

2nd Convocation Day at IIT Mandi



Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi, the youngest of all IITs and the only IIT in the Himalayas, celebrated its second Convocation ceremony on 15th March, 2015. The Convocation ceremony took place on IIT Mandi's permanent campus at Kamand. As part of this Convocation, 116 B. Tech. students, 8 M.S. students, and 3 Ph.D. students graduated from the Institute. Mr. Shoubhik Debnath was awarded the President's Gold Medal, Mr. Anand Dhandhanian was awarded the Director's Gold Medal. Mr. Shoubhik Debnath, Mr. Krishna Karnani, and Mr. Deepak Sharma was awarded the Institute Silver Medal. Furthermore, Ms. Damini Singal was awarded the Rani Gonsalves Medal for Outstanding Female B. Tech. Student.

The Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, was to be the Chief Guest of the function. However, the President was unable to reach the venue due to inclement weather. In the President's absence, the Hon'ble Shri Kalyan Singh, Governor of Himachal Pradesh was the Chief Guest. Furthermore, the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, the Hon'ble Shri Virbhadra Singh presided. Other dignitaries included, Shri M. Natarajan, the Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT Mandi.

The ceremony began with the national anthem which set the tone of this second Convocation in the Himalayas. Shri Natarajan declared the Convocation open. The Convocation Ceremony began with the welcome speech and report by the Prof. Timothy A. Gonsalves, Director, IIT Mandi. In his report, the Director emphasized the development of IIT Mandi in the past two years, both on academic and administrative fronts. He also mentioned the achievements of faculty and students in the recent years. The Director emphasized the unique curriculum of IIT Mandi which promotes interdisciplinarity.

Shri Virbhadra Singh congratulated IIT Mandi for its recent expansion of the academic curriculum to include Master's programs in Chemistry and Energy Materials and appreciated the initiation of an upcoming program in infrastructure and civil engineering. He encouraged IIT Mandi to undertake research in green energy and allied areas. Furthermore, the Chief Minister thanked the state's public works department for starting the work of broadening the Mandi - Kamand road.

Shri Kalyan Singh congratulated the students and wished them success in building future careers and serving the state and the nation. He praised IIT Mandi's faculty, staff, and students for their contribution in building - up IIT Mandi as an institute of higher technical education in Himachal Pradesh in a very short span of time. The Governor emphasised the need to serve country and humanity by bringing out the best in oneself through strong determination and high goals.

In the absence of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Shri M. Natarajan read out the President's message. In his message, the President congratulated the IIT for its commendable accomplishments in the area of academics, infrastructure, and placements. He suggested that the nation's forward march in arts, science, and technology must overcome existing problems and challenges along the way, and this march should be spearheaded by its bright young engineers and scientists. He also encouraged the students to payback the society in the form of dividends by using their gained knowledge and skills to help those who are weak, needy, and deprived. Also, the President stressed on the valuable contribution that the IIT Mandi alumni can make through the 'Make in India' initiative. After President's message was read, the Convocation was declared closed by Shri M. Natarajan. Prior to the speeches by dignitaries, a pledge was taken by graduating students. In the pledge, students took an oath to utilize their knowledge in the service of India in its march towards a just, inclusive, and sustainable society. After the closure of the Convocation, all the dignitaries visited the Exhibition Hall, where an exhibit showcased the research and innovation at IIT Mandi.



Throughout the programme, the sense of pride and achievement was palpable among the students, families, and the faculty and staff of the Institute. Although the Convocation happened on a day that saw rain and cloudy skies, the event ended with a ray of hope and joy that is sure to inspire the students and faculty of this Institute in the years ahead.