

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Su-Swagatam and Su-Prabhatam: Hearty welcome to every one!

Distinguished Guests, the chief guest **Shri Manoj Jain**, Chairman & Managing Director of Bharat Electronics Limited, the guests of honor; **Prof Rajeve Ahuja**, Director IIT Ropar, **Dr. Narendra Kumar Arya**, Director, ER and IPR, DRDO and **Shri Krishna IKA**, President and CEO of Brainwave Science, Inc., **Lt Gen Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon (Retd.)**, Chairperson, BoG; Members of the Board of Governors, IIT Mandi; Members of the Senate; Faculty and Staff Members of the Institute; distinguished guests from media, proud parents, **and most importantly, dear graduates**, it is my immense pleasure to welcome you all at the 12<sup>th</sup> convocation ceremony of IIT Mandi. On behalf of the entire IIT Mandi community, I congratulate all graduating students on the successful completion of their degrees.

We gather here not only to celebrate your achievements but also to reflect on the journey that brought you here. Convocation is a culmination of years of perseverance, hard work, and dedication. Each one of you has shown the grit and determination to excel, and for that, we are incredibly proud.

Today, we are delighted to have **Shri Manoj Jain** with us as the Chief Guest of the ceremony. He is the Chairman and Managing Director of Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bangalore. We are deeply grateful that he has taken the time to join us on this important occasion and deliver the convocation address to our graduating students, inspiring them to reach new heights in their professional careers. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to our esteemed guests of honour, **Prof. Rajeve Ahuja**, Director of IIT Ropar; **Dr. Narendra Kumar Arya**, Director of ER & IPR, DRDO; and **Shri Krishna Ika**, President and CEO of Brainwave Science, Inc. for graciously accepting our invitation to address our graduates today. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our Honourable Chairperson, Board of Governors, **Lt. Gen Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon (Retd.)**. His energy, guidance, and inspiration have been instrumental in organizing this convocation ceremony, and we are deeply appreciative of his continued support.

Graduates, this day belongs to you. You stand here as individuals who have faced challenges, explored new frontiers of knowledge, and emerged as a stronger personality. I am sure that with the efforts of your teachers, you have learned to think critically and independently in this serene atmosphere. The learning, the training and the skills obtained in the past few years will guide you far beyond the boundaries of this institution. Your stay at the scenic and serene campus might have given you cherishable memories and experiences of lifetime. Nevertheless, as you step into the professional world, you will find that the landscape you navigate is complex and ever-changing. The challenges of today's world require leaders who are innovative, compassionate, and resilient. You are entering a world that demands more than just the technical expertise. It requires the values you have nurtured here: integrity, collaboration, and a commitment towards societal well-being.

Please note that success and failure are part of life's journey and as a brave soldier you must not entangle yourself in any one of them as that would derail your human spirit. As Lord Krishna has said in Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 2, 48<sup>th</sup> verse:

*yoga-sthah kuru karmāṇi  
saṅgaṁ tyaktvā dhanañ-jaya  
siddhy-asiddhyoḥ samo bhūtvā  
samatvaṁ yoga ucyate*

**योगस्थः कुरु कर्माणि सङ्गं त्यक्त्वा धनञ्जय।  
सिद्ध्यसिद्ध्योः समो भूत्वा समत्वं योग उच्यते॥**

***“Perform your duty equipoised, O Arjuna, abandoning all attachment  
to success or failure. Such equanimity is called yoga.”***

## **1. Graduating Students**

On the occasion of 12<sup>th</sup> Convocation, IIT Mandi confers degrees to the six hundred and thirty-six (636) students. A total of two hundred ninety-one (291) BTech students are graduating, which includes ninety-one (91) in Computer Science and Engineering, fifty-nine (59) in Electrical Engineering, forty-five (45) in Data Science and Engineering, twenty-six (26) in Mechanical Engineering, twenty-three (23) in Civil Engineering, eighteen (18) in Engineering Physics, nine (09) in Bio-Engineering. In addition, twenty (20) students are awarded B Tech (Honors).

Additionally, one hundred and nineteen (119) MSc students are graduating this year that includes forty-four (44) in Applied Mathematics, forty-two (42) in Chemistry, thirty-three (33) in Physics. Further, a total of one hundred and two (102) MTech students are graduating, which includes five (05) in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Energy Systems, six (06) in Materials and Energy Engineering, eight (08) in Structural Engineering, three (03) in Fluid and Thermal Engineering, fifteen (15) in VLSI, fifteen (15) in Power Electronics and Drives, ten (10) in Communication and Signal Processing, eight (08) students in Computer Science and Engineering, twenty one (21) in Biotechnology, eleven (11) in Electric Transportation. Alongside, six (6) students have successfully completed the BTech-MTech Integrated Dual Degree program in Bio-Engineering.

In addition, sixteen (16) students in MS/MTech (by Research), thirty-one (31) students in MBA, and sixteen (16) students in MA Development Studies are graduating in this convocation. We are also delighted to announce that fifty-three (53) PhD scholars are graduating in this convocation including one (1) Integrated-PhD and one (1) integrated Dual Degree (MTech-PhD).

I, on behalf of the Senate and IIT Mandi fraternity, congratulate all our graduating students and wish them a successful career ahead.

## 2. New Centers Established

In the past one year, IIT Mandi has made a significant progress in establishing new centers to be the front-runner in the technological advancements.

- **Center for Human Computer Interaction:** This center has been funded by the IIT Mandi Technology Innovation Hub (TiH) to undertake the translational research projects such as digital taste, digital smell, digital touch, road safety, device led technology and legal language models (LLM) based digital legal system at the level of TRL 7 in a manner that TiH can take up these works for commercialization. The center was inaugurated on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024.
- **Center for Quantum Science and Technology:** This center has been established to pursue research work in the emerging area of quantum science and technology and be part of national quantum mission. The center is currently building up a quantum optic based room-temperature neuro-morphic computer. In addition, quantum devices such as single photon source, coincidence counter, entangled photon source are being developed in this center. The plan is in place to develop a 16-channel neuro-morphic quantum computer by March 2025.
- **Center for Climate Change and Disaster Management:** To combat against the growing global challenges of climate change and natural disasters, IIT Mandi has established a new ‘Center for Climate Change and Disaster Resilience (C3DAR) in alignment with national priorities on disaster risk managements. The center aims to foster cutting-edge research and to develop the innovative solutions in the areas of climate change adaptation, disaster resilience, and sustainable development. C3DAR is dedicated for advancing the knowledge in climate modeling, disaster risk reduction, and ecosystem-based mitigation strategies. The center integrates advanced technologies like remote sensing, AI, and IoT for real-time monitoring and early warning systems for natural disasters, particularly in the Himalayan region. In collaboration with the leading institutions globally, C3DAR aims to develop innovative solutions and build resilience against climate-related disasters. Additionally, the center is involved in educating the next generation of researchers in climate change and disaster resilience.

## 3. Academic Excellence in Research and Teaching

I thank my esteemed colleagues, the faculty members, and the staff of IIT Mandi for your dedication, mentorship, and care, who played a pivotal role in shaping up the future of these bright minds. The institute takes pride in recruiting the best faculty members who are highly motivated for both quality teaching as well as doing high impact research. We have 197 bright faculty members with a blend of young and experienced, who are working in various disciplines in their

search for excellence.

### 3.1 Sponsored Research Grants and Patents

IIT Mandi is successful in receiving sponsored research grants from various funding agencies. The institute has received **58** external sponsored projects with a total grant of Rs **58.14** crores in 2023-24 and total **52** consultancy projects of Rs **5.04** crore. Overall, the institute is having **200** external sponsored research projects worth Rs **125.44** crores and **63** consultancy projects of Rs **6.06** crore. In the last year, the IIT Mandi fraternity has filed one hundred and five (**105**) Patents and (**56**) have been granted. In addition to this, thirty-six (**36**) design registration have been filed and **30** have been granted.

### 3.2 Research Publications

Quality publications in the form of journal papers, monographs, conference proceedings and books from publishers of international repute have been the hallmark of IIT Mandi researchers. In this direction, IIT Mandi has made an extraordinary stride in communicating and disseminating research findings in all spectrum and spheres of academic disciplines. According to the web of science, our researchers have done an exceptional job in publishing ~ **470** research articles in 2023 and ~ **318** till September 2024.

### 3.3 Newly Established Labs

The establishment of new teaching and research laboratories at IIT Mandi marks a significant milestone in the Institute's commitment in enhancing academic and research capabilities. These state-of-the-art facilities are designed to foster innovation, facilitate hands-on learning, and promote interdisciplinary collaboration among students and faculty. These laboratories align with IIT Mandi's vision of being a leader in science and technology education, contributing to societal advancement through research and innovation. Some of the new laboratories are listed below:

- Quantum Science and Technology,
- Human Computer Interface Lab,
- IoT-Based Hydroponic System,
- Cyber Security Lab,
- Blockchain Technology Lab,
- Hi-Tech Polyhouse for climate-controlled agriculture,
- Advanced Semiconductor and Display Lab (ADSL),
- Functional Properties of Materials,
- Advanced Energy Conversion Lab (AECL),

- Advanced Manufacturing Lab for Healthcare, Energy, Energy devices, Marine, Automobiles, Aerospace and Space applications funded by SERB, DST, DRDO, MeitY and the Ministry of Earth sciences.

### 3.4 Academic Awards

To promote culture of excellence, the institute recognizes the young faculty based on their performance in terms of research grants, publication and patents.

This year the **Young Achiever Award** was conferred to Dr. Parmod Kumar, Assistant Professor, School of Mechanical and Material Engineering, and the **Young Faculty Fellow** was awarded to, Dr Mrityunjay Doddamani, Associate Professor, School of Mechanical and Material Engineering, Dr. Subhamoy Sen and Dr. Kala Venkata Uday, both from the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

I am also happy to state that on Teachers Day, 2024, the institute conferred the **Teaching Excellence Award** to Dr. Harshad Vijay Kulkarni and Dr. Kaustav Sarkar, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Dr. Saswata Adhikari, Dr. Sampat Kumar Sharma, Dr. Muslim Malik, School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, Dr. Aditya Nigam, School of Computing and Electrical Engineering, Dr. Satvasheel Powar, Dr. Rajesh Ghosh, from School of Mechanical and Material Engineering Dr. Shyamasree Dasgupta, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Dr. Prasad Kasturi, School of Biosciences and Bioengineering.

IIT Mandi organized a two-day workshop on **Academic Excellence and Leadership** during 27-28 July 2024 in Palampur. The objective was to infuse the spirit of excellence in teaching, research and innovation among young faculty members. Many well-known academicians such as Prof. Indranil Manna, Prof. Subhashish Chaudhuri, Prof. Santanu Chaudhury, Prof. T. V. Prabhakar, Prof. B. S. Murthy, Prof. Manoj Harbola, and Prof. P. Ganguly addressed around 100 faculty members of IIT Mandi.

## 4. Academic Activities

Catering to the new demands and following the spirit of NEP 2020, IIT Mandi floats new degree programs every year. The following new programs have been started since Aug 2024:

### 4.1 New Degree Programs

1. **B Tech in Integrated MBA:** The School of Management at IIT Mandi has started the Integrated MBA Program which is designed to equip students with a comprehensive understanding of management along with skills in analytics, Data Science, Mathematics, and Statistics through a carefully curated curriculum. The program offers an innovative

curriculum blending management education with the application of emerging technology, data science and AI tools. The program offers significant practical exposure to the students through industry internship opportunities and project-based course work. The student will undertake two industry internships, one of which will be six-month-long.

2. **MS (by Research) and PhD in Music and Musopathy:** In the realm of integrative medicine and healthcare, the role of music and musopathy is gaining exceptional prominence. Under this program, the students will study the fundamental mechanism behind the benefits of music in a culture and region neutral manner. Leveraging the synergies between music, therapy, and technology, one can facilitate remarkable advances in health and well-being. Recognizing this potential, IIT Mandi proposes the commencement of an MS (by Research) and PhD program in Music and Musopathy. This initiative underlines the commitment to promote interdisciplinary learning and contribute to the highly regarded field of (Indian) music and the burgeoning field of Musopathy.

- 4.2 **Current Student Strength:** Currently, we have a student strength of 3256 overall, which is consisting of one thousand five hundred and fifty-two (1552) B Tech, forty (40) i-MBA, thirty one (31) BS, one hundred and sixty five (165) MSc, one hundred and ninety three (193) MTech, ninety three (93) in MBA, thirty (30) MA, two hundred and forty four (244) MS (Research), thirty-two (32) I-PhD, thirty Seven (37) M Tech (Research + PhD Dual Degree), seventy one (71) part-time PhD and MS/MTech (Research) and seven hundred and sixty eight (768) PhD, enrolled for various degree program.

| <b>Current Student strength</b>                             |                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Name of the Programme</b>                                | <b>Number of Students</b> |
| Bachelor of Technology in Civil Engineering                 | 159                       |
| Bachelor of Technology in Computer Science and Engineering  | 358                       |
| Bachelor of Technology in Electrical Engineering            | 260                       |
| Bachelor of Technology in Mechanical Engineering            | 192                       |
| Bachelor of Technology in Data Science and Engineering      | 186                       |
| Bachelor of Technology in Engineering Physics               | 88                        |
| Bachelor of Technology in General Engineering               | 49                        |
| Bachelor of Technology in Materials Science and Engineering | 45                        |
| Bachelor of Technology in Microelectronics & VLSI           | 63                        |
| Bachelor of Technology in Mathematics and Computing         | 66                        |
| Bachelor of Technology in Bio-Engineering                   | 86                        |
| BS in Chemical Sciences                                     | 31                        |
| Master of Arts in Development Studies                       | 30                        |
| Master of Science in Chemistry                              | 56                        |
| Master of Science in Applied Mathematics                    | 57                        |
| Master of Science in Physics                                | 52                        |
| Master of Technology in Materials & Energy Engineering      | 1                         |
| Master of Technology in Power Electronics and Drives        | 35                        |
| Master of Technology in Biotechnology                       | 45                        |

|                                                            |             |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Master of Technology in Structural Engineering             | 34          |
| Master of Technology in VLSI                               | 46          |
| Master of Technology in Computer Science and Engineering   | 32          |
| Master of Business Administration in Data Science and AI   | 93          |
| I-MBA                                                      | 40          |
| Integrated-Doctor of Philosophy in Physics                 | 32          |
| Doctor of Philosophy including Joint Degree Programme      | 768         |
| Master of Science(Research)/Master of Technology(Research) | 244         |
| M.Tech Research+PhD Dual Degree Programme                  | 37          |
| Part time Ph.D. and M.S.(Research)/M.Tech (Research)       | 71          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                               | <b>3256</b> |

## 5. Events at IIT Mandi

IIT Mandi has been very active in organizing several academic workshops, meetings, and conferences. In this direction, the Center for Continuing Education along with the different Schools of the Institute has played an instrumental role in organizing international conferences, faculty development programs, leadership and skill development program, and research meetings. In total there had been five (5) international conferences, six (6) faculty development programs, eleven (11) leadership and skill development programs, and six (6) research meetings. Few of them are as follows.

### 5.1 Conference and Workshops

1. Online International Workshop on “5th Winter School on Cognitive Modeling - 2023” held in October 2023. The workshop was funded by DST-SERB and IIT Mandi iHub – HCI Foundation.
2. International Workshop on “Astrobiology and Analogue Sites for the Indian Space Programs” was held during October-November, 2023. The workshop was funded by DST Karyashala and School of Bioscience and Bioengineering.
3. Four one-week long capacity building programs on “Science for TGT (Physics, Chemistry, Biology)”, “Entrepreneurship, Ideation and Innovation” “Physics for PG Teachers” and “Entrepreneurship, Ideation and Innovation” were held during October to December, 2023. These programs were funded by SCERT, New Delhi.
4. Three short-term courses on “Internet of Things (IoT)”, “Engineers and Personnel involved in the implementation of PMGSY at the PIU and SRRDA level”, and “Machine Learning” was held during October- November, 2023. These programs were funded by HPKVN, Shimla.
5. An International Conference on “Mind, Brain and Consciousness: Perspectives from the Indian Knowledge System,” was held in December, 2023.
6. Several short-term courses under the PM Vishwakarma scheme were held in December 2023.
7. A State Level Camp of Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan 2023 HP was held at IIT Mandi.

8. An international workshop on “Engineering for Sustainable and Resilient Development” was held during January 18-20, 2024.
9. A workshop "Efficient Delivery of Crop Irrigation Advisories – Second Stakeholders Workshop", was held during February 16-17, 2024.
10. An Outreach Program of Department of Atomic Energy was held in April 2023.
11. A workshop on “Electronic Materials: Preparation, Characterization, and Applications,” was held in April, 2024.
12. A sponsored workshop on “Working with Worms – Training on C. elegans Research Facility,” was held in April, 2024.
13. A three-day international conference on Fundamentals and Advanced Research in Chemistry (FARC-2024) was held in June 2024.

## 5.2 Institute Colloquium

IIT Mandi routinely invites the eminent speakers for the institute colloquium to inspire the young students and faculty members about current-status in the diverse area of knowledge. However, steps are taken since January 2024 to make these occasions as academic celebrations for both students and faculty members. Since Jan 2024, IIT Mandi has organized several colloquia and some of them are listed below.

1. Dr. Swaroop Mishra, “Key Methods Powering ChatGPT, Bard and LLMs: Instruction Tuning, Prompting and Beyond”.
2. Prof. Bharadwaj Amrutur, “5G and Foundational AI models for next generation of Robotics Applications”.
3. Prof. Ravi N. Banavar, “A 30 Year Journey in Control”.
4. Prof. Pushpak Bhattacharyya, “A Look at Foundations and Frontiers of Natural Language Processing”
5. Prof. Anil Sahasrabuddhe, “NEP implementation and its spinoffs”.
6. Sh. Hrishikesh Mafatlal, “Value-Based Leadership Lessons Learnt from the Life of Shri Arvind Mafatlal”
7. Prof. A. K. Nandakumaran, “An Introduction to Tomography Applications to Medicine, other subjects and Ray/Radon Transforms”
8. Prof. V Ravishankar, “Characterizing the Quantum in Quantum information”.
9. Amb. Chang Jae-bok India-Korea, “50 Years and Beyond”.
10. Prof. Manindra Agrawal, “SUTRA: A Model for Pandemics with Changing Dynamics”.
11. Prof. E. D. Jemmis, “Early Questions”.
12. Prof. Manivannan Muniyandi, “War among Tech Giants on XR-Future is in India”.
13. Mr. Rajeev Khushu, “From Silicon to Systems: The Unmatched Opportunities in Electrical and Chip Design Engineering”.

14. Mr. Ajay Chaturvedi, “Time: An Unprecedented Exploration of the Vedic Wisdom on the True Nature of Time”.
15. Dr. R. Venkatesan, “Emerging Technologies to Tackle Climate Change - Focus on Oceans”.

## **6. Infrastructure updates**

The area of the institute campus is approximately 508 acres after HP government recently transferred a forest land of 308 acres. The built-up area as of now is approximately 2.21 lakh sq meter that includes academic buildings, institutional buildings, hostels and residential quarters. Currently the institute houses approximately 2900 students, 197 faculty members and 142 staff members. By 2027, we plan to have more than 5000 students, 350+ faculty members and 350+ staff members. This requires an infrastructure push for which we have already obtained the HEFA loan of Rs 333 crores. The work for these developments is entrusted to CPWD and will help us to build following facilities for providing the future expansion. The work for these developments is entrusted to CPWD and will help us to build following facilities for providing the future expansion.

1. CPWD has awarded work for construction of hostel facility for 1377 students in the North campus, the area will be developed as entire hostel cluster for the future, having canteens and common sitting spaces. The work is in progress and stipulated to be completed by March 2026.
2. Planning work of lecture hall complex having a seating capacity of 3500 students and academic block having an area of 10,000 sqm is almost completed by the CPWD and will be started at the earliest.
3. Planning for 400 bedded girls’ hostel and 80 nos. apartments for married research scholars is completed by the CPWD near the academic and lecture hall theatre complex.

We have also applied for another HEFA loan of Rs 326 crores that will help us to build 150 3BHK apartments, 150 2BHK apartments, two academic buildings, a state-of-the art student activity center that would include sporting facilities. We are expecting that all these projects will be completed by 2027.

To make our campus unified as well as connected through all-weather roads, following projects are in progress:

- a. The construction of a bridge over Kataula Khad is near its completion, which will join the Land parcel-1 with the upcoming hostel cluster for 1377 students.
- b. The work pertaining to the road has been assigned to the contractor which is being executed under the supervision of Construction section of IIT Mandi. It will be a two-lane road with

provision of street lights, drains and footpaths. Both bridge and road work are expected to be completed by December 2024.

- c. Ministry of Education (MoE) has also sanctioned Rs 67 crores to take various safety measures such as building Gabion and protecting walls, advanced drainage system and boundary wall given the damage caused by the recent cloud bursts and land-slides. These works are already in progress at various locations of both the campuses.
- d. A hostel of approximately 300 capacity is being built in the south campus, three floors are completed and finishing work for the 4<sup>th</sup> floor is in progress. This hostel was inaugurated in Aug 2024.

I am pleased to announce the establishment of newly built Students Activity Center, in Block A-19, North campus, for all students' recreational activities. This is evolving as an epicentre for the young innovators and creators. The center also houses several new canteens serving all types of local, traditional and Indian cuisines to promote and encourage the rich diversity of culinary practices.

## 7. Student Placements

One of the primary objectives of the academic programs is to prepare the students for the successful career including placements to the industries. This year IIT Mandi hosted 203 companies including Google, Oracle, Flipkart, Walmart, Adobe, BNY, Sprinklr, Samsung, Warner Bros. Discovery, Intuit, Palo Alto, Nvidia, Intel, Texas Instruments, Cadence, NXP Semiconductor, AMD, Media. Net, Robert Bosch, CDOT, Jaguar Land Rover, Mahindra and Mahindra, Tata Electronics, TCS, Infosys, L&T, BPCL, Zomato, Hilabs, HDFC Bank, Airtel, etc. International Companies: Accenture Japan, Aiful, Niterra, Suntory, Money Forward, GMO, Recruit. The BTech median salary was about 18.5 LPA and about 83.61% students were placed., which is a commendable outcome. On the other hand, MTech mean salary was about 7.18 LPA with 60.43 % of the students were placed. To prepare for the future placements, our students also received the reputed internships from various companies and academic institutions.

## 8. Achievements of Faculty Members

In addition to securing research grants and quality publications, our faculty members have achieved recognitions and laurels both nationally and internationally:

- **Dr. Ajay Soni** has been selected as the Fellow of Royal Society of Chemistry (F-RSC), UK.
- **Dr. Amit Jaiswal** received the Young Scientist Award 2024 from Asian Polymer Association (APA) and was selected for the Associateship of The Indian Academy of Sciences for the second term.

- **Dr. Mohd Talha and Dr. Mrityunjay Doddamani** featured among the Top 2% Scientists and Researchers of the World for the year 2022 & 2023 in a ranking by Stanford University and Elsevier.
- **Dr. Harshad V. Kulkarni** received the title of "National Geographic Explorer 2024" by National Geographic Society, Washington D.C., USA and became a Committee Expert on the "Framework on identification material generated from industrial processes as waste or by product" by H.P. State Pollution Control Board.
- **Dr. Mousumi Mukherjee** has been honored by Indian Geotechnical Society as one of the top 75 Indian women leaders in the field of Geotechnical Engineering in 2023.
- **Dr. Trayambak Basak** was selected as Executive Council member of International Society for Heart Research (ISHR)-Indian Section.
- **Dr. Ashutosh Kumar** has joined the Editorial Board as a member of the ASCE International Journal of Geomechanics, USA.
- **Dr. Moumita Das** was elected as associate editor for Sadhana Journal and promoted as IEEE Senior Member.
- **Dr. Sunny Zafar** awarded as a Life member of Tribological society of India.
- **Dr. Gajendra Singh** received the Stanford “BioDesign Innovation Garage” Award.
- **Dr. Mohd Talha** received IEI NMLC-FCRIT Excellence Awards 2023 for recognition under Research Excellence in Teaching Faculty National category on by the Institution of Engineers (India), 15 September 2023.
- **Dr. Puran Singh** was recognized for contribution to ISBA Governing Body, at ISBAcon 2023, Indian STEPS and Incubators Association.
- **Dr. Masudul Hasan Adil** received Young Scholars’ Best Paper Award (2024), International Conference on Recent Development in Economics Research: Theory and Evidence, CITD, SIS, JNU, Delhi, India, 7-8 March, 2024.
- **Dr. Anirban Sarkar** received the IETE-IRSI Young Scientists award 2023 from the Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication engineers and has been selected as Visiting Professor at University of Manitoba, Canada. He received the SERB-SIRE Fellowship for the year 2023-2024.

## 9. Student’s Gymkhana

The student Gymkhana is an integral part of IIT Mandi, which has been playing an instrumental role in its growth and development. Our student community regularly organizes activities of diverse genre, and celebrates national as well as cultural festivals with remarkable enthusiasm. In March 2023, *Miraaz*, an inter-college fest was held. This fest was a combination of Technical, cultural, literary and sports activities and was organized on a very larger scale. Around the year, the Technical, Cultural, Literary and Sports clubs of IIT Mandi student gymkhana organize inter/intra institute events. IIT Mandi students enthusiastically make use of the location of the

campus and utilize avenues for various adventure sports such as mountain biking, hiking, trekking, rock climbing and so on.

I take this opportunity to especially mention **Yuva Sangam 3.0** organized under **Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat** initiatives in the month of December 2023. IIT Mandi arranged to send 15 students selected from different regions of Himachal Pradesh to *Auroville Foundation*, Puducherry to learn and experience the way of life inside Auriville for 10 days.

### 9.1 Students' Achievements and Activities

Some of the notable achievements are as follows:

- Teams from IIT Mandi grabbed 1st and 3rd Positions among 153 teams in PAN IIT Gen-AI Hackathon 2024 organized at IIT Kharagpur.
- IIT Mandi won Bronze Medal in *Mphasis Foundation - Quantum Computing Challenge* in PAN IIT Technical Meet 2023 held at IIT Madras.
- 'Team IIT Mandi' was the top Runner's up among 1000 teams in *Students Innovation Festival (SIF) - Space Hackathon 2023* organized by Hack2Skill, under the auspices of the Indian International Science Festival and mentored by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
- Our student Mr. Keshav Verma contributed in developing a Neonatal Incubator, which is now a part of the startup, which has been selected for the prestigious *Stanford Biodesign Innovators Garage Program* in the beginning of 2024.
- Mr Ayush and his team was honored as the runner-up for Best Invention at the Invention Factory at IIT Jammu.
- Literary and Cultural clubs won one Silver and two Bronze medals in the Literary and Culinary Arts respectively in *Inter-IIT Cultural Meet 6.0, Kharagpur*.
- In the month of May-June 2024, Student members group from MTB Club and Sports Society organized the campaign as "*Mighty Leh Ride*", which successfully completed a bicycle expedition to Leh/Ladakh including world famous *Khardung-La* and *Pangong Tso Lake*.
- IIT Mandi won 2 Gold and 1 Silver medals in the District *Table-Tennis Championship* held in Mandi district in October 2023.
- Our student team Akatsuki lead by Mr. Nippun Sharma grabbed third position in the *Smartathon Challenge (Smart Cities Challenge)* at *Global AI Summit* held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in Sept 2023. The team has been awarded a winning **amount for Rs. 12.14 Lakh**.

Following are some of the major activities conducted by the Dean Students Secretariat during the last one year:

- Jan-Jatiya Gaurav Diwas Mahotsav- A week-long celebration on the birth anniversary of Tribal revolutionary Bhagwan Birsa Munda.
- Virasat-A 3 days long cultural event in collaboration of SPICMACY celebrating Indian classical music and dance and a workshop on Madhubani (Mithila) painting
- National Unity Day Celebration-On the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, various sports activities held in the institute.
- Lecture series on Yoga, Meditation, Panch Koshas, etc.
- Lecture series on Drug Abuse, Anti-Ragging, Art of Living etc.
- Khadi Mahotsav-On the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and to promote Khadi and herbal products, various competitions were conducted among students.
- Anusandhan 2.0- An Annual Research Fair of IIT Mandi was held during the 18-19 June 2024 by the Research Affairs Society, Students Gymkhana.
- Miraz 2023- Inter-Institute event which included all the genres of students activities like sports, Cultural and Technical activities

The student gymkhana also invited various prominent speakers such as:

- Prof. Ramancharla Pradeep Kumar- Director, CSIR-CBRI, Roorkee, UK,
- Prof. Ramashankar Verma- Director, MNNIT, Allahabad,
- Dr Arup Kumar Das -Associate Professor, IIT Roorkee,
- Dr. Daniel J, Senior Advisor, UN,
- Sh. Veda Ravi Shangar, Vedic & Scientific Research,
- Ms. Shruti Sadolikar, Indian Classical Singer,
- Prof. Kiran Seth,-IIT Delhi, Founder, SPICMACAY,
- Prof. JS Yadav-IIT Kanpur,
- Mr. JP Singh-IPS, IGP, HP ,
- Pt. Shubhendra Rao-Sitaar Vaadak,
- Dr. Tarun Pant, Vikram Sarabhai Space Center, Thiruvananthapuram,
- Dr. Seema Kashyap, Associate Prof. University Institute of Legal Studies, Shimla,
- Prof. Balamurugan Savaraman, Physical Research Laboratory,
- Ms. Sudha Raghuraman-Carnatic Vocalist,
- Sh. KC Jain- Director, Adhyatm Sadhna Kendra, Delhi,
- Dr. Karthikeyan Gokulachandran, IPS- SP Kullu,
- Ms. Sandhya Prakash, TedX Speaker,
- Mr. Harshvardhan Saraf & Subah Saraf- Co-founders of Satvic Movement,
- Mr. Anuj Dhar, Writer and Speaker,
- Sh. Varun Upadhyaay, Art of Living,
- Sh. Vasu Doegar, IFS-Distt. Forest Officer, Mandi,
- Pt. Rajendra Gangani-Kathak Dancer,
- Dr. Prashanna Gogoi, Director, North-East Zone Culture Center, Nagaland,

- Shri. Thaikhai Choudhury- Joint Director (Rtd.) Information and Cultural Affairs, Government of Tripura,
- Dr. Saraswati Bordoloi, Researcher of North East Culture.

## 10. Achievements of Alumni

I am extremely elated to relate some of our Alumni's achievements to you: Through global outreach, alumni events, and strategic corporate partnerships, DORA actively seeks to foster mutually beneficial collaborations. IIT Mandi deeply values its alumni and their invaluable contributions. We strive to recognize and celebrate their achievements while nurturing strong connections for continued collaboration. The Institute is immensely grateful for the philanthropic support that fuels our future sustainability. Following are the achievements of Alumni:

- **Mr. Nitesh Kumar** (an IIT Mandi Alumnus, B.Tech. Electrical Engineering, graduated in the year 2020) has brought glory to India by winning the Gold Medal in the Men's Single Badminton (under SL3 Category) at Paralympic 2024 in Paris.
- **Dr. Ashish Tiwari** (an IIT Mandi Alumnus, PhD Materials, graduated in the year 2020) on becoming the USA States National Science Foundations (NSF) - Accelerating Research Translation (ART) Program Ambassador.
- **Mr. Harkaran Singh**, (an IIT Mandi Alumnus, B.Tech. Electrical Engineering, graduated in the year 2015), became Indian Engineering Services (IES) Officer, UPSC ESE-2021 AIR-02.

IIT Mandi awarded the following **distinguished alumni** with the “**Young Achiever Award 2024**”:

1. **Dr. Harivansh Rai Mittal** (an IIT Mandi Alumnus, Ph.D. Mathematics, graduated in the year 2016) – For Academic Excellence.
2. **Ms. Harsha Mathur** (an IIT Mandi Alumnus, M.S. (by research), Electrical Engineering, graduated in the year 2018) - For Professional Excellence.
3. **Mr. Siddhant Mohan** (an IIT Mandi Alumnus, B.Tech. Electrical Engineering, graduated in the year 2014) - For Excellence in Entrepreneurship and Management.

## 11. International Linkages

IIT Mandi has remained an attractive destination for international students and faculty and fostered its linkages with the wider academic world through student and faculty mobility, as well as joint research projects and MoUs. Presently IIT Mandi has twenty-four (24) active MoUs with international partners.

Since 2013, over 146 of students had the chance to go for semester exchange to RWTH Aachen University, Technical University of Munich, Blekinge Institute of Technology, Hepia, Switzerland, IT University of Copenhagen, University of Stuttgart, Technical University Dresden, Technical University Braunschweig, Technical University Darmstadt, Leibniz University Hannover, Kyushu University, Japan and Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway. Over 171 international students have experienced the project-based learning and other academic offerings of IIT Mandi since 2015, the majority from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), USA.

### **11.1 International Students at IIT Mandi**

At present there are 15 International students enrolled for Undergraduate, Masters and Ph.D. programs at IIT Mandi. Of these, 4 students are from Bangladesh and 4 students are from Nepal. 3 students joined IIT Mandi from Ethiopia in April 2021 and May 2022 for the Ph. D programs, one student is from Korea (part time PhD) one student is in B. Tech, (2020) program from Pakistan, one B. Tech student is from Canada, and one B. Tech student is from America. Elivander Judas Tadeu Pereira visited IIT Mandi for Doctoral Internship from Brazil in April to August 2024, Dr Wadzani Dauda visited IIT Mandi for post doc from Nigeria under DBT-TWAS 2022 Postdoctoral Fellowship. Akke Schotten from RWTH Aachen, for semester exchange program in August to December 2023.

### **11.2 IIT Mandi Students Visiting Institutions Abroad**

A total of 38 IIT Mandi graduate and undergraduate students visited several EU, Japan, Norway institutions under academic exchange in the year 2023-2024. The undergraduate visits included: 08-students to RWTH Aachen, 10-students to Technical University of Munich, 04 students to Technical University of Darmstadt, 04 students to Technical University of Dresden. 04 students to Technical University of Braunschweig, 01 student to Leibniz University Hannover, 02 students to Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway, 04 students to Kyushu University Japan and 01-students of M. Tech. to Germany under DAAD (KOSPIE) program. In October 2024, 42 IIT Mandi students (40 B. Tech. and 02 M. Tech.) are expected to visit Germany, Norway and Japan at our partner institutions on semester exchange programs.

### **11.3 International Visitors at IIT Mandi**

- Mr. Hidehiko Saegusa from Japan in October 2023 to teach an approved course "Selected topics in Indian Knowledge System and Consciousness Studies IK592\_6".
- Dr. Y J Park, Director Science and Technology, embassy of the Republic of Korea visited

for attending the G20 event in June 2023.

- Ms. Hinaho Kishi, language teacher in School of Humanities has been visiting from Japan in January to June 2024 and August 2024 to January 2025.
- Ms. Moena Watanabe, language teacher in School of Humanities from Japan in August 2024 to December 2024.
- Dr. Juan Luis Toribio Vazquez, visiting faculty in School of Humanities from Spain in March 2024.
- Dr. Jefferson Alex Sphar, from WPI, USA for ISTP project in March 2024.
- Dr. Uma T Kumar, from WPI, USA for ISTP project in March 2024.
- Mr. Ryuhei Nishi, First-Secretary (Science & Technology), Embassy of Japan in India on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024.
- A Delegation from Japan visited IIT Mandi on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024:
  - Ms. Mariko Oda (Head of Global Promotion Dept at Recruit Co., Ltd.)
  - Ms. Shiori Sano (Employee of Global Promotion Dept at Recruit Co., Ltd.)
  - Mr. Jien Shinji Yamaguchi (Employee of the Global Promotion Dept at Recruit Co., Ltd.)
  - Mr. Pushendra (Employee of Recruit Co., Ltd.)
  - Mr. Ankur Sardar (Alumnus IIT Mandi, 2013-2017, BTech CSE and Willings India Office Director)
  - Ms. Akiko Tsuda (Willings India Office Director)
- His Excellency, Mr. Chang Jae-bok, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Republic of India visited IIT Mandi on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He was accompanied by:
  - Mr. Jung Jinhyeon, Science Attaché
  - Ms. Lee Chohee, First Secretary and Consul at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea,
  - Mr. Woochan Chang, Country Director KOICA,
  - Dr. Young Ho Kim, Director, India Korea Center for Research and Innovation
  - Mr. Anshul Joshi, Researcher, India Korea Center for Research and Innovation.

#### **11.4 New MoUs**

- DAAD and IIT Mandi: Faculty Exchange Programme, Germany in October 2023
- Agreement on the International Cooperative Graduate Program with National Institute for Material Science, Japan in February 2024.
- ABO Akademi University, Finland in February 2024.
- University of Adger, Norway in April 2024.
- The Arctic University, Norway in April 2024.
- Renewal of Student Exchange Agreement with RWTH Aachen, Germany September 2024.

### 11.5 IIT Mandi Director/Faculty visits to foreign countries

- Dr. Padmanabhan Rajan, Associate Professor, visited New York, USA, to attend IEEE Workshop on Applications of Signal Processing to Audio and Acoustics (WASPAA-2023) and SANE Workshop to be held in New York, USA.
- Dr. Rajendra Kumar Ray, Professor, visited Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, to attend joint conference of Asian Pacific Conference on Aerospace Technology and Science (APCATS-2023), Asian Joint Symposium on Aerospace Engineering (AJSAE-2023) and Advances in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering (AAME-2023).
- Dr. Prosenjit Mondal, Associate Professor, visited Institute Cochin in Paris, France, to pursue a research visit and productive collaboration under the sponsored fellowship program by the Embassy of France in India.
- Prof. Suman Kalyan Pal, visited Boston, Massachusetts, USA, to attend 2023 Materials Research Society (MRS) Fall Meeting and Exhibit.
- Dr. Mohammad Talha, Associate Professor, visited Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, to attend joint conference of Asian Pacific Conference on Aerospace Technology and Science (APCATS-2023), Asian Joint Symposium on Aerospace Engineering (AJSAE-2023) and Advances in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering (AAME-2023).
- Dr. Hiteshbhai Kantilal Shrimali, Associate Professor, visited Istanbul, Turkiye, for presentation at IEEE 30th International conference on Electronics, circuits and systems.
- Dr. Baskar Bakthavachalu, Assistant Professor, visited Dublin, Ireland, for collaboration visit to the Institute of Neuroscience and Smurfit Institute of Genetics at Trinity College.
- Dr. Ajay Soni, Associate Prof, visited Sweden, for collaborative exchange/research visit under the project entitled "Design of Novel Layered Materials in Bulk and 2D form for Thermal Energy Harvesting" at Linkoping University.
- Dr. Shashank Pathak, Assistant Professor, visited Belgium, for research collaboration visit to the Universitd Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Brussels.
- Dr. Prateek Saxena, Assistant Prof., visited TU Berlin, Germany, as guest researcher visit.
- Dr. Dericks Praise Shukla, Associate Prof., visited Ehime University, Japan and Saitama, Tokyo, to participate in the JST Sakura Science Exchange Program administered by Japan Science and Technology Agency.
- Dr. Shyamasree Dasgupta, Associate Prof., visited Expo City Dubai, UAE, to participate in Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the UN Framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC).
- Dr. Sandip Kumar Saha, Assistant Prof., visited Milan, Italy, to attend the 18<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Earthquake Engineering (1/VGEE2024).
- Dr. Varun Dutt, Associate Prof., visited Raleigh, NC, USA, to attend syneos Health project meeting.
- Dr. Arnav Vinayak Bhavsar, Associate Prof., visited Italy for BIOSTEC 2024.

- Dr. Masudul Hasan Adil, Assistant Prof., visited Bangladesh to attend 7th SANEM Annual Economists' conference (SAEC) 2024.
- Dr. Hiteshbhai Kantilal Shrimali, Associate Prof., visited Singapore to attend 2024 IEEE International Symposium on Circuits & Systems (ISCAS-2024).
- Dr. Satyajitsinh Ajitsinh Thakor, Associate Prof., visited USA to attend 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Information Sciences and Systems (CISS 2024).
- Dr. Moumita Das, Assistant Prof., visited UK, Royal Society Yusuf Hamied international Exchange Award" UK.
- Prof. Suman Kalyan Pal, to attend the "2024\_MRS Spring Meeting & Exhibit" USA.
- Dr. Maheshreddy Gade, Associate Prof., visited Milan, Italy, to participate in the "18<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Earthquake Engineering (WCEE2024).
- Dr. Subhamoy Sen, Associate Prof., visited Potsdam, Germany, to participate in the "11<sup>th</sup> European Workshop on Structural Health Monitoring (EWSHM 2024).
- Dr. Kaustav Mukherjee, Associate Prof., visited Bologna, Italy, to attend the International Conference on Magnetism 2024.
- Dr. Tushar Jain, Associate Prof., visited the Center de Recherche en Automatique de Nancy-CRAN- France.
- Dr. C. S. Yadav, Associate Prof., visited Toulouse, France, to attend the Indo-French workshop on Topology and Entanglement in Quantum Matter.
- Dr. Ashutosh Kumar, Assistant Prof., visited Technical University Darmstadt, Germany, to take up a DMD scholarship under re-invitation programme for former scholarship holder, 2024.
- Dr. Baskar Bakthavachalu, Assistant Prof., visited the Global investigator Network (GIN) Meeting, Singapore
- Dr. Shyamasree Dasgupta, Associate Prof., visited the PISCES relay capacity building workshop, Indonesia.
- Dr. Satvasheel Ramesh Powar, Associate Prof., visited Educational and Networking trip, Japan
- Dr. Arko Roy, Assistant Prof., research collaborative visit to the University Paris Saclay, France.
- Dr. Hari Varma R, Associate Prof., visited Fort worth, Texas and Northwest Missouri state university, Maryville, USA, to attend the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Aps Division of Atomic, Molecular and optical physics research collaboration.
- Dr. Pratim Kundu, Assistant Prof., visited Budapest, Hungary, to attend the IEEE Global power, Energy and Communication Conference 2024 (IEEE GPECOM 2024).
- Dr. Pradeep Kumar, Associate Prof., visited Rome, Italy, to attend the XXVIII international Conference on Raman Spectroscopy 2024 (XXVIII ICORS 2024).
- Dr. Nitu Kumari, Associate Prof., visited Seoul, Republic of Korea, to attend the Joint Annual Meeting Korean Society for Mathematical Biology & Society for Mathematical

Biology (KSMB-SMB-2Q24).

- Dr. Ajay Soni, Associate Prof., visited Krakow, Poland, to give an invited talk in the 40th international & 20th European Conference on Thermoelectrics.
- Dr. Rik Rani Koner, Associate Prof., visited University of Leipzig Germany to pursue a research collaboration visit.
- Dr. Aruna Bommarreddi, Assistant Prof., visited Surabaya, Indonesia, to attend the 13th international Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS 13).
- Dr. Raj Kiran, Assistant Prof., visited Singapore, to attend the 30<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Computational & Experimental Engineering and Sciences (ICCES2024).
- Dr. Moupriya Das, Assistant Prof., visited Sweden, to attend a seminar talk and strengthen scientific collaboration visit at NORDITA, Nordic Institute for Theoretical Physics.
- Dr. Preeti, Assistant Prof., visited Pisa, Italy, to attend the XIV International Symposium on Generalized Convexity and Monotonicity.
- Prof. Chayan Kanti Nandi, visited Hilton York UK, to attend the scientific meeting "Chemical probes for lysosomal biology" at the Royal Society's series of International scientific conferences.
- Dr. Thirthankar Chakraborty, Assistant Prof., visited Paris, France, to participate in the 10th congress of the European Society of comparative Literature.
- Prof. Syed Abbas, visited Chonburi, Thailand, to attend the International Conference and workshop on Applied Nonlinear Analysis 2024 (lcwANA2024).
- Dr. Arko Roy, Assistant Prof., visited Queensland, Australia, to attend the Finite temperature Non-Equilibrium Superfluid Systems (FINESS 2024 Workshop).
- Dr. Moumita Das, Assistant Prof., visited Illinois Chicago, USA, to attend the 50th annual conference of the IEEE, Industrial Electronics Society (IECON2024).
- Dr. Mousumi Mukherjee, Assistant Prof., visited Grenoble, France, to attend the International Symposium IS-Grenoble 2024.
- Dr. Padmanabhan Rajan, Associate Prof., visited London, UK, to attend the IEEE international Workshop on Machine Learning for Signal Processing (MLSP 2024).
- Dr. Prasanna R., Assistant Prof., visited Jaffna, Sri Lanka, to attend the International Conference on Engineering – 2024.
- Dr. Jagadeesh Kadiyam, Assistant Prof., visited Saarland University Campus, DFKI, Germany, to participate in the event of 4th Inria-DFKI European Summer School on Artificial Intelligence 2024 (IDESSAI2024).

### **11.6 Events with International Participation**

There were a number of workshops/Talks conducted online/offline at IIT Mandi involving visitors from universities abroad including:

- In collaboration with the Secretary/Joint Secretary/Alumni, Japan Alumni Chapter, the

DORA office IIT Mandi successfully organized the in-person Japan Chapter Alumni Meet on 21.09.2023 at Tokyo, Japan. It was a highly successful meeting that brought together a diverse group of IIT Mandi graduates living and working in Japan. Prof. Laxmidhar Behera, Director, IIT Mandi, along with Dr. C. S. Yadav graced the event with their presence. This event served as a testament to the enduring spirit of the Institute's alumni community.

- Indian Institute of Technology Mandi (IIT Mandi) has been honored with the Prestigious Green University Award in COP 28 UAE. This prestigious accolade was conferred by Green Mentors, a non-governmental organization holding special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in the United States. The recognition was given to the Institute in acknowledgment of its comprehensive commitment to sustainable practices and its holistic approach towards environmental initiatives.

## 12. Entrepreneurship and IIT Mandi Catalyst

IIT Mandi Catalyst, the first technology business incubator in Himachal Pradesh, has become a thriving center for entrepreneurship. Launched in 2016, Catalyst has incubated over **500 startups** to date, providing them with critical funding, mentoring, and a collaborative space. IIT Mandi Catalyst emphasizes the intersection of innovation, sustainability, and social impact, supporting ventures that create solutions for both local and global challenges. The incubator's startups have won **180+ national and international accolades**, further enhancing IIT Mandi's reputation as a hub for entrepreneurship and innovation. Over the years, Catalyst has committed **Rs 22 crore** to these startups, which have collectively generated over **4,500 jobs** and filed more than **75 patents**.

Furthermore, IIT Mandi Catalyst operates with a vision to promote social, economic, and environmental development with the focusing on sectors such as **Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)**, **Build for the Himalayas (BFH)**, **Environment and Sustainability (E&S)** and **Bio-innovation(BI)**. The incubator supports startups that address local and global challenges alike.

A key initiative to drive student led entrepreneurship is the **Startup Practicum**. A unique curriculum aimed at nurturing entrepreneurial talent among students. For all semesters, students undergo different practical and theoretical courses to learn entrepreneurship. This program also offers **30** students scholarships of **Rs 15,000** per month for three semesters from IIT Mandi iHub and HCI foundation. The integrated curriculum allows students to earn 22 academic credits through startup-related activities, guiding them from ideation to the creation of viable startups.

Students are also encouraged to convert their ideas from the Design Practicum course to a venture. Design Practicum is a course offered in the sophomore year, where students from multiple disciplines come together to develop workable solutions for a real-world problem in under Rs 30,000.

### **13. The Way Forward**

We have come a long way since our modest beginning in 2009 at IIT Roorkee campus followed by laying the foundation stone in 2010 at pristine Kamand valley. Today we are a thriving academic community with 3,256 students, 197 faculty members, and 142 staff members working tirelessly toward "scaling the heights." Yet, there is still much to accomplish. By achieving new milestones in education, research, outreach, and developing technological and innovative solutions to emerging challenges, we must continue to excel for the betterment of all. Located in the Himalayan region, IIT Mandi has made significant contributions to the academic and societal growth of this unique area. Through collaborations with various ministries, international organizations, and funding agencies, IIT Mandi is constantly addressing the pressing issues in the Himalayan region, blending societal and technological concerns in a unique way.

Our commitment to innovation and academic excellence is also reflected in this year's NIRF ranking, where IIT Mandi ranked 8th in the Innovation category, 31<sup>st</sup> in Engineering, and 72<sup>nd</sup> overall. These achievements speak to our dedication to improving the quality of education and research. As we continue to nurture a culture of excellence, we will strive to reach even greater heights in the years to come.

This year, a total of 636 students have graduated from the Institute, including 53 PhD scholars and 1 I-PhD graduate, highlighting the flourishing research culture at IIT Mandi. The Institute's commitment to excellence in research is evident in the publication records of our faculty and scholars. According to the Web of Science, our researchers published approximately 470 research articles in 2023 and around 318 in 2024, as of September. Moving forward, our focus should be on producing even more impactful research that addresses real-world challenges and improves the lives of those around us. We have also made significant investments in infrastructure to foster a scholarly environment. A new hostel with a capacity for 1,377 students is under construction in the North Campus, while a lecture complex with seating for 3,500 students and an academic block spanning 10,000 sqm are nearing completion. Additionally, an all-weather road is being constructed to improve connectivity between the two campuses. These infrastructural developments will significantly enhance research activities and academic growth over the next five years.

Recently, we have introduced several new and innovative programs to our curriculum, including a BTech in Integrated MBA. Similarly, IIT Mandi places a strong emphasis on mental

health. In the field of integrative medicine and healthcare, the significance of music and musopathy is gaining exceptional recognition. Acknowledging this potential, IIT Mandi plans to launch an MTech program in Music and Musopathy, along with a Ph.D. program. These pioneering programs will further enrich our academic environment and promote a culture of collaborative learning and research.

To the parents, family members, and friends of the graduates: this day is also for you. Your unwavering support, sacrifice, and encouragement have helped our graduates reach this milestone, and we are grateful for your presence here today.

In summary, I would like to congratulate the graduating students once again. As you move forward, you will carry the legacy of this Institute into the world. The knowledge and experiences you have gained here will remain with you and guide you in your future endeavours. While we share a common past, we are also bound for a shared destiny. You are the ambassador of the future, and we believe in the change you will bring to the world. Your success will reflect the success of IIT Mandi, and we will take pride in the achievements you bring to both yourselves and the Institute. We are confident that the graduates of IIT Mandi will lead professional careers with integrity, honesty, and courage. Your success will also be the success of IIT Mandi.

**You will make IIT Mandi proud with your dedicated contributions to the society.**

**Jai Hind**