

Director's Report for IIIT-D's 8th Convocation

Honorable Chancellor, Mr. Anil Baijal, Chief Guest Ms. Debjani Ghosh, President, NASSCOM, Mr. Kiran Karnik, Chairman Board of Governors, members of the Senate, members of the faculty and staff, invited guests and all the graduating students and their family members. It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 8th Convocation of IIIT-Delhi. I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Debjani Ghosh for accepting our invitation to be the Chief Guest and kindly agreeing to deliver the Convocation address. I would also like to express my gratitude to Honorable Chancellor for taking out his valuable time to grace this occasion.

In this convocation, we are proud to confer 155 B.Tech., 115 M.Tech. and 1 M.Tech. Dual Degree. Along with these, we are also conferring 14 Ph.D. degrees. Congratulations to all the graduates!

This year, we have admitted 469 B.Tech. students in seven programs, 207 M.Tech. students in 3 programs with 7 different specializations, and 27 Ph.D. students. With this year's admission, IIIT-Delhi's student population has grown to 2230 students, including 1564 B.Tech., 484 M.Tech., and 182 Ph.D. students.

IIIT-Delhi has always stayed ahead of the curve in introducing new courses and programs in emerging areas. From this year, we have added another interdisciplinary program, B.Tech. in 'Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence'. Last year, we had already added an M.Tech. specialization in Artificial Intelligence.

The backbone of IIIT-Delhi is its faculty and staff. We continue recruiting high-quality faculty, and last year we added 12 regular faculty members, 10 visiting faculty, and about 9 staff members. IIIT-Delhi has always been sensitive to the importance of gender diversity and I am happy to share that over 40% of the new faculty colleagues are women.

The Institute's placement record continues to be impressive - most programs have a 96% to 98% placement record. This placement season, a total of 443 offers were made at the Institute, which comprises of 269 full-time job offers and 174 intern offers. There is a significant growth in A+ offers. By most measures for placement – highest domestic salary offered, the percentage of students placed, mean and median offers – we are amongst the top few in the country. Our Ph.D. students are also getting excellent opportunities in terms of postdoc offers, corporate R&D and in academia.

I am happy to observe that this year also a significant number of students have opted for higher education. About 25 students from the graduating batch are going for higher studies out of which 17 are pursuing masters and 8 are pursuing Ph.D. Our students are going to top overseas universities like Georgia Tech, CMU, University of California, John Hopkins University, Harvard University, University of Maryland, University of Virginia, University of Kansas, University of Texas at Austin etc.

The faculty members and the students at IIIT-Delhi have been actively contributing to cutting-edge research, which is often multidisciplinary. Last year, our faculty members and students published 197 research papers, including 86 journal papers, 101 conference papers, and eleven book/book chapters. Our faculty members were invited to more than 140 national and international seminars as speakers. Our faculty members have also received several awards and recognitions in the past year. Some of these are the Sun Pharma Research Award, elevation to Fellow, International Association of Pattern Recognition, DST Swarnajayanti Fellowship, Visvesvaraya Young Faculty Fellowship, IEEE ICASSP Education Innovation Award, URSI Young scientist award, Google India Faculty Award, Royal Society's Commonwealth Science Conference Follow-on Grant, DST Early Career

Research Award and several best paper/poster awards in some of the top international conferences.

Sponsored projects are critical for augmenting the research culture of the Institute. This year the Institute was able to get 36 research projects sanctioned (including consultancy projects), for a total sanctioned amount of around 7.29Crores. Overall, there are about 103 active projects in the Institute. Our faculty members and research scholars have also filed for 5 patents in the past year.

Our Ph.D. students received many prestigious fellowships last year, including 1 Prime Minister fellowship. The IIIT-Delhi team also made it to world finals of the highly-competitive International Collegiate Programming Contest. Our students run as many as 23 clubs and have won several medals/prizes in many external events, including sporting events. Some of the prizes won in the last year include the first prize at Angelhack, the first position in Criterium, first in Trashion both in IITD Rendezvous and IITB Mood Indigo, gold medal in discus throw at IIT Kanpur sports fest, gold medal in girl's football at IIT Roorkee sports fest etc. The IIIT-Delhi cultural fest Odyssey was organised in January 2019 with a huge footfall of over 8000 people on campus.

A 'Center of Technology in Policing' has been established at the Institute following the discussions with the Honorable Chancellor Mr. Anil Baijal, Lt. Governor of Delhi. This Center shall be an advanced resource hub in terms of related research, providing expert help in the prevention and investigation of cybercrime and skill enhancement. The Center was inaugurated by Honorable Chancellor on Dec 4, 2018. Recently, Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has also signed an MoU with IIIT-Delhi, by the virtue of which IIIT-Delhi will help strengthen the IT Network infrastructure of DDA.

IIIT-Delhi has proactively worked towards establishing strong linkages with industry. Recently, we have signed an MoU with STMicroelectronics Pvt. Ltd. and are setting up a research lab at IIIT-Delhi in collaboration with Samsung India. Under our Industry Outreach Program, we will be conducting online weekend courses for the working professionals in areas of Internet of Things and Machine Learning, together with Tech Mahindra Growth Factories Limited. IIIT-Delhi has also signed an MoU with the Indian Navy, which will enable officers sponsored by the Navy to enroll in our M.Tech. (CSE) program.

Our quest for international collaborations has led to the strengthening of our existing research linkages and the creation some new ones. IIIT-Delhi has signed an MoU with the Queensland University of Technology to foster collaborative research and guide joint Ph.D. students. We have also signed an MoU with Korea University for a collaborative Ph.D. program.

The Institute is also emphasizing research linked to sustainable development goals and creating a culture of innovation on campus leading to both intrapreneurship and entrepreneurship. In order to foster the spirit of innovation on campus, the Institute Innovation Council has been set up. Among other activities, the Institute Innovation Council has been organizing Ideas Pitching events by budding entrepreneurs, a wisdom talk series by leading experts in various domains with an aim to facilitate the reimagining of the IIIT-Delhi campus as a proving ground of innovative ideas. The basic motivation is to get the spirit of innovation in the DNA of the Institute. With this objective, we have inaugurated the new facility of our Incubation centre in June 2019. Our technology business incubator is supported by DST, Govt. of India and DTTE, Govt. of NCT Delhi. The incubation centre has also signed an MoU with Yonsei Enterprise Support Foundation, the Incubation Center of Yonsei University, Korea. Currently, we have 15 startup companies on campus, of which, 5 are student startups, 2 are startups by faculty members, 4 are startups by our alumni and 4 are faculty-mentored.

IIIT-Delhi has been ranked 55 in the engineering category by NIRF Ranking 2019, which is a jump of 11 ranks from the previous year. QS ranked IIIT-Delhi in 'top 50' in their India Rankings. The credit goes to the faculty members, students, staff and well-wishers of the Institute.

On campus, we have created the Well-Being Cell that focuses on providing counselling, psychological support and the holistic development to students. Several programs/workshops on relaxation, meditation, yoga, leadership,

gender sensitization, and others are organized regularly to nurture the holistic wellness in our students. In addition, a Students' welfare fund has also been created. To strengthen our bonds with our alumni we have formally started the IIT-Delhi Alumni Association and have launched the IIT-Delhi Foundation USA, where we already have a functioning Bay Area Chapter.

IIT-Delhi continues to increase its outreach activities. The students of IIT-Delhi conducted a summer camp for nearby government school children. The camp had over 170 students from 5 government schools, and a team of 30 UG student volunteers from our Institute ran it for over 5 weeks. The Department of Mathematics also organised a summer camp for school students of classes 9-12. I am also happy to share that one of our faculty colleagues has developed a MOOCs under NPTEL, and we are actively contributing to the national pool of educational resources.

I am pleased to inform that IIT-Delhi has been ranked 'Fourth' amongst the cleanest Higher Educational Institutions in the country in the category 'Technical Institutions – Universities (Residential)'. With the completion of the Phase II construction, we now have a built-up area of 100,000 square meters. This includes a five-story lecture hall complex, eight-story R&D Block, modern classrooms, research labs, a four-story Library and Information Centre, Incubation Centre, newly constructed hostels for boys and girls to accommodate 1800+ students, dining and student activity centre, and Faculty residence blocks. The campus also has a multipurpose playing field, a gymnasium, indoor badminton and squash courts, outdoor tennis courts, basketball and volleyball courts and an indoor swimming pool. The campus incorporates several green-building features and is GRIHA-rated, zero-discharge campus with sewage treatment plants, rainwater harvesting, heat pumps, and solar power plant on terraces of all new buildings.

Before I conclude my annual report, I would like to sincerely thank the various stakeholders whose effort and support has made all this happen. My sincere thanks to our Chairman, Mr. Karnik, and members of the Board of Governors for their guidance and wise counsel, to the Government for their continued support for infrastructure, and to the faculty, staff and students of the Institute for their untiring effort and dedication towards maintaining the high standards of the Institute.

Finally, dear graduating students, on behalf of IIT-Delhi, I congratulate each one of you on your great achievement. From today, you are on your own. Choose the path that excites you, stimulates your intellectual passion, harnesses your talents and engages your mind in the most productive manner. Plan to shape the world around you, rather than being shaped by it. Our good wishes are with you, and I am sure you will make us and the country proud.

Jai Hind