

'Ministry of steel chair' to be established at Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Technology

[Jinka Nagaraju](#), TNN | Aug 18, 2013, 01.20 AM IST

HYDERABAD: The Union ministry of steel has identified the city-based [Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Technology](#) (MGIT) for setting up a "steel chair" to produce quality metallurgical and material engineers. Top defence metallurgical scientist K Bhanu Sankara Rao has been appointed in the "ministry of steel chair".

Professor Rao, who has been associated with the development of fast breeder reactor technology, is expected to play a pivotal role in developing trained manpower for the Indian steel industry. He will devise courses in mineral processing, iron making, steel making, and continuous casting. Rao is an expert of international repute in the area of high temperature material used in the development of spacecrafts.

Usually, chairs are established in the IIT and NITs. However, in a departure, the ministry of steel chose MGIT in [Andhra Pradesh](#) for the chair as the state is poised to become a hub of the [manufacturing sector](#) in the near future.

Rao told STOI that the ministry of steel had launched the scheme in 2008-09 to attract students to pursue study in metallurgical engineering and develop human resources to support the future needs of steel plants, academia, research and development. "The demand for metallurgical and material experts is on the rise, but human resource development in the field is not commensurate with the requirement. The ministry of steel has launched this ambitious scheme to produce trained, quality experts to meet the demands of industry and research," said Rao, who served as head, mechanical metallurgy division at [Indira Gandhi](#) Centre for [Atomic](#) Research, Kalpakkam. The ministry of steel has approved a grant of Rs 2 crore to MGIT for the programme, which includes a monthly scholarship for students.

MGIT chairperson V Malakondaiah said the best undergraduate students from third and fourth year will get Rs 10,000 per month as scholarship as per the programme. On the establishment of the steel ministry chair, N Eswar Prasad, noted metallurgist and director, Regional Centre for Military Airworthiness (Materials), Hyderabad, said the country needs an army of metallurgical and material engineering graduates in the next few years as usage of ferrous and non-ferrous metals and alloys, plastics, ceramics in atomic energy, defence, aeronautical, space and power engineering, automobiles, electronics, chemical, oil and gas industries are expected to grow exponentially. Eswar Prasad said the chair would contribute a lot to meet the rising demand.

Centre gifts 'steel chair' to MGIT

Top Defence Scientist To Head 'Minister Of Steel Chair' At City's Tech Institute

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K Bhanu Sankara Rao | NOTED SCIENTIST



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