IIT Mandi signs an MoU with the Shri Badrika Ashram to grant scholarships to underprivileged UG students studying at IIT Mandi.

An MoU was signed between IIT Mandi and Shri Badrika Ashram involving Mr. Rajiv Mittal (Administrator, Shri Badrika Ashram), Dr. Chayan K. Nandi (Dean Resource Generation and Alumni Relations), Dr. Varun Dutt (Associate Dean Resource Generation and Alumni Relations), Dr. Srikant Sugavam (Chair, Scholarship Committee), and Dr. Manas Thakur (Member, Scholarship Committee), IIT Mandi.

Mandi, 1st July 2022: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Shri Badrika Ashram (a private not for profit organization) together to create a scholarship fund for economically weaker students.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Chayan K. Nandi, Dean (Resource Generation and Alumni Relations), IIT Mandi and Mr. Rajiv Mittal (Administrator, Shri Badrika Ashram) on 1st July 2022.

IIT Mandi's motto is to be an "Institute for all." Initiatives like the Badrika Ashram scholarship for deserving students have made IIT Mandi more accessible for those who come from poor socioeconomic backgrounds with annual household income less than INR 5 lakhs.

Prof. Laxmidhar Behera, Director, IIT Mandi said, *"We are grateful to the Shri Badrika Ashram for this generous support of scholarships for economically weaker students. They are most deserving of this support since it is by the sheer hard work that they have made it into this institution. A joint initiative to set up a carefree education facility for the unprivileged students to pursue their education regardless of their financial worries."*

"Shri Badrika Ashram believes that scholarships can be one of the most direct ways to give back to the community. Due to increasing educational costs, students need financial assistance more than ever. Our Scholarship scheme demonstrates the foundation's commitment to education and to the future of upcoming generations. I

believe that this scholarship will make a real, significant impact on the lives of the benefitted students," stated **Mr. Rajiv Mittal, Administrator Head, Shri Badrika Ashram**.

This one-of-its-kind scholarship program will carry a special focus on students from economically weaker sections at IIT Mandi with an aim to encourage unprivileged undergraduate students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. This scholarship program helps in amplifying IIT Mandi's principle of being an inclusive institute for students from all economic sections.

About Shri Badrika Ashram

The Shri Badrika Ashram, the ashram was founded by the venerable saint Om Swami in 2011. After his intense tapas in the Himalayan caves and jungles, Swamiji decided to settle in a valley deep in the lap of Himachal to revive the dormant practices of Dhyana Yoga and Mantra Sadhana. Sri Badrika Ashram is the holy abode of Sri Hari.

[Sri Badrika Ashram](#) is a nonprofit organization that works towards serving the community at large and the villages that surround it. Swamiji's simple mantra of, Live, Love, Laugh, Give is the very basis of all endeavors at the ashram.

About IIT Mandi

IIT Mandi has four academic schools and three research centres. The schools are School of Computing and Electrical Engineering, School of Basic Sciences, School of Engineering, and School of Humanities and Social Sciences. The centers are Advanced Materials Research Centre (AMRC; set up with an investment of INR 60 crore), Centre for Design and Fabrication of Electrical Devices (C4DFED; has worth INR 50 crore fabrication tools), and BioX Centre (has acquired research equipment worth INR 15 crore).

The unique and project-oriented B.Tech (Bachelor in Technology) curriculum is centred around its four-year design and innovation stream. From August 2019, IIT Mandi started three new and unique

B. Tech programmes in Data Science and Engineering, Engineering Physics, and dual degree in Bioengineering. Since the inception of the institute, IIT Mandi faculty have been involved in over 275 Research and Development (R&D) projects worth more than INR 120 crore.IIT Mandi set up the IIT Mandi iHub and HCI Foundation (iHub; a Section-8 company) in its campus at Kamand with significant funding of INR 110 crores from the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. The iHub is planned to fuel research and technology development, skill development, start-up and innovation, and collaborations in the HCI and allied AI (artificial intelligence/ ML (machine learning) areas in India. IIT Mandi is the only second-generation IIT that has ranked seventh in the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements of the Innovation Cell, Ministry of Education, Government of India.

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