-time water quality sensing suite: pH, Oxygen Reduction Potential (ORP), Dissolved Oxygen (DO), and Electric Conductivity (EC) sensors
- Echosounder and Side Scan sonar for bathymetry and sludge profiling
- GIS-based tools for geospatial visualization of water parameters profiles

2.3. Modular Sampling Mechanism

- Custom-built carousel water sampler capable of collecting discrete samples from targeted coordinates,
- Samples collected will be sent for extended lab analysis to sample for water parameters including nutrients, heavy metals, microbial content etc.

This integrated robotic system is designed not only to conduct autonomous surveys and lake health monitoring but also to adapt payloads depending on specific use cases. Figure 2 shows the USV platform being tested in the in-house pool at IITH. Figures 3a and 3b illustrate the waypoint navigation and survey missions conducted in the same pool

Objectives and Novelty

This project's vision extends beyond routine data logging. It aims to build a scalable, autonomous lake monitoring solution with the following key goals:

1. **Design a Modular USV:** Develop a robust platform with modular architecture, supporting future sensor and payload upgrades.
2. **Sensor Fusion for Navigation Safety:** Integrate data from GPS, radar, sonar, and vision to enable real-time collision avoidance and optimised routing.
3. **Comprehensive Water Monitoring:** Acquire high-resolution spatio-temporal data on water quality parameters, visualized through GIS mapping.
4. **Sludge Profiling and Bed Mapping:** Leverage sonar data for anomaly detection models and bathymetry
5. **Data Dissemination and Public Engagement:** Build a database for sharing water health dashboards with urban bodies, pollution control boards, and the public.

With its real-time data streaming and sample-collection abilities, the platform acts as both an automated scout and a mobile lab assistant, providing a rapid lake monitoring system. This initiative marks a significant step toward human-centric and environmentally responsible robotics.

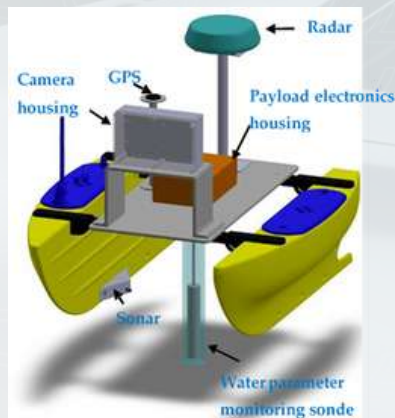


Figure 1. Configuration of the USV-IITH

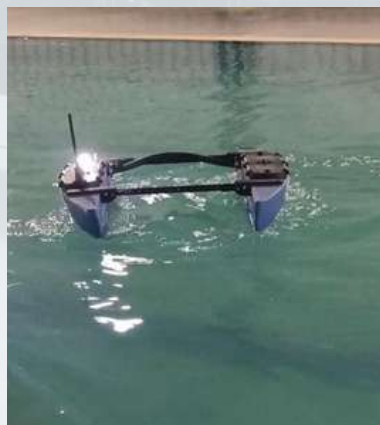


Figure 2. Trails of the platform – inhouse pool - IITH



Figure 3a. Survey mission



Figure 3b. Waypoint mission

[1] Mr Dwivedula Sourabh

[2] Mr Vishal Khandare
Masters Students

[3] Dr Himabindu Allaka, Assistant Professor
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A SUCSHM (सूक्ष्म) Soft Robotic Gripper

SUCSHM Lab, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering



KID: 20240405

As Shakuntala Devi (Indian mental calculator) said, "Everything around you is mathematics." Therefore, at SUCSHM (Searching Unique Class of Small-scale High-performance Materials) Lab in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at IITH, we emphasize the development of mathematical models to understand the fundamental physics that governs various physical problems involving actuation techniques of multiphysics-based slender, rod-like soft robotic grippers, plant growth, innovative and energy-efficient metamaterials.

In this article, we will limit our discussion to the growing field of soft robotics. Soft robotics is a booming field that focuses on designing and developing robots made from flexible and highly deformable materials. These robots can mimic the adaptability and dexterity of biological organisms.

Unlike traditional rigid robots, soft robots are built from highly compliant materials, such as silicone, elastomers, and shape-memory alloys, allowing them to interact safely with humans and delicate objects without causing harm or damage. These soft robots can undergo large deformations, thus making them capable of being used in medical applications such as minimally invasive surgery (MIS), targeted drug delivery, and many more.

We primarily model these soft robots as slender multiphysical bodies that can either bend, twist, translate, or undergo a combination of these mentioned deformations to perform the desired task.

Unlike conventional (rigid) robots, soft robots can grasp objects without causing damage and are safer for human interaction.

Additionally, they do not require precise control or complicated algorithms to operate effectively. This approach utilizes hydraulic or pneumatic, thermal, or electric actuators that can undergo large deformation rather than traditional motors or rigid linkages.

As a result, soft robots can effectively mimic natural movements, which reduces mechanical complexity and allows for safe operation in environments designed for human interaction.

Furthermore, the absence of bulky motors makes soft robots lighter, quieter, and more energy-efficient. For these soft grippers to securely grasp and hold objects, friction plays a critical role in its performance. When the soft gripper interacts with the surface of the object, the friction between the gripper's surface and the object prevents the slipping of the object and provides secure grasping. The friction is directly influenced by factors such as surface texture, material properties, and the normal force exerted by the gripper.

In our work, we control the normal force that the gripper acts upon the object via different designs and voltage actuation. By carefully adjusting frictional forces, engineers can design more reliable and efficient grippers capable of handling delicate objects without causing damage.

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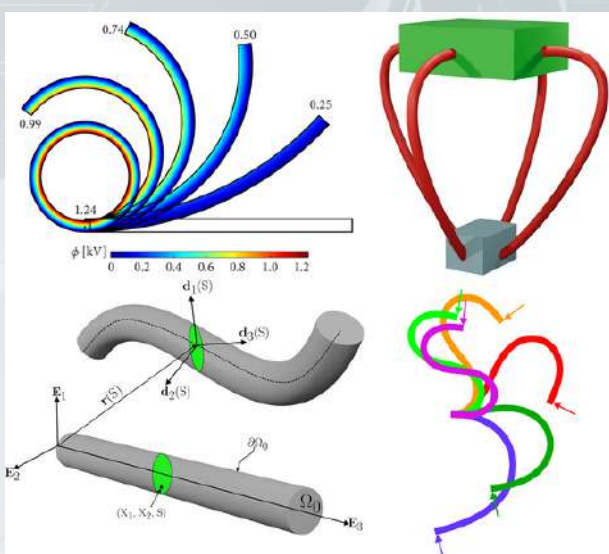


Figure 1. A Glimpse of our work at the SUCSHM (सूक्ष्म) Lab

Dr Prakhar Gupta

Assistant Professor

Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering

Advancing Intelligent Robot Motion Planning and Learning in Dynamic Environments

KID: 20240406



Motion planning in dynamic and unstructured environments remains a critical challenge in deploying intelligent robots for real-world applications. At the Robotics and AI Lab at the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH), we focus on developing advanced motion planning algorithms that enable robots to operate autonomously in environments characterized by a mixture of movable and immovable obstacles. Our research targets both indoor and outdoor settings, ranging from assistive indoor robotics that rearrange furniture to enable navigation, to agricultural robots that interact with natural elements like leaves and branches to harvest fruits efficiently.

Our group, comprising one PhD and three master's students, investigates hybrid strategies that combine classical motion planning algorithms with machine learning and reinforcement learning (RL) techniques. These strategies aim to enhance the robot's adaptability, decision-making, and long-term autonomy in complex tasks.

At the core of our research is the integration of semantic understanding and physical interaction in motion planning. Unlike traditional planning approaches that treat the environment as static or binary (free vs. occupied), our algorithms distinguish between static obstacles and dynamic or manipulable objects. For example, in indoor scenarios, a mobile robot may push chairs out of its path to reach a desired location. In agricultural environments, our robots must plan efficient trajectories while dynamically repositioning foliage to access fruit-bearing branches. To tackle these challenges, our lab explores three key research directions:

We build upon traditional planners such as Rapidly-exploring Random Trees (RRT) and A* algorithm by embedding scene semantics and manipulability information.

This allows the planner to reason about potential object interactions and make informed trade-offs between path optimality and manipulation effort. Our use of deep reinforcement learning (DRL) facilitates the development of policies that learn from environment interactions and improve over time. Robots trained using DRL can explore the action space involving pushing, pulling, or avoiding objects based on rewards tied to goal achievement and energy efficiency.

To enhance situational awareness in occluded or cluttered environments, we integrate NBV planning to guide robot sensors (e.g., RGB-D or stereo cameras) towards the most informative viewpoints. This is particularly useful in agricultural settings where visual occlusion from leaves can hinder object detection and manipulation.

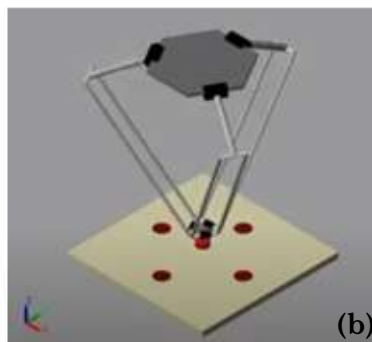
Our experimental platform consists of simulated and physical testbeds equipped with mobile manipulators and 3D vision systems shown in 1. We benchmark our algorithms using indoor navigation challenges and outdoor harvesting scenarios, demonstrating improvements in success rate, task completion time, and robustness to environmental uncertainty.

Our ultimate goal is to enable robots to intelligently interact with their environment rather than merely navigating around it. By pushing the boundaries of motion planning, learning, and perception, we strive to bring robot autonomy closer to deployment in real-world, human-centric, nature-integrated settings.

As we look ahead, our focus will continue on developing generalizable frameworks that combine model-based reasoning with data-driven adaptability. We also aim to contribute to open-source simulation tools and datasets that encourage collaboration and innovation in the robotics community.



(a)



(b)

Figure 1. Robots are built at the Robot Learning Lab, IITH.

(a) Mobile robot,

(b) Delta robot

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[2] Mr Shibajyoti Das

Research Scholar

[3] Mr Yawalkar Pratik Yuvraj (Masters Student)

[4] Mr Amma Kartikeya (Masters Student)

Dept of Artificial Intelligence

Topology Optimization and Pneumatic Soft Grippers

KID: 20240407



These days, the use of soft grippers is constantly increasing as they ensure insignificant or no damage to gripping objects [1]. Such grippers are made with material that has Young's modulus in the kilopascal to megapascal range, and they perform their tasks using elastic deformation. They are typically actuated via different means; the most sought-after currently is actuated using pneumatic load [1]. However, because of the lack of a systematic approach, these grippers are designed using manual/ad-hoc methods, which greatly depend on the designer's ability, experience, and expertise. A systematic method, such as topology optimization, to design such grippers will help increase their applications [1].

Topology optimization (TO), a systematic computational technique, provides an efficient way to arrange material layout within a given design domain while optimizing the desired objective with the given constraints. The finite element method is used to solve the associated partial differential equations. Each element is assigned a design variable that varies between 0 and 1. A design variable of 0 and 1 implies the element's void and solid phases, respectively. The optimized design is expected to be made up of design variables with 1. A pneumatic load is a design-dependent load that can change direction, location, and/or magnitude. Thus, dealing with such loads while considering their design-dependent nature is challenging [2, 3] in a TO framework. Kumar et al. [2] proposed a novel method to deal with fluidic design-dependent pneumatic load in a TO setting. The approach uses Darcy's law with a conceptualised drainage term to model the evolving nature of the pneumatic load while considering the discretised system as a porous medium. Herein, we demonstrate the efficacy of this method for designing a pneumatically actuated soft gripper. Various MATLAB codes, such as TOPress [3], SoRoTop [4] and TOPress3D [5] for pedagogy purposes, have been developed using the method presented in [2]. A soft gripper can consist of three to four fingers, depending on the applications and the required grasping action. Each finger contains a set of pressurised chambers that deform to provide the motion necessary for the soft gripper.



Figure 1. Conventional and optimized pressure chambers. The optimized chamber is obtained using the SoRoTop MATLAB code [4].

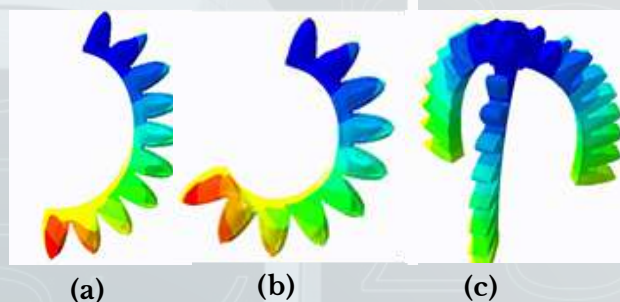


Figure 2. Deformation profiles of the single finger and a soft gripper with three fingers

A conventional soft finger consists of rectangular pressure chambers [1]. To increase performance and automate the design method, a unit pressure chamber of the finger can be optimized, considering it a compliant mechanism actuated by pneumatic load [1]. The optimised chamber is eventually sequentially combined to create a finger for the grippers. We use the SoRoTopMATLAB code [4] to design a soft finger unit (Fig.1). The optimized chamber is different than its conventional counterpart. The optimized design is extracted, extruded, and sequentially combined to create a finger of the soft gripper. The deformation profiles are shown in Fig. 2a-b. A soft gripper with three fingers is also depicted in Fig. 2c. Therefore, we believe that TO can be exploited smartly to design different types of soft robots for various applications.

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- [3] P. Kumar, "TOPress: a MATLAB implementation for topology optimization of structures subjected to design-dependent pressure loads," Structural and Multidisciplinary Optimization, vol. 66, no. 4, p. 97, 2023.
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[1] Dr Prabhat Kumar , Assistant Professor
Dept of Mechanical Aerospace Engineering

Revolutionizing Campus Transportation: Deployment of LiDAR Enabled 3D Point Cloud Map - Based Autonomous Campus Shuttles at IIT Hyderabad

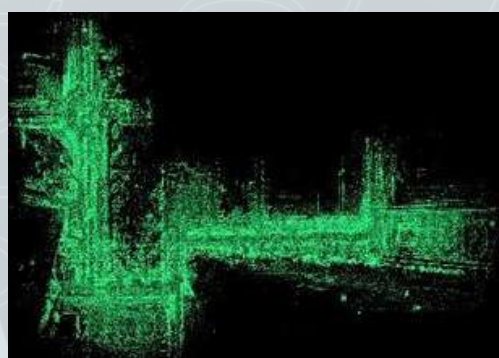
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Autonomous Campus Shuttle (ACS) is a self-driving electric vehicle designed for autonomous transportation within controlled environments like university campuses, research facilities and smart cities.

NMICPS TiHAN foundation at IIT Hyderabad has been at the forefront of autonomous mobility research and innovation.

TIHAN has developed ACS by employing in-house developed drive-by-wire. Over the past two years, TiHAN has successfully deployed ACS within the IIT Hyderabad campus at different routes (as portrayed in Fig. 1) marking a significant step toward smart and sustainable transportation. ACS is equipped with LiDAR, Cameras, GNSS and AI-based perception systems enabling it to navigate predefined routes without human intervention.



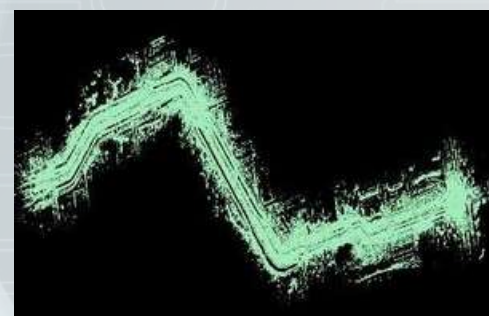
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Fig. 1. 3D PointCloud map of different routes within the IIT Hyderabad campus (a) TiHAN testbed to hostel circle, (b) hostel circle to IITH main gate, (c) IITH main gate to hostel circle and (d) hostel circle to TiHAN testbed.

TiHAN has successfully deployed its in-house developed ACS on various routes (as shown in Fig. 1) at the IIT Hyderabad campus operating seamlessly for the past two years (as illustrated in Fig. 2).

The shuttle has covering 7 km per trip with six daily trips around the IITH campus and served over 1,500 passengers.

Passenger feedback indicated strong confidence in the shuttle's safety with 97.3% of respondents feeling secure during their rides.

Do you feel safe while on the Autonomous campus shuttle?





Fig. 2. Autonomous campus shuttle deployed in IIT Hyderabad campus

[1] Prof Rajalakshmi P
Professor
Department of Electrical Engineering
IIT Hyderabad



దేశాభివృద్ధిలో ఐఐటీ హైదరాబాద్ కీలక పాత్ర

[illegible][illegible]

ప్రయాణం, విద్యా, పరిశోధనల అంశాలపై
వేలై ముందుకు సాగుతుంది. దేశంలో ప్రభావక
విద్యా సంస్థగా నిలిచింది. నమగ్ విద్యా, పోశో
భవ భవ్యత, ఇది భారతదేశంలో విప్లవాత్మక
కాదాకా నిలువండి. గురువారం మొక్కుమ
నాడుతూ, మనం తల్లి దేవుళ్ళు ప్రేమను
స్వీకరించుకుంటూ, మనం అభివృద్ధి, సాంకేతికత
పై మన అంకితభావాన్ని గుర్తుచేసుకుంటున్నా
మని ఆహ్వాది.

15/11/2024 | Media | Page : 7
Source : <https://epupr.prathaneews.com>

سیاست
The Siasat Daily Islamabad
5-11-2024

آئی آئی ٹی حیدر آباد معیاری ادارہ، ملک کی تعمیر و ترقی میں مددگار

کندی نزد سنگاریڈی میں ادارہ کی تعلیمی و تحقیقی سرگرمیوں کا مشاہدہ، مرکزی وزیر مملکت ڈاکٹر محمد ار کا خطاب

منگل، 14 نومبر (سیاست) حیدر آباد (پاکستان) - وزیر مملکت ڈاکٹر محمد ار کا خطاب (دائیں) حیدر آباد میں آئی آئی ٹی حیدر آباد معیاری ادارہ کی تعلیمی و تحقیقی سرگرمیوں کا مشاہدہ کرتے ہوئے۔

[illegible]

డిసెంబరు 1న మారథాన్
● ఐఐటీహెచ్ దరఖాస్తుల ఆహ్వానం

[illegible]

వివటీహెచ్ లో ఆవిష్కరణల సందడి

[illegible]

బాబ్స్-హెచ్లో అంతర్జాతీయ సదస్సు

[illegible]



ఘనంగా స్వాగ్తించే ఘట్టం
 సీనియర్ నేతలు, పార్టీ కార్యకర్తలు 2024 గ్రాండ్ ఫినాలీ ఘట్టానికి
 ఘనంగా స్వాగ్తించే ఘట్టం 2024 గ్రాండ్ ఫినాలీ
 సీనియర్ నేతలు, పార్టీ కార్యకర్తలు 2024 గ్రాండ్ ఫినాలీ ఘట్టానికి
 ఘనంగా స్వాగతం

[illegible]

బెబిటీహెచ్లో
నికాన్ సెంటర్ ఆఫ్ ఎక్సలెన్స్
● అత్యున్నత స్థాయి పరిశోధనలకు లక్ష్యం



పట్నం పట్టణం చూపుతున్న నివాస్ ప్రతినిధులు,
జనసేవా చైర్మన్ టిఎస్ మూర్తి

[illegible]

THE HINDU
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Sat, 09 Nov-24; Hindu - Hyderabad; Size : 17 sq.cm.; Circulation:169634;
Page : 4

National Wellbeing Conclave at IIT-H

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Ministry of Education with IIT Hyderabad (IIT-H) will host the National Wellbeing Conclave, an integrated approach to promote positive mental health, resilience and

wellbeing in higher education institutions, on IITH presentation on Saturday.

Nearly 100 Centrally-funded institutions from across the country will take part in the event, which is aimed at building a mental health and wellbeing ecosystem for stu-

dents and faculty members. Officials said the conclave will be a platform to exchange ideas related to promotion of mental health, resilience and wellbeing on campuses, and initiatives undertaken by different higher education institutions in the area.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

T's Simpliforge Creations & IIT-H set up
Army's largest 3D printed barracks in MP

MP's FIRST 3D BLDG

am, was all 3D printed in just
month's time.
"The foundation work t
ok about two weeks, incl
ding one week for curri
one week for curri

Swati.Bharadwaj
timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: Telangana-based Simpliforge Creations and the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, teamed up with the Military Engineer Services (MES) to set up the Indian Army's largest and Madhya Pradesh's first 3D printed building at Morar Cantonment in Gwalior.

The building, which will house barracks with the capacity to accommodate 14 jawans, was built to demonstrate efficient housing solutions for troops in remote and challenging terrain.

Simpliforge Creations Co.

Simpliforge Creations Co. Founder & CEO Dhruv Gandhi said while the foundation



work for the 11-11.5 ft tall structure, spread over around 2,500 sq ft, was done using conven-

tional construction techniques, the 10-ft tall portion above the ground, excluding the be-

am, was all 3D printed in just a month's time.

"The foundation work took about two weeks, including one week for construction and one week for curing. The slab and finishing work took a little over two weeks. The 3D printing work was done in a month," Gandhi said, pointing out that the structure cost about 20% more than conventional construction.

While the IIT-H team conducted the design analysis and vetted the structure, Simpliforge Creations prepared the design and did the construction for the project. The barrack was inaugurated by Major General KTG Krishnan, General Officer Commanding, 10th Division.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

India-Kenya Innovation Nexus sealed

Hyderabad: In a move to boost cross-border startup growth, knowledge exchange, and capacity-building initiatives between India and Kenya, the Partnership Charter of the India-Kenya Innovation Nexus was signed at IIT Hyderabad.

The signing took place during the visit of a high-profile delegation from Kenya, led by the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA), alongside senior representatives from 11 Kenyan universities. The two-day visit to the IITC incubator at IITH aimed to foster collaboration between the two countries' innovation ecosystems and forge long-term ties through the Innovation Nexus. The delegation included Edith Vethi Nyenze (MP, Kitui West Constituency) and Amina Dika Abdullahi (MP, Tana River Constituency), among others.

"The Innovation Nexus reflects our shared commitment to advancing technology and entrepreneurship," said B S Murthy, Director, IITH. TNS

IIT Hyderabad inaugurates ASM Hyderabad Chapter

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

The Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) in collaboration with the American Society for Metals (ASM) celebrated the inauguration of the ASM Hyderabad Chapter (Professional) and the Materials Advantage (MA) Hyderabad Chapter (Student) on Wednesday.

The inaugural event witnessed an impressive registration of 140 members and active participation from IITH faculty, students and representatives of esteemed institutions. These included the University of Hyderabad, BVRIT, MGIT and Vishnu University as well as



prominent government organizations like ARCI, MIDHANI, and DMRL and industries such as Innomet Advanced Materials and Saideepa Rock Drills Private Limited, the event was meticulously organized by Dr Mayur Vaidya and Dr Ashok Kamaraj, Assistant Professors, Department of Materials Science & Metallurgical Engineering (MSME), IITH.

The event marked a significant step in fostering collaboration and innovation within the materials science community. This initiative represents a significant step toward nurturing talent and advancing research in the field of materials science. Chief Guest Dr Navin Manjooran, President of ASM International, expressed his delight at the inauguration,

stating that "Great things are achieved when we come together with purpose and passion." He said "Congratulations on the inauguration of the new Professional Chapter and Student Chapter in Hyderabad today! With 75 professional members and 65 student members joining the ASM family, this marks a significant milestone in

strengthening our presence in the region.

Prof. B S Murty, Director of IIT Hyderabad, emphasized the value of being associated with the ASM during the inauguration of the ASM Hyderabad Chapter. He remarked: "Connecting with professional associations is essential to amplify the power of collaboration. Collaboration is the key to success, driving growth and creating synergy. At IITH, nearly 50% of our projects are the result of collaborative efforts. Recognizing the immense benefits for members in this region, we established the ASM Hyderabad Chapter within just five days of deciding to start it."

28/11/2024 | Main Edition
Page : 4

Source : <https://epaper.metroindia.net/>

Meet on mental health in education institutions begins

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Making students and faculty members as ambassadors of happiness and strength and prioritising mental health and resilience in higher education institutions (HEIs) in the country as a mission, the first National Wellbeing Conclave (NWC) kicked off at IIT-Hyderabad, here on Saturday.

Student well-being

Being held under the aegis of the Ministry of Education (MoE), the conclave aims at fostering healthy and harmonious environment in HEIs with the goal of reducing suicide rates and enhancing student



Participants at First National Well-being Conclave at IIT-H in Sangareddy district on Saturday. MOHD ARIF

and faculty well-being. The two-day conclave features discussions about best practices on wellbeing in campuses with participation

of nearly 100 centrally-funded institutions. The NWC also aligns with the Economic Survey 2023-24 which highlights the need

for mental health programmes within educational institutions. According to Secretary (MoE) K. Sanjay Murthy,

who also released a compendium of "best practices on wellbeing", NWC is for promoting awareness and collaboration among institutions across the country. The essential foundation, through deliberations on mental health and resilience initiatives, is for spreading effective practices across the country and for future initiatives

IIT-H initiatives

He appreciated initiatives such as IITH's Team Sunshine, the counselling cell and Expressions India, the National Life Skills, School & Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Program. According to Director (IITH) B.S. Murty, the Institute promotes the

right brain activities to maintain a balanced mind.

"We live in a fast-paced world filled with constant stimuli that significantly impact us emotionally, physically and psychologically, often leading to stress. This makes promoting mental health, resilience, and overall wellbeing more essential than ever. Students need to learn that failure is a natural part of growth," he said.

Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Rina Sonowal Koul, Program Director (Expressions India) Jitendra Nagpal, psychiatry experts and counsellors, faculty members and students from various participating institutions were present.

Proud Moment

IIT Hyderabad has been honored with the ENR Global Best Projects Awards 2024!
Presented by Engineering News-Record (ENR), New York, USA

ENR Global Best Project Award of Merit for
“Campus Development” under
“Education/ Research” Category



“SNCC (Sports Complex)” - ENR Global
Best Project Award of Merit under
“Sports/ Entertainment” Category



*IIT Hyderabad
has been
honored with
the ENR Global
Best Projects
Awards 2024!
Presented
by
Engineering
News-Record
(ENR), New
York, USA*

IITH has successfully conducted the Plantation Drive



*Plantation Drive for the month
of October 2024*



*Plantation Drive for the month
of November 2024*



*Plantation Drive for the month
of December 2024*

Sports Spirit



29th Inter IIT Staff Sports meet 2024



38th Inter IIT Aquatics Meet 2024.



57th Inter IIT Meet



IIT T20 Cricket Fiesta Runners 2024

Celebrations



IITH's EBSB illuminated the Diwali Celebrations with mesmerizing blend of traditional customs and modern festivities, making lamps, decorations, vibrant dance, music, and memories for life!



The Department of Biotechnology celebrated the BIO-Vriddhi 2024: Biotechnology Foundation day



The Department of Biomedical Engineering celebrated BMilaap 4.0, marking BME Department Day



The Department of Mathematics celebrated the National Mathematics Day



Tolu Bommalata by Spicmacay at IIT Hyderabad was a Mesmerizing Blend of Art and Culture



IIT Hyderabad Hosted 5th Annual Alumni Day 2024: Celebrating Legacy, Achievements, and Community Bond



Prof Kiran Kuchi, Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Hyderabad had a privilege to meet the Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji & MOC to brief them on "5G & 6G research, commercialization being carried out at IITH, and it's incubated company WiSig Networks" at Pragathi Maidan, New Delhi



The Second Edition of Japan Month was a great opportunity for Strengthening Educational Ties and Collaborative Opportunities between IITH & Japan



IITH 2nd Annual Corporate Get-Together, was a wonderful occasion to celebrate our partnership and explore opportunities for deeper collaboration



Inauguration of cutting-edge AR/VR lab facilitated by InfoVision



The First National Wellbeing Conclave held at IITH, a Collaborative Effort by the Ministry of Education, Government of India



Inauguration of ASM, Hyderabad Chapter(Professional) and the Materials Advantage(MA) Hyderabad Chapter



Jan Jatiya Gaurav Diwas on campus with multiple events and Celebrations

Vigilance Awareness Week



The Integrity Pledge was administered by the Registrar and the IITH fraternity on the occasion of the Vigilance Awareness Week



Vigilance Awareness Week was concluded with a prize distribution ceremony for the winners of various vigilance-themed competitions



IITH has organized a walkathon as part of the Vigilance Awareness Week initiatives

School Visits



IITH has extended an Exposure visit to VIIT School, Guntur



RDC and Prayas, IITH hosted the Inspiring Young Minds, an Exposure Visit for Zilla Parishad Students



IITH extended an Exposure visit to RNLE School Students



Samvidhan Diwas celebrations on 26th November 2024, commemorating 75 years of the adoption of the Indian Constitution



An Induction Training Program for the newly joined staff by various sections of the IITH, organized by the Registrar, IITH



Institute Hospital in collaboration with Star Hospitals arranged a Basic Emergency First Aid skill Training (B.E.F.A.S.T)



iTIC, IITH in collaboration with VCCircle, hosted "The Pitch" - a platform for startup founders to showcase their business ideas to leading investors across the country



IIT Hyderabad Runners Club hosted the IITH Half Marathon 2024, featuring multiple race categories: Half Marathon (21.1 km), 10K Run, 5K Fun Run

IIT T20 Cricket Fiesta Runners 2024 (Organized by IIT Tirupati)



Captain Receiving the Trophy



Player of the series



Best Batter (Orange Cap)



Player of the match with IIT Tirupati



The 30th PAMFP Conference was inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad by Dr Sanjay Kumar Jha, CMD MIDHANI



International Conference on Circadian Rhythms in Health and Diseases: From Discovery to Function (CRHD 2024)



Harnessing AI for Healthcare Transformation HAHT-IUS 2024, A Collaborative Indo-US Workshop at IITH



IITH Conducted Workshop on Movement Simulation through Neuro-Musculoskeletal System Modelling



Sessions on "Advanced Functional Analysis and its Application 2024" Organized by Department of Mathematics, IITH



IITH is honored to have been a part of the Teacher Training Programme for Jawahar Navodaya teachers, organized by the CCE & Rural Development Centre



The Dept of Liberal Arts, IITH, in collaboration with the SPARC Scheme, GoI, conducted a two-day symposium



Department of Mathematics, IITH hosted the "Annual Foundational School -1" Sessions



IIT Hyderabad & Nikon India Launched the India's First Nikon Centre of Excellence at Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad



Kenyan Delegation Visited iTIC Incubator at IITH to Strengthen Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ties through India-Kenya Innovation Nexus



*IITH and JICA united to nourish Design Innovation JICA Chair Lecture Series.
Read More: <https://pr.iith.ac.in/pressrelease/JCL.pdf>*



Mr Rohit Dhondge
Alumnus
*Secured AIR-1 in UPSC ESE 2024
from civil engineering branch*



Dr Amarteja Kocherla
**PhD Scholar, Department of
Civil Engineering**
*Received Marie Skłodowska-Curie
Individual Fellowship Award to carry out
research at the Federal Institute for
Materials Research & Testing BAM in
Germany*



Mr Vinod V
**PhD Scholar, Department of
Mechanical & Aerospace
Engineering**
*Received the Best Presentation Award
in 8th National Symposium on Shock
Waves at IIT Kanpur*



**Ms Cherishma
Mallavarapu**
**MTech student, Dept of
Mechanical & Aerospace Eng**
*Received the Best Presentation Award
in 8th National Symposium on Shock
Waves at IIT Kanpur*



Mr Bhanu Ganesh Ganta
**PhD Scholar, Department of
Electrical Engineering**
*Received the Silver Award for the Best
Student Paper.*



**Mr Vamadev Sundar
Chebiyyam**
**BTech student, Department of
Biotechnology**
*Received the 2nd prize in Kalasagaram
Annual Carnatic Music Competition in
Seniors Category in Mridangam*



Dr Sandipan Ray
**Assistant Professor,
Department of Biotechnology**
*Elected as the Vice President of the
Indian Society for Chronobiology
(InSC)*



Dr Nitin Kumar
**Alumnus - MTech student
Department of Civil
Engineering**
*Selected as an Assistant Professor at
IIT Patna*



Mr Krishna Chaitanya N
**PhD Scholar, Department of
MSME**
*Received the Best Poster Award during
NMD-ATM 2024 program held at
GKVK, Bengaluru on Nov 20-
22nd, 2024, in the theme of
"StructureProperty Correlation"*



Ms Bhavya Surendran VS
**PhD Scholar, Department of
Biotechnology**
*Received the Best Poster Presentation
Award in the Thematic Area of
Microbial & Industrial Biotechnology
at the International Conference on
Advances in Biotechnology and
Bioinformatics (ICABB 2024)*



Ms Kavita
**PhD Scholar, Department of
Biotechnology**
*Received the Best Poster Award
accompanied by Rs. 50,000 cash at the
Cancer NEXT 2024 conference,
organized by the Federation of Asia
Biotech Association (FABA) & Nizam
Institute of Medical Sciences*



Mr Nitesh Kumar Podh
**PhD Scholar, Department of
Biotechnology**
*Received the Best Poster Award (and
registration fee waiver) at the
International Chromosome Stability
meeting organized at JNCASR*



Mr Ranjan Kumar Sahu
**PhD Scholar, Department of
Physics**
*Received the Best Poster Award during
68th DAE-Solid State Physics
Symposium held at BARC, Mumbai on
18th to 22nd Dec 2024*



Team "Drive Sense AI"
IIT Hyderaad
*Was selected as the First Runner-Up in
the Safe Roads, Safe Lives INDIA
IDEATHON held during the SAFE
ROADS INDIA SUMMIT 2024
conducted by Mercedes-Benz Research
and Development India (MBRDI)*



**IIT Hyderabad Team
AeroSentinels**
*Received the Best Innovation Award
at the Smart India Hackathon 2024*



Dr Gande Vamsi Vikram

*Assistant Professor
Department of Chemical
Engineering*

Dr Gande Vamsi Vikram completed his Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the University College of Technology, Osmania University, in 2016. He then went on to earn his Master's and PhD from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, finishing his PhD in 2022. His research during his PhD focused on e-waste recycling, and his work led to the creation of a pilot plant at BHEL Trichy. In recognition of his contributions, he received the Lovaraj Kumar Memorial Trust Best PhD Thesis Award in 2022. After his PhD, Dr. Vamsi worked as a Postdoctoral Researcher and Instructor at the University of Illinois Chicago, USA, until November 2024. His research interests include hydrometallurgy, mineral recovery, flow chemistry, and sustainable process development.

My Life at IITH:

I joined the Department of Chemical Engineering as an Assistant Professor in November 2024 and was warmly welcomed by both the faculty and staff, which has been incredibly encouraging. The collaborative and supportive environment here has been inspiring, and I am enthusiastic and excited to be part of this dynamic, young institute as a young faculty member. Within just a few months of joining, I had the opportunity to assist in organizing the Australia-India Critical Mineral Research Hub (AICMRH) symposium, hosted by IIT Hyderabad. I was also invited to give a talk at the event, which allowed me to establish valuable connections with researchers from various academic institutions and industries. Additionally, I had the pleasure of interacting with several students, whose passion and motivation for engaging in research were truly inspiring. The energy and potential at this institute are truly motivating, and I am eager to contribute to its continued growth and success in the years ahead.



Dr Anjana A M

*Assistant Professor
Department of Electrical
Engineering*

Dr. Anjana A M has been appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Hyderabad. Prior to joining IITH, she was working with Samsung R&D Institute India, Bangalore. Anjana did her B.Tech. from Government Engineering College, Trivandrum, Kerala and obtained her M.E. and Ph.D. degrees from IISc Bangalore. She has also previously held industry positions in Qualcomm India Private Limited and Lekha Wireless Solutions, Bangalore. Her research interests are in the intersection of coding theory and wireless communication.

**Bank of Knowledge
(BoK - Non-Academic)**



Kallepelli pranaya

*Junior Technician
Department of Civil
Engineering*

Ms Pranaya holds a BTech in Civil Engineering and MTech in Highway Engineering from Sree Chaitanya College of Engineering Karimnagar. Her academic journey laid the foundation for a career rooted in infrastructure and innovation. Recently, she had the privilege of joining the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) as a Junior Technician in the Department of Civil Engineering, a role that bridges academic excellence and technical service.

My Life at IITH:

My experience at IITH so far has been both enriching and inspiring. The campus is not just a centre of advanced research but also a community that fosters learning, collaboration, and growth. I've had the opportunity to work alongside brilliant minds—faculty, researchers, and staff members—whose dedication to academic and technical excellence is truly motivating. The work environment at IITH is supportive and forward-thinking. Every day presents a new challenge and a new opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the academic ecosystem. I am proud to be a part of an institution that is shaping the future of education and engineering in India. Being at IITH is more than just a professional engagement—it's a place where knowledge meets purpose, and where each role, no matter how big or small, adds to the larger mission of nation-building through science and technology.



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