



IIT Hyderabad Signs MoU with Indian Army's Simulator Development Division to Establish Centre of Excellence – VIGRAHA

Highlights:

- IIT Hyderabad signed MoU with the Army Training Command, Shimla (represented by Simulator Development Division – SDD, Secunderabad).
- Established a Centre of Excellence *VIGRAHA (Virtual, Intelligent, Ground-breaking Research in AR/VR & High-tech Applications for Indian Army)*.
- Key Focus Areas: AR/VR, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Unmanned Systems, Drones, and other emerging defense technologies.

Hyderabad, 30 August 2025 – The Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Army Training Command, Shimla, represented by the Simulator Development Division (SDD), Secunderabad, to establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) titled **VIGRAHA (Virtual, Intelligent, Ground-breaking Research in AR/VR & High-tech Applications for Indian Army)**. This collaboration aims to spearhead cutting-edge research and development in Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Robotics, unmanned systems, and other emerging technologies for the Indian Armed Forces.

The MoU was formalized in the presence of Prof B.S. Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad. SDD was represented by Brigadier A.K. Chaturvedi, SDD Secunderabad, along with Col Hari Om Ahlawat, Head of Department, and Lt Col Anupam Porwal, Project Officer. From IIT Hyderabad, the collaboration was led by Prof. G. Narahari Sastry, Dean (Sponsored Research & Consultancy), with Dr. Shiva Ji, Associate Professor, serving as the Principal Investigator (PI) of the Centre.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. B.S. Murty said, *“This partnership exemplifies the synergy between academia and the armed forces in fostering innovation and advancing the nation's technological capabilities. The CoE VIGRAHA will be a significant step towards realizing India's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat in defense technologies.”*

The prime objective of this MoU is to create a robust framework for joint academic programs, research and development projects, innovation initiatives, and capacity-building exercises. The CoE will also facilitate:

- **Training and certification programs** in emerging technologies,
- **Internship opportunities** for IITH students at SDD,
- **Reciprocal access to academic and technical facilities,**
- **Joint innovation and incubation programs** in line with the Indian Army's technological priorities, especially in AR/VR, robotics, AI, drones, and related domains.

This collaboration marks a strategic milestone in bolstering India's defense research ecosystem and fostering self-reliance in advanced military technologies.

About Indian Army's Simulator Development Division:

Simulator Development Division (SDD), established in 1991, is the Indian Army's nodal organisation for the design and development of simulators to enhance training effectiveness. Over time, it has emerged as the nominated Centre of Expertise for AR/VR technologies, while also developing capabilities in Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Drones. SDD continues to advance indigenous, state-of-the-art solutions that strengthen the Army's training ecosystem and operational preparedness.

About IIT Hyderabad:

IITH, established in 2008, has reached a respectable position in Academics, Research, Technology development and Startups in a short span of 17 years. In the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), IITH has bagged at 3rd in Innovation and 8th among Engineering institutes in the last two consecutive years, while it has maintained its rank within the top 10 Engineering Institutes ever since NIRF was launched. IITH is ranked 664 in QS World University Ranking-2026 (among top 10% of global institutions in citations per faculty) and among the top 10 Engineering Institutes in India. IITH has been striving for excellence with a motto of "Inventing & Innovating in Technology for Humanity (IITH)".

With 331+ full-time Faculty and 5,200+ Students (PG+PhD students accounting for about 60%), IITH has a strong research focus with ~ 4990+ Projects worth of Rs. 1590+ Cr of R&D funding (Rs. 335+ Cr funding in 2024-25, i.e. Rs. 1+ Cr per faculty), 12,100+ Publications, 2,25,000+ Citations, 560+ Patents (210+ Patents in 2024 and a commitment to "Patent a Day: Mission 365" for 2025 to earn 365 Patents by the end of 2025), and about 320+ Startups (that have generated 1100+ jobs with a revenue of Rs. 1500+ Cr).

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Please direct all media queries to | **Public Relations Officer, IIT Hyderabad** | Cell: 8331036099
| Email: pro@iith.ac.in
