IIIT Delhi’s Third Newsletter

We are pleased to bring out the third edition of the IIIT-D’s electronic newsletter, which covers key developments in the institute spanning the last six months, including the 2nd convocation, Esya Techfest and our very first cultural fest Odyssey. This bi-annual e-magazine familiarizes you with the impressive growth story of our institute, which has earned a good reputation both in India and abroad in a short period since its establishment in 2008.

Reappointments

Mr Kiran Karnik and Prof Pankaj Jalote have been appointed the institute’s Chairman and Director respectively for a second term, after having successfully guided it to the path of progress in their first terms. Under their stewardship, the institute has achieved several feats – it is among the government institutes in India having the largest student intake in B.Tech and M.Tech courses and also takes pride in having one of the largest Ph.D. programs in Computer Science. With over 10 best paper/poster awards in international conferences, 12 TCS Ph.D. fellowships (both believed to be the highest in the country), and 3 PM's doctoral fellowships (next only to IITB), IIIT-D has stood out in the academic circles both in India and abroad. Read more.

Esya Techfest

IIIT-D organized its third annual tech fest ‘Esya’, which brings together talented students from across the country and helps create opportunities for collaborations among scholars and industry guidance to materialize innovative concepts, on August 16-17, 2013. Sponsored by over 30 firms like Microsoft Research, IBM, NTPC and Union Bank of India, the inter-college tech festival witnessed technical contests like Overnight Hackathon, Procon-programming, Seg Fault-debugging and Robocon-robotics as also fun events like IT-treasure hunt, Crossword and Pool games. Read more.

2nd Convocation of the Institute

The second convocation of the institute was held on August 25, 2013 during which a total of 79 B.Tech and M.Tech students were awarded degrees. Delhi University Vice Chancellor Dr Dinesh Singh was the Chief Guest, who described the IIIT-D as a “nascent, young and vibrant institution” which “has set benchmarks for others to emulate, to pay attention to.” Mr Kiran Karnik, Chairman of the IIIT-D Board of Governors, said on the occasion that: “Few institutions can claim to have established a reputation for themselves in such a short period of time”, while IIIT-D Director, Prof Pankaj Jalote, said: “Research remains a key focus for the Institute and we support and encourage our faculty to take up interesting challenges and projects.” Read More.

Craig Mundie’s Visit

Mr. Craig Mundie, a Microsoft veteran, visited the institute on September 18, 2013 and delivered a talk on how computing technology will continue to shape our future. “The technology revolution has already done a lot, and will bring more radical changes in future,” he said as students and faculty members heard him in rapt attention at a packed conference hall. Mr. Mundie, who joined Microsoft in 1992, said that natural interactions between people and computers will become more and more important in the years to come, adding that the “new era of computing will transform how we live, work and play.” Read More.

5th Anniversary Celebrations

The institute marked five years of excellence in research and teaching by organizing a mega celebration on October 26, 2013, which saw participation of top leaders from the government, academia and industry. The occasion also witnessed the release of the first documentary film on IIIT-D as well as a special fifth anniversary brochure containing all the achievements made by the institute since its inception nearly six years ago. Read More.
Approval for Phase – II Construction of the Campus

IIIT-D, which moved in to its beautiful 25-acre campus in Okhla, phase-III in 2012, has embarked upon the 2nd phase of construction for its capacity upgradation to 2500 students from the present 900. This would involve construction of around 6lac sqft of built-up area and include academic block, seminar block, faculty residences, hostels and sports block at an estimated cost of around Rs 200 Crores.

IIIT-D’s First Centre of Excellence – ‘Cybersecurity Education & Research Centre’

IIIT-D has opened its first Centre of Excellence in cyber security, which will involve high-level education, technical training and research in this critical area with an aim to help various stakeholders like the government, industry and general public.

The Cybersecurity Education and Research Centre (CERC), whose Founding Head is Dr Ponnurangam Kumaraguru ("PK"), was inaugurated on January 23, 2014 by Dr Gulshan Rai, Director General of CERT-In (Computer Emergency Response Team-India), Govt. of India, during a special event held at the institute, in presence of Mr Kiran Kamik, Chairman of the IIIT-D Board of Governors; Prof. Pankaj Jalote, Director of the institute; and several other eminent people from the industry and academia.

IIIT-D Students Win FICCI Contest

Paridhi Jain, a PhD scholar at IIIT-D, and her teammates from the ‘PreCog’ research group, Megha Arora and Neha Gupta, emerged victorious in FICCI’s ‘Strengthening the Policing Contest 2013 – Ensuring Women Safety in India’, beating a large number of participants from across the country. In the backdrop of rising crime rate against women in India, which has resulted in a drastic 35 per cent drop in female tourist arrivals to the country, the trio’s proposal entitled ‘Safe Safari’ listed measures aimed at preventing such crimes in future.

Odyssey, the First Cultural Fest of IIIT-D

Firmly believing that a cultural fest brings out new talent and showcases the diversity of different art forms, IIIT-D students this year launched the first edition of the institute’s cultural fest entitled Odyssey, a long and eventful journey of unearthing and unleashing the talent and vigour of each and every participant. The January 31-February 1 mega event was full of music, dance, drama and a lot more, with stupendous performances by renowned artistes, including Palash Sen of the renowned Euphoria group.

IIIT-D Awards its First Ph.D.

Achieving yet another milestone, IIIT-D has awarded its first Ph.D. to research scholar Kuldeep, who was admitted to the pioneering CS Ph.D. batch in 2009. With this, in just over 5 years, the institute has graduated students in all three higher education degrees - Bachelors, Masters and Ph.D.

New Faculty at IIIT-D

IIIT-D has added three full-time faculty members – Dr Rahul Purandare, Dr Saket Anand and Dr Anubha Gupta – over the last six months, with all of them holding Ph.D.s from prestigious institutions in India and abroad. IIIT Delhi now has over 40 permanent, 14 adjunct and 10 visiting faculty members.

Placement Stats

IIIT-D, whose students enjoy the best combination of strong technical background and excellent soft skills, continue to witness impressive placement statistics. The B.Tech and M.Tech batches, which are set to graduate this year, have already secured a total of 132 offers, including 22 from overseas. The highest salary offered in India is Rs 16 lakh, while it is Rs 33 lakh overseas.