

'Nature of jobs change every 5 yrs'

The National Institute of Technology-Karnataka (NITK) in Surathkal, Dakshina Kannada district, is in constant touch with industry partners and alumni to understand the nature of changes happening to technology at light-speed. "The nature of jobs will change significantly every 5 years, making even new curricula obsolete by the time students graduate," says Prof B Ravi, director of

NIT Karnataka, Surathkal, and Institute Chair Professor at IIT Bombay.

Industry partners and alumni are regularly involved in evaluating curricula and individual courses, suggesting improvements, delivering lectures, offering project topics and participating in evaluations. "As far as engineering graduates are concerned, what truly matters is the ability to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world situations, a quality increasingly favoured by companies during placements," says Ravi.

NITK, over the past two years, has been conducting multiple rounds of consultations, surveys and reviews involving faculty, alumni and industry stakeholders. These exercises, Ravi says, led to several key insights, including the need to reduce the overall credit load, introduce greater flexibility through electives, develop new minor programmes, and enable multiple career pathways spanning academia, industry and entrepreneurship.

"Students recognise that top jobs go to those who can demonstrate skills, not merely academic knowledge. As a result, many are investing significant time in online learning, vacation internships and weekend freelancing. All such activities contributing to professional development must be formally integrated into the curriculum, academic calendar and weekly timetable," he says.