

IIT Mandi's 6th Foundation Day Celebrations, 24th February, 2015

IIT Mandi celebrated its 6th Foundation Day on February 24, 2015, at its permanent campus at Kamand. Dr. Priscilla Gonsalves, the first lady of IIT Mandi, 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, Distinguished Visiting Professor; Prof. Ramesh Oruganti, Dean (Academics); Prof. Lalit Malhotra, Dean (Finance and Accounts); and, Mr. Mohammad Shakeel, Registrar, IIT Mandi.



Six 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 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 cross-country race with participation from faculty, staff, and students. The volleyball game was won by a team of 3rd year and 4th year B. Tech. students. The tug-of-war for men was won by the 4th year B. Tech. students. Also, the tug-of-war for women was won by the girl's student team. The sports activity was followed by lighting of the lamp and honouring dignitaries. The lamp lighting was followed by Director's address. In his address, the Director highlighted the role a foundation plays in building of an institute. He mentioned that a strong foundation helps in the overall development of the academic edifice and helps in incorporating changes which come about in the future. Using the analogy of the construction of the Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world, he explained that the quality of the academic foundation needs to be measured. He mentioned that there are several ways of measuring academic quality and some of these ways include, publications, student exchange, placements, faculty interaction with industry, and ability to get funds from abroad. He said that before we construct the next floor, we also need to stop, take stock, and plan for changes.



The Director's address was followed by an address by the Chief Guest, Dr. Priscilla Gonsalves. In her address, the Chief Guest reminded the audience of the beginning years when there was no IIT Mandi at Kamand and the area was in darkness; and, now, after 6 years, the Kamand valley sparkled like a jewel. Also, she recounted the fact that there were a number of hardships related to living at Kamand; however, the students, staff, and faculty had adapted to their surroundings courageously. She also thanked the Kamand residents for welcoming the IIT Mandi

community to their neighborhood. 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 and a skit on saving tigers and caring for our plants, trees, and forests. Other items included a classical dance performance by Sonali Malhotra, IIT Mandi, and a mix of Western and Indian style dance performance by first -year B. Tech. students. The day also saw distribution of awards to the students, staff, and faculty for their achievements and excellence in their work at IIT Mandi. The day got to a close with a vote of thanks by the Registrar and marked the start of a new semester in the New Year at IIT Mandi.