

IIT Mandi's 7th Foundation Day Celebrations

IIT Mandi celebrated its 7th Foundation Day on February 24th, 2016, at its permanent campus at Kamand. Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Director, Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Palampur, was the Chief Guest for the function. On the occasion, the Director, IIT Mandi, Prof. Timothy A. Gonsalves welcomed dignitaries, faculty, staff, and students. The dignitaries included, Prof. Subrata Ray, Dean (I&S); Prof. B. D. Chaudhary, Dean (Academics); Dr. Prem Felix Siril, Dean (SRIC); Dr. Suman Kalyan Pal, Dean (Students); Senior Professors, Prof. Ramesh Oruganti and Prof. B. Subramanian; and, Mr. Mohammad Shakeel, Registrar, IIT Mandi.



Students, Staff, and Faculty at IIT Mandi's 7th Foundation Day

Seven years ago, IIT Mandi's foundation stone was laid on the very same day at Kamand to mark the beginning of this Institute. Now, the Institute has a large number of its students and faculty residing at the Kamand campus. With academic, research, cultural activities happening on its permanent campus on a regular basis, the Institute has developed a strong foundation and is already proving to be a single destination for excellence, innovation, and learning in the Himalayas. The day was commemorated with various sports events, cultural activities, and an award ceremony for students, faculty, and staff of IIT Mandi.

The sports events included games like the volleyball, tug-of-war, and musical chairs for men and women with participation from faculty, staff, and students. A painting and memory-game competition was also organized for the children from the IIT Mandi Takshila primary school.

The volleyball game was won by a student team comprising of 2nd and 3rd year B. Tech. students. The tug-of-war was won by the Institute staff and faculty team. The painting and memory-game competitions were won by children from Takshila primary school



Faculty and students participating in a tug-of-war game on the occasion of IIT Mandi's 7th Foundation Day Celebrations

The sports activity was followed by the foundation day function and honouring of dignitaries. The foundation day function started with Director's address. In his address, the Director highlighted that IIT Mandi was first among the new IITs to develop and use its permanent campus at Kamand. The Director mentioned that currently 90% of IIT Mandi faculty had their labs and teaching at Kamand. Also, he mentioned that, by June 2016, significant amount of construction will be accomplished in the Institute's North campus, including a 400-bedded hostel and an independent mess for students. The Director also mentioned that this rapid growth of IIT Mandi will allow the Institute to start newer Master's programs in engineering and sciences and expand its existing Master's programs ahead in this year. He stressed the point that the Institute had developed a solid foundation and this foundation will help the Institute to grow its research and academic activities in the near future.

The Director's address was followed by an address by Prof. Subrata Ray, Dean (I&S). In his address, Prof. Ray highlighted the flexible structure that the Institute possessed, which was unlike that of the older IITs. He mentioned that the flexible structure allowed IIT Mandi to undertake interdisciplinary projects that cut across different boundaries and disciplines. Citing the example of Albert Einstein, Prof. Ray stressed that the Institute faculty need not



just produce a large number of publications; rather, the faculty's focus should be to work on research problems in frontier and novel areas of science and technology.

Prof. Ray's address was followed by an address by the Chief Guest, Dr. Sanjay Kumar. In his address, the Chief Guest emphasized the importance of the 7th foundation day as IIT Mandi's logo contained a bridge with 7-pillars. He also emphasized the importance of thinking beyond the problem at hand and unleashing one's imagination. He highlighted that students in India are comfortable when told facts; however, they hesitate when shown phenomena not explainable by facts alone. He asked the students to be passionate about their work and not take things on face value but question the reason (i.e., “why”) behind them.

The Chief Guest's address was followed by a cultural programme. In the cultural programme, children of IIT Mandi's Kamand and Mandi day cares and Takshila School put-up entertaining dance performances. Other items included a musical number by Dr. Puran Singh, Faculty in Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Mandi; and, a mix of Western and Indian style music and dance performances by the cultural section of the Institute.

The day also saw distribution of awards to the students, staff, and faculty for their achievements and excellence in their work at IIT Mandi. At the event, 11 faculty, 17 staff, 3 officers, and 44 students were awarded for their exemplary achievements and contributions to building the Institute. The day got to a close with a vote of thanks by Dr. Prem Felix Siril, Dean (SRIC), and this marked the start of a new semester in the New Year at the Institute.

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