

Director's Report

Honorable Chancellor, Mr. Anil Baijal, Chief Guest Mr. Rajan Anandan, Vice President, Google India and South East Asia, 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 7th Convocation of IIIT-Delhi.

In this convocation, we are proud to confer 122 B.Tech, 97 M.Tech and 1 M.Tech Dual Degree. And we are also conferring 6 Ph.D. degrees. Congratulations to all the graduates. Let us have a big round of applause for students who have worked hard and learned to earn their degrees.

This year, we have admitted about 415 BTech students in six programs, about 220 MTech students in 3 programs with 6 different specializations, and 29 PhD students. With this year's admission, IIIT-Delhi student population has grown to 1847 students, including 1282 BTech, 404 MTech, and 161 Ph.D. students.

We have added, another interdisciplinary program, B.Tech program in 'Computer Science and Biosciences', taking our total CS+X programs to 4. We have also added an MTech specialization in Artificial Intelligence – something that is much needed in the country.

The backbone of IIIT-Delhi is its faculty and officers. We continue recruiting high quality faculty, and last year 13 new regular faculty members, about 10 full and part time visiting faculty, and about 12 officers joined the Institute.

The institute's placement record continues to be impressive – most programs have a 100 percent placement record, though some have about 90%. This placement season, a total of 446 offers were made at the institute, which comprises of 235 full-time job offers and 211 intern offers. The average compensation is among the highest of the engineering institutions in the country – around Rs 15 Lac. Our PhD students are also getting excellent post-PhD opportunities – this year's graduates have gone for postdoc to US and Sg, for corporate R&D, and two have joined academia.

I am happy to observe that this year also a good number of students have opted for higher education. About 17 students from the graduating batch and 13 alums are going for higher studies - 8 are going to universities in India like ISB, IIM Calcutta, IIT Bombay, etc and 22 are going overseas in places like Univ of Johns Hopkins University, CMU, University of California, Berkeley, UCLA, New York University, University of Michigan, etc.

As with any university that aspires to global respect and standing, contributions to research are critical. Last year, our faculty and students published 195 research papers, including 83 journal papers, 101 conference papers, and eleven 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 many best paper/poster awards in conferences. One of our faculty member from the computational biology department was awarded by UP Government for his contributions in the area of science.

The sponsored projects are crucial factors to provide industry exposure to our students. This year the institute was able to get 22 researched projects sanctioned (including the consultancy

projects), for a total sanctioned amount of around 7 Crores. Faculty and research scholars engaged in innovative technological developments, and have filled for five patents last year. Overall, there are about 60 active projects in the Institute.

Our Ph.D. students received many prestigious fellowships last year, including 2 Prime Minister fellowships. Our students run many clubs and have won many medals in many external events including sporting events.

As per our Act, IIIT-Delhi has to be financially self-sustaining on the recurring front. For this, it is essential for the Institute to raise funds through corporate and other external sources. Two years ago, we got a significant breakthrough in the form of Rs 24 crore support from Infosys for setting the Center for AI. This year, also we have made tremendous achievements in engaging with CSR and donors for championing various causes.

- TCS is sponsoring the Center for Design and New Media with a grant of Rs 28 crores over 7 years. This center is unique in the country, which will work in areas like HCI, interaction design, design thinking, gaming, animation, special effects, digital music, etc., and will also support the BTech in CS and Design program.
- Padma Shri TV Mohandas Pai has established Mohandas and Kusum Pai Fellowship to provide travel grants to Ph.D. students to present their work in international conferences.
- The Sarojini Damodaran Foundation, founded by Mrs. and Mr. Shibulal, is providing support for overseas research fellowships for 60 Ph.D. Scholars in IIIT-Delhi over the next three years.
- The Shri Gyan Jalote chair is the first one established in IIIT-Delhi. It has been established by my family and me with support from my brother and his family in the name of my parents – Sri Ram Jalote and Gyan Vati Jalote.
- IGL has provided a corpus of Rs 65 Lakh to provide 7 Merit-cum-Means scholarships for B.Tech students every year.

With support like these and the matching grant for research scheme of the Govt of Delhi, we will soon be self-sustaining.

As can be seen, phase II of the campus construction is complete – Most of our buildings are fully functional now adding more spaces for classes, labs, faculty offices, and residential areas. Honorable Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, inaugurated the phase II of the campus a few days back. With this, the institute has physical infrastructure for about 3000 students, 150 faculty members, and about 100 officers.

All the achievements have led the Institute to be ranked in BRICS top 200 University by QS, 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.

Before I conclude, I am very proud to note that the institute will be completing ten years. The Institute is entering a new phase with solid foundations in place. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all my colleagues whose effort and support has made this all happen. In particular, my sincere thanks to our Chairman, Mr. Karnik who has been guiding the

past 10 years, and members of the Board for their direction, to the Government for their continued support for infrastructure. And, of course, to my faculty and staff colleagues 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.

I should also point out that this is my last convocation as Director. I am happy to report that a distinguished academician, Prof. Ranjan Bose, from IIT Delhi will be taking over as the Director the very next day after my term finishes – this is another example of standards set by IIT-Delhi – the Director being selected and announced well in advance. I look forward to supporting the new Director, along with my colleagues and all other stakeholders, in taking IIT-Delhi to greater heights. I will be at IIT-Delhi as a Distinguished Professor, though will be on Sabbatical from December 2018

With this, I would like to congratulate the graduating batch and their families and wish them all the best in future.