Honorable Chief Guest Padma Shri T.V. Mohandas Pai, Chairperson of the Board of Manipal Global Education Services, Mr. Kiran Karnik, Chairman Board of Governors, members of the faculty and staff, invited guests and all the graduating students and their family members – I heartily welcome you all on this occasion, the 6th Convocation of IIIT-Delhi.

Established in 2008, the institute is incessantly setting up new benchmarks of modern engineering education in the country. In this convocation, we are proud to confer 139 B.Tech and 97 M.Tech degrees. And we are also conferring 13 PhDs – this is the first year we have crossed double digits – quite an achievement for a program that was started in 2009, and the first Ph.D. graduated in 2014 only. Also, 10 of these PhDs are in Computer Science, which is more than what even some established institutions graduate in a year in CS. With this, we have graduated altogether around 1100 students.

With this year's admission, IIIT-Delhi student population has grown to 1414 students, including 1016 BTech, 259 MTech, and 139 Ph.D. students. The backbone of IIIT-Delhi is its faculty; current strength is around 58 and about twelve visiting faculty members. To expand course offerings to our students, we have been allowing a limited number of credits to be earned through approved online courses. All put together IIIT-Delhi indeed provides its students a world-class education – rigorous courses taught by high-quality faculty, modern and flexible curriculum, good infrastructure, and various innovations in education.

Taking our approach for innovating in education forward, this year we started our two new B.Tech programs in 'Computer Science and Design' and in 'Information Technology and Social Science.' Both of these are unique in the country and have been appreciated not only in India but outside as well. This strengthens our "CS + X" approach for growth in interdisciplinary education. It is heartening to know that while we embarked on this approach about three years ago at least two other leading universities in the world are also following this approach – UIUC and Stanford – both of whom have formally launched this as a paradigm.

The Placement of Class of 2017 has been exceptionally high as well. The class received 342 total offers from 102 companies, with most high-tech companies visiting the Institute for recruitment. The average salary was over 12 lakhs, with two-thirds of the students having offers of more than Rs 8 Lac. In the ongoing placement for the batch which will graduate in 2018, as of now, the students placed above Rs 8 lacs is currently about 80%.

More than 12% of students of Class of 2017 have gone for higher studies in top universities across the world. In the past, our students have received offers from over 20 foreign universities including Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), University of Cambridge, Georgia Tech, University of Southern California, University of California San Diego, University of Waterloo, UIUC, Cambridge, Oxford, Purdue etc. This year one of our alums from the class of 2015 cleared the UPSC examination – probably the first to take this route.

As with any university that aspires to global respect and standing, contributions to research are critical. Last year, our faculty and students published over 185 research papers, including 58 journal papers, 123 conference papers, four workshop papers, and seven book/book chapters. Our faculty was invited to more than 100 national and international seminars as a speaker. Like previous years, this year also our faculty received several awards including best paper awards in conferences, NVIDIA Innovation Award, and the Visvesvaraya Young Faculty Fellowship.

The sponsored projects are a critical driver for research. This year the institute was able to get 36 research projects sanctioned, for a total sanctioned amount of around 14 Crores. Faculty and research scholars engaged in innovative technological developments, deployed more than ten new technologies last year in other organizations.

Our Ph.D. students have received several prestigious fellowships last year, including 1 CSIR Ph.D. Fellowship, 1 Visvesvaraya Ph.D. Fellowship, 3 TCS, 1 IBM, 1 Intel and 4 Project Fellowships. The quality of contributions by our faculty and PhD students has been recognized in the form of various awards and honors to the faculty including fellowships of professional societies, editorships of international journals, and best paper awards to the students.

We continue having a committed staff with excellent work ethic. I am happy to report that their efforts were also recognized by AICTE awarding IIIT-Delhi as the Cleanest Campus in North-West Region.

The institute is working towards establishing more research centres for conducting focused research in key areas with a critical mass of faculty and researchers. IIIT-Delhi is delighted to report that TCS has agreed to sponsor our new Center for Design and New Media – the first of its kind in the country. This center will do research in areas like HCI, interaction design, design thinking, gaming, animation, special effects, digital music, etc. With this, we have now two centers sponsored generously by major Indian corporations – which I am sure is first of sorts in the country. We hope in years to come more corporations will sponsor our centers and other activities.

We are also happy to report that the Government of Delhi has launched a scheme to support research by providing research grant equal to the funds raised by the Institute. With this scheme and our strong record in getting sponsored research projects, we are well on our way to having sufficient funding to support our research, which is always a challenge for any university with a research focus.

Our stated values since the inception of the Institute are "socially relevant, industry facing, and globally connected." We have always taken these aspirations seriously and our policies and programs are often influenced by these goals. Let me share some data for each of these.

Socially Relevant. All B.Tech students of IIIT-Delhi are required to do 2 credits of Community Work as part of their graduation requirement. Most work with various NGOs for this. Last summer 116 students did this and worked with a variety of NGOs including Sarthak Prayas, Daitri, and Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group working in areas like educating weaker sections of society, Blood and Stem cell donation camps, child rights, women welfare etc. IIIT-Delhi had also launched a summer camp for nearby government school children, run largely by our students. Last summer, the camp had 154 school students from 6 schools, and a team of 30 volunteers and 5 student coordinators from the institute ran it. The camp was inaugurated by Hon'ble Dy CM of Delhi, who also came to the closing session to interact with the children to see the impact of this camp.

Industry Facing. Our faculty is engaged with industry in various ways. Last year there were 18 consultancy projects from 14 different companies, 7 M.Tech theses were co-guided with industry, 5(3 TCS, 1 Intel, 1 IBM) Ph.D. fellowships were given by industries, and of course, one center is being sponsored by TCS, while the other is being sponsored by Infosys. One of my faculty colleagues, Dr. Sambuddho received a research grant for working on Internet Vulnerabilities of Organizations by Persistent Systems Pvt. Ltd of Rs 44 Lac – the largest research project received from industry so far.

Globally Connected. About two-thirds of our faculty members have obtained their PhDs overseas, and almost all our faculty have spent significant time overseas. No wonder, there are many collaborations going on with faculty and researchers across the world. Last year there were over 102 collaborations with academic institutions from across the world, and 50 papers which were co-authored with researchers from overseas organizations were published. Also, 8 Ph.D. students went on Overseas Research Fellowships. One of my colleagues, Dr. Shobha, received a research grant of about Rs 40 Lac for Radar Imaging of Humans Behind Walls by Air Force Research Laboratory of US.

All these achievements in our pursuit of excellence in all aspects of academics have helped IIIT-Delhi achieve a global stature, which is now being recognized as well. We are very proud to report that the QS BRICS University rankings have ranked IIIT-Delhi in top 200 in their 2018 edition, in which they evaluated 9000 institutions in BRICS countries – putting IIIT-Delhi in the top 2%. There are only two other Universities from Delhi in top 200 – IIT Delhi and Delhi University. We already have NBA accreditation for the B.Tech (CSE) program and the UGC 12B and NAAC 'A' Level accreditation.

As can be seen, phase II of the campus construction is almost complete – the New Academic Building is fully functional now adding more spaces for classes, labs, faculty offices, and networking areas. Other buildings are also expected to be delivered as per the schedule. We are grateful to Delhi Government for providing the generous financial support for this phase.

IIIT-Delhi is aware of the enhanced expectations from the student community and the general public, and the Institute strives to live up to the image that has been so assiduously built up over the years. It is our continuous endeavor to work towards attaining higher standards of excellence in all spheres of activities.

Before I conclude my annual report, I would like to sincerely thank the various stakeholders whose effort and support has made this all happen. My sincere thanks to our Chairman, Mr. Karnik, and members of the Board of Governors for their guidance, to the Government for their continued support for infrastructure, and to the faculty and staff of the Institute for their effort and dedication to achieve the vision of excellence in research and education that we have for the Institute so we can serve Delhi and the Nation. And, of course, my thanks to our students, who really provide the raison d'etre for an academic Institution, and who have imbibed our value of working hard to deliver value.