



PRESS RELEASE

Prof. Laxmidhar Behera appointed as the New Director of IIT Mandi

Dr Laxmidhar Behera will succeed the current acting director Prof A K Chaturvedi

Mandi, 13 January 2022: Prof. Laxmidhar Behera has been appointed as the new Director of [Indian Institute of Technology Mandi](https://www.iitmandi.ac.in/).

Laxmidhar Behera is currently the Poonam and Prabhu Goel Chair Professor of Electrical Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. In addition, he is an affiliate faculty member of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). Dr. Behera earned his B.Sc (Engg) and M.Sc (Engg) from the National Institute of Technology Rourkela in 1988 and 1990 respectively. In 1997, he received a PhD from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.

Over the past 26 years of his research and teaching career, Prof. Laxmidhar Behera has contributed significantly to areas such as Intelligent Systems and Control, Vision-based Robotics, Warehouse Automation, Brain-Computer-Interface and Drone based Pipeline Inspection Systems. In addition to establishing industrial collaboration with TCS, Renault Nissan, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), and Bharat Electronic Limited, Bangalore, he had made significant technological development in the areas such robotics-based ware-house automation, vision and drone guided driver assistance system, and drone guided pipeline inspection systems. Between 2007 and 2009, he worked as a Reader at the University of Ulster, United Kingdom. In addition, he served as a visiting professor at ETH Zurich and Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft (FHG), Germany. He supervised 22 PhD candidates to completion. Besides three graduate-level textbooks, he has authored 110 peer-reviewed journal articles, 208 conference papers, and 17 book chapters.

In a statement regarding his appointment as Director, IIT Mandi, Dr. Laxmidhar Behera said, *"It is a great honour and simultaneously a huge responsibility. I will strive hard for the all-round and holistic development of the institute where culture of excellence will be a norm. "*

Welcoming the new Director, Dr. A.K. Chaturvedi, the current acting Director of IIT Mandi and Director of IIT Roorkee, said, *"Prof. Behera is a renowned academic, I am sure his inspirational leadership of IIT Mandi will ensure growth, along with continuity, on the solid foundation laid by the founding Director Prof. Timothy Gonsalves."*



Prior to this appointment, Prof Timothy A Gonsalves was the Founding Director of IIT Mandi and served a long tenure from January 2010 to June 2020.

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About [IIT Mandi](#)

IIT Mandi has four Academic Schools and three major Research Centers. The Schools are: School of Computing and Electrical Engineering, School of Basic Sciences, School of Engineering, and School of Humanities and Social Sciences. The Centers are: Advanced Materials Research Centre (AMRC; set up with an investment of Rs. 60 crores), Centre for Design and Fabrication of Electrical Devices (C4DFED; has Rs. 50 crores worth of fabrication tools), and BioX Centre (has acquired research equipment worth Rs. 15 crores).

The unique, project-oriented B.Tech. curriculum is centred around its 4-year long Design and Innovation stream. From August 2019, IIT Mandi started 3 new and unique B. Tech. programmes in Data Science and Engineering, Engineering Physics, and Dual Degree in Bioengineering. Since the inception of the Institute, IIT Mandi faculty have been involved in over 275 Research and Development (R&D) projects worth more than Rs. 120 crore.

IIT Mandi set up the IIT Mandi iHub and HCI Foundation (iHub; a section-8 company) on its campus at Kamand with significant funding of INR 110 crores from the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. The iHub is planned to fuel research and technology development, skill development, startup and innovation, and collaborations in the HCI and allied AI/ML areas in India. IIT Mandi is the only second-generation IIT to be featured at rank no. 7 in the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements of the Innovation Cell, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India.

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Media contact for IIT Mandi:

IIT Mandi Media Cell: mediacell@iitmandi.ac.in / **Landline:** 01905267832

Bhavani Giddu - Footprint Global Communications

Cell: 9999500262 / Email: bhavani.giddu@footprintglobal.com

Shai Venkatraman - [Footprint Global Communications](#)

Cell: 98202 98587 / Email: shai.venkatraman@footprintglobal.com

Kajal Yadav - Footprint Global Communications

Cell: 88059 66194 / Email ID: kajal.yadav@footprintglobal.com

Vishwani Mahajan - Footprint Global Communications

Cell: 98733 52293/ Email ID: vishwani.mahajan@footprintglobal.com