



Over 1000 Ride at IIT Hyderabad's 'Sundays on Cycle' Under Fit India Initiative

Highlights

- **Fit India's 'Sundays on Cycle'** Gains Momentum at IIT Hyderabad with **1000+ Cyclists**
- Event flagged off by **Pullela Gopichand**, Fit India Director & Director IIT Hyderabad
- Cycling, running, and community fitness activities energise campus and public participation

Hyderabad, March 29, 2026: Echoing the national call for a healthier India, the **Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH)**, in collaboration with the **Fit India** under Sports Authority of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, hosted *Sundays on Cycle*, bringing together **over 1000 participants** from the institute and the wider community in a vibrant celebration of fitness, cycling, and active living.

Organised by the IITH Cycling Club, the event transformed the campus into a dynamic fitness arena early Sunday morning, featuring **10 km and 20 km cycling routes**, alongside warm-up sessions, Zumba, and community engagement activities. The initiative aligns with the Fit India's vision to promote everyday fitness through simple, sustainable practices like cycling.

The event was flagged off by **Chief Guest Pullela Gopichand**, Indian badminton legend, along with distinguished guests **Sushant Kandwal, Director**, Fit India & Khelo India, and **Prof. B. S. Murty, Director**, IITH, and was attended by Chandna Jayaram, Ravi Netha and Santhana Selvan as special guests and Fit India ambassadors.

Addressing the gathering, **Pullela Gopichand** emphasised the importance of integrating sports into daily life, stating that physical activity builds long-term strength and discipline. He encouraged students to adopt sports as a regular habit and appreciated IITH for consistently promoting a culture of fitness through initiatives such as the half-marathon and cycling drives.

Prof. B. S. Murty, Director, IITH, highlighted the institute's commitment to embedding sports within academic life, noting that "At IITH, we believe that fitness and well-being are integral to education. We actively encourage students to adopt cycling as a lifestyle and, in fact, provide support to buy a cycle at the time of admission to help them take up cycling on campus actively. We are also working to integrate sports and physical activity into our academic framework by linking sustained participation in sports to academic credits, making it an integral part of our Fractal Academic System. Initiatives like Sundays on Cycle reflect our commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals while contributing to the larger vision of a Fit India."

Mr. Sushant Kandwal, Fit India Director, noted that the overwhelming participation reflects the growing impact of Fit India's Sundays on Cycle, highlighting IIT Hyderabad as a model campus where students, faculty, and the community actively engage in fitness-driven initiatives.

"With growing participation and sustained momentum, *Sundays on Cycle* is emerging as more than just an event—it is becoming a movement that brings together community, fitness, and sustainability across the country. As institutions like IIT Hyderabad continue to champion such initiatives, they reinforce the idea that building a healthier nation begins with everyday actions and collective participation."

Adding to the spirit of the event, **Ms. Chandna Jayaram**, Fit India Ambassador, shared that fitness not only strengthens the body but also expands opportunities and confidence in life. She encouraged

participants to embrace cycling as an accessible and effective way to stay active.

Dr. Himanshu Joshi, Faculty In-Charge, IIT Hyderabad Cycling Initiative, said: “Events like Sundays on Cycle are playing a crucial role in engaging students and the larger community towards building a healthier lifestyle. IIT Hyderabad’s large, green campus and strong sports infrastructure provide an ideal environment to consistently promote such activities. We are committed to creating a culture where fitness becomes a natural and regular part of students’ daily life.”

The event also drew 1000+ cycling enthusiasts, families, students, and faculty, creating a unique blend of community interaction and healthy competition.

About IIT Hyderabad:

IITH, established in 2008, has reached a respectable position in academics, research, technology development, and Start-ups in a short span of 17+ years. In the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF-2025), IITH is ranked 7th among Engineering institutes (crossing a first-generation IIT this year), and is ranked 6th in Innovation, while it has maintained its rank within the top 10 Engineering Institutes ever since NIRF was launched. IITH is ranked 664th and 270th in the QS World and Asian University Rankings 2026, respectively (among the top 10% of global institutions in citations per faculty). IITH has recorded a major leap in the QS World University Rankings 2026 by Subject, entering the global Top 400 in Engineering & Technology with a rank of 395, marking a sharp improvement from the 501–550 band in 2025. IITH secured 46 positions by 31 faculties in the Stanford /Elsevier Global Top 2% Scientists list 2025 across two categories. IITH has been striving for excellence with a motto of "Inventing & Innovating in Technology for Humanity (IITH)".

With 340+ full-time Faculty, 350+ non-teaching Staff and 5,760+ Students (PG+PhD students accounting for about 60%), IITH has a strong research focus with 5390+ R&D Projects worth of Rs. 1730 Cr (Rs. 335+ Cr funding in 2024-25, i.e. approx. Rs. 1 Cr per Faculty, one of the largest per capita funding among IITs), 13,200+ Publications, 2,55,000+ Citations, 158 h-index, 710+ Patents (250 Patents in 2025, i.e., 0.75 patents per faculty in 2025, making it possibly the best Indian institute in terms of patents filed per faculty in a year), and about 340+ Start-ups (that have generated 1100+ jobs with a revenue of Rs. 1500+ Cr).

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