

# NIT-T to set up task force on patent filing

Credit for higher ranking goes to team work, says Director Mini Shaji Thomas

C. JAISANKAR  
TIRUCHI

Stating that it was a team effort that eventually put National Institute of Technology-T (NIT-T) on top of National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2017 among 31 NITs and 11<sup>th</sup> among all engineering institutions in the country, Mini Shaji Thomas, Director, NIT-T, said that it would shift the focus on patent filing and generating revenue from patents.

Speaking to *The Hindu* on Wednesday, she said that while retaining the top spot among NITs, it had gone up to 11<sup>th</sup> from 12<sup>th</sup> position among engineering institutions in the NIRF ranking.

The NIT-T had placed well over several IITs in the ranking. It had fared well on several parameters of NIRF ranking. Out of 324 faculty members of NIT-T, 237 had Ph.D qualification. It had the



Mini Shaji Thomas

highest number of women faculty members. It had scored remarkable points on student intake, faculty diversity, placement and higher studies, financial resources and utilisation, research publications, sponsored research projects, consultancy projects and others.

“Credit goes to team work. It has strong and excellent faculty members. All stakeholders have contrib-

uted to the top ranking,” Ms. Thomas said.

She said that it signed 12 Memorandums of Understanding with industry, 8 with foreign academic institutes and 17 with Indian academic institutes this year. It included Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Royal Academy of Engineering for Higher Education, London and Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.

However, the institute had fared below its potential on patent filing, patent publication and earning from patents. So, Ms. Thomas said it had been decided to set up a task force to study the issue on patent filing. Remedial measures would be taken immediately. Workshops would be conducted for each department to disseminate information on the importance of patent filing with entrepreneurs and experts. The International Property

Rights cell would be reactivated with added duties and responsibilities. The aim was not to get patent published but to earn royalty from patents also. The potential researchers would be guided and encouraged to file for patent. If needed, the institute would fund for those filing for patents.

Ms. Thomas said there was a need to step up activities on research and consultancy. Each department had been asked to tie up with leading IITs, industry and institutions for collaborative research, faculty and student exchange programmes. Similarly, options would be explored on having collaboration with international institutions.

On filling up of vacancies, she said it had been taken to the notice Ministry of Human Resources and Development. Action would be shortly taken based on its advice.