

7.3.1 Portray the Performance of the Institution in One Area Distinctive to Its Priority and Thrust

Distinctiveness

Acharya Institute of Technology: Pioneering Holistic Student Development

One area distinctively prioritized by Acharya Institute of Technology (AIT) is its focus on **holistic student development**. This approach goes beyond academic learning, aiming to nurture students' personal, professional, and ethical growth. By prioritizing sports, cultural activities, social responsibility programs, and a diverse range of extracurricular opportunities, AIT ensures that students are well-rounded and equipped to tackle real-world challenges. The institute has dedicated physical education and Cultural department, NSS wing headed by institution level coordinator and department level coordinator. To ensure this every student is enrolled under sports/cultural/NSS right from first year.

1. Sports @ Acharya: AIT is a leader in promoting sports, focusing on physical and mental fitness, teamwork, leadership, and resilience. Its sports programs foster a balance between wellness and academics. The institute features a stadium with floodlights and AstroTurf for 10,000 spectators, along with a fitness center, courts for football, kho-kho, volleyball, and basketball, a horse riding arena, gym, swimming pool, and indoor games. A yoga and meditation center supports wellness. Trainers prepare students for state and national competitions. In the last five years, AIT has hosted 79 events and won 12 state and 45 university championships.

This year, AIT's students excelled in various sports, securing the first position in sports at university level amongst 207 affiliated institutions under VTU with 449 points and receiving a cash prize award of ₹1 lakh in 2024. AIT baseball team received 15 lakhs cash prize award at Major league baseball 2024.



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These accomplishments highlight the institution's dedication to fostering a robust sports culture, which not only enhances physical fitness but also instills discipline, teamwork, and leadership skills. Over 500 students have represented the institute at VTU, state, and national levels every year.

2. UTKARSH-Cultural @ Acharya: AIT's dynamic cultural scene is a testament to its holistic approach to education. The institution fosters students' artistic talents through a variety of cultural clubs, including theater, music, dance, literature, and fine arts. Cultural activities are well-supported with dedicated facilities such as practice areas, an amphitheater, auditoriums, and specialized trainers for different art forms. Regular workshops, led by experts from Rangayana (Autonomous cultural institute operated by GOK)-trained instructors, choreographers, help students refine their skills and identify students to represent the institution at various events. The cultural team, "UTKARSH," plays a key role in organizing and promoting these activities. The annual Acharya Habba event is planned and executed by student community.

AIT's cultural team achieved significant recognition:

- Best Play award at the SSMRV Intercollegiate Theatre Festival.
- Medals in solo instrumental performances and one-act play at the VTU cultural competition.
- Championship at the prestigious Rangasourabha festival 2024, organized by the Government of Karnataka.
- Best Theatre award Bangalore cultural feast

These achievements reflect the institution's commitment to nurturing creativity and cultural awareness, providing students with a balanced and enriching educational experience.

3. Community Engagement and Values:

AIT's dedication to community service is evident through its extension and outreach programs. This is carried out through NSS Unit of AIT, collaboration with NGOs and adoption of villages under govt. schemes.



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Key extension initiatives include:

- **UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN:** Adoption of villages under this scheme has allowed AIT to contribute to rural development, promoting sustainable practices and improving the quality of life in these communities.
- **All Girls Hackathon:** A platform that encourages female students to engage in technology and innovation, fostering gender equality and empowerment.
- **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan:** AIT's participation in this nationwide cleanliness drive underscores its commitment to environmental sustainability and public health.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Various awareness programs are organized to educate students and the community on important social issues, from health and hygiene to environmental conservation.

Values-Based Education:

Universal Human Values and Professional Ethics: AIT offers courses in these areas to instill moral and ethical principles in students, preparing them for responsible decision-making in their professional and personal lives.

Cultural and Ethical Awareness: The institution nurtures students' cultural understanding and ethical development through workshops, seminars, and participation in events that promote diversity, tolerance, and human values.

Every student actively participates in Extension and Outreach activities, which enhance essential life skills such as teamwork, communication, leadership, and time management. They are required to complete a minimum of 80-90 hours of extracurricular involvement. As a result of these initiatives, the institute has received 29 awards and letters of appreciation during last five years, reflecting its positive impact.



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4. Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Networking:

AIT fosters student engagement in innovation, entrepreneurship, and networking through key initiatives.

Innovation: AIT's Innovation Labs, developed with industry leaders like Siemens, IBM, and ABB, offer platforms for students to explore new technologies and work on advanced projects. Hackathons, coding contests, and research collaborations further enhance student innovation.

Entrepreneurship: The ATBI Cell and IEDC support startups with resources and workshops, while the MSME Nodal Centre promotes cost-effective projects and organizes hackathons. The IPR Cell aids in patent filings.

Networking: Strong industry connections provide opportunities for internships, guest lectures, and professional society memberships (IEEE, CSI), enhancing student networks.

AIT's achievements include a ₹15 lakh MSME grant and wins in national and international competitions, showcasing its leadership in innovation and entrepreneurship.

5. Clubs: A Path to Holistic Growth

At AIT, student development is enriched through active participation in various clubs and department forums, which offer platforms to explore diverse interests. These clubs play a vital role in campus life, engaging students in meaningful activities.

Notable clubs include:

Nature Watch: Focuses on environmental conservation with initiatives like tree planting, seed bombing, vermicomposting, and rainwater harvesting.

iCare: Dedicated to corporate social responsibility, iCare works on projects that uplift villages, visit old age homes and orphanages, and organize outreach programs.

Yukthi, Zinios, Journal Club, Tech Minds, Lit Gen, and Ruffles: These clubs provide opportunities for students to explore interests in literature, technology, media, and the arts, fostering both personal and professional growth.



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Model United Nations (MUN) Club: Promotes global awareness, diplomacy, and critical thinking through simulated UN conferences, helping students enhance their negotiation, public speaking, and research skills.

Conclusion: AIT's emphasis on academic excellence, sports, culture, research, and community engagement creates well-rounded graduates. By fostering responsible, innovative, and socially-conscious professionals, AIT makes a lasting impact locally and globally.


PRINCIPAL
ACHARYA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
SOLDEVANAHALLI, BENGALURU - 560 107