

## **Director's Address and Report — 13th Convocation, IIT Mandi**

Prof. Laxmidhar Behera

Indian Institute of Technology Mandi

Dear esteemed guests, faculty colleagues, senate members, parents and students

Su-svagatam - A very warm welcome to all of you.

It is my immense pleasure to welcome everyone to the 13th Convocation Ceremony of the Indian Institute of Technology Mandi.

We are deeply honoured to have with us our esteemed Chief Guest, Prof. Shekhar C. Mande, Former Director General of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and Secretary, DSIR.

We are also privileged to be joined by our Guests of Honour:

- Dr. Jagannath Nayak, eminent scientist and Director, DRDO–CHESS, and
- Prof. B.S. Murty, distinguished academic and Director, IIT Hyderabad.

I extend a heartfelt welcome to our Honourable Chairman, Board of Governors, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon, whose vision and support continue to strengthen the institute.

My welcome also extends to the Members of the Board of Governors and the Senate, my esteemed faculty colleagues and staff, members of the press, and the proud parents and families gathered here today.

And most importantly, to our graduating students—**today is your day**. A day that celebrates your perseverance, your commitment, and the culmination of your academic journey. On behalf of the entire IIT Mandi community, I offer you my heartfelt congratulations.

### **Honouring the Chief Guest**

We are delighted and deeply privileged to have Prof. Shekhar C. Mande with us today to deliver the Convocation Address. A renowned Structural and Computational Biologist, former Director General of CSIR, and recipient of the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, Prof. Mande has contributed immensely to institution-building and advancing scientific inquiry in India. His presence here will serve as a source of inspiration for all our graduates as they embark on their professional paths.

### **A Unique Education in the Lap of the Himalayas**

Graduates, as you stand on the threshold of a new journey, reflect on the fact that your education here has been truly unique. You have lived and learned in the lap of the Himalayas. These mountains are not merely scenic surroundings; they are silent teachers—shaping your resilience, broadening your perspective, and deepening your sense of awe and humility. Your education at IIT Mandi has therefore never been limited to technical knowledge alone. We have sought to nurture character, integrity, compassion, and a deep commitment to the welfare of society. The world needs not only skilled engineers and scientists, but men and

women grounded in values—steadfast, responsible, and courageous.

The *Bṛhad-Āraṇyaka Upaniṣad* reminds us:

तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय ।

*tamaso mā jyotir gamaya*

“From darkness, lead me to light.”

This is the essence of education—moving from ignorance to clarity, from self-interest to service.

### **The Responsibility of Leadership**

In the spirit of this transformation, I remind you of the timeless message of the *Bhagavad*

*Gītā*:

यद्यदाचरति श्रेष्ठस्तत्तदेवेतरो जनः ।

स यत्प्रमाणं कुरुते लोकस्तदनुवर्तते ॥

yad yad ācarati śreṣṭhas tattadevetaro janah |

sa yat pramāṇam kurute lokas tad anuvartate ||)

*Whatever action a great person performs, common people follow. And whatever standards they set by exemplary acts, all the world pursues.”*

As graduates of IIT Mandi, you now carry the responsibility of setting the highest standards—of competence and conduct, of creativity and compassion.

### **The Strength to Face the Unknown**

The journey ahead may present uncertainties, but the *Gītā* assures us:

उद्धरेदात्मनाऽत्मानं नात्मानमवसादयेत् ।

*uddhared ātmanātmānam nātmānam avasādayet* (BG 6.5)

“Lift yourself by your own inner strength; do not degrade yourself.”

This verse captures a profound truth: Your greatest ally is your own disciplined, enlightened mind.

### **A Message for Graduates**

My dear graduates, your years at IIT Mandi have prepared you well. The knowledge you have gained, the friendships you have forged, the challenges you have overcome—all these will serve as your foundation as you navigate the wider world.

Carry with you the resilience of the Himalayas,  
the clarity of the *Upaniṣads*,  
and the wisdom of the *Gītā*.

Above all, strive to be exemplars—for your families, for your communities, and for the nation. Once again, my heartfelt congratulations to each one of you. May your future be bright, impactful, and grounded in timeless values.

# 1. Graduating Students

On the occasion of the 13th Convocation, IIT Mandi confers degrees upon Six hundred and four (604) students. A total of two hundred and eighty eight (288) BTech students are graduating, which includes seventy-nine (79) in Computer Science and Engineering, fifty-nine (59) in Electrical Engineering, thirty-four (34) in Data Science and Engineering, forty-three (43) in Mechanical Engineering, thirty-four (34) in Civil Engineering, eighteen (18) in Engineering Physics, and eight (8) in Bio-Engineering, thirteen (13) students are awarded B.Tech (Honours).

Additionally, seventy five (75) MSc students are graduating this year that includes twenty-five (25) in Applied Mathematics, twenty-five (25) in Chemistry, and twenty-five (25) in Physics. Further, a total of eighty two (82) MTech students are graduating, which includes twenty two (22) in VLSI, eighteen (18) in Biotechnology, seventeen (17) in Structural Engineering, thirteen (13) in Power Electronics and Drives, and thirteen (13) students in Computer Science and Engineering. Alongside, one (1) student has successfully completed the B.Tech in Civil Engineering & M.Tech in Structural Engineering (Under the B.Tech-M.Tech Dual Degree Program) and three (3) students have successfully completed the BTech-MTech Integrated Dual Degree program in Bio-Engineering.

In addition, twenty two (22) students in MS/MTech (by Research), forty-seven (47) students in MBA, and fifteen (15) students in MA Development Studies are graduating in this convocation. We are also delighted to announce that sixty six (66) PhD scholars are graduating in this convocation and four (4) 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. Academic Excellence in Research and Teaching

I extend my gratitude to my esteemed colleagues, the dedicated faculty members, and the diligent staff of IIT Mandi. Your mentorship and care have been pivotal in shaping these bright minds. The institute prides itself on attracting exceptional faculty, highly motivated in both quality teaching and high-impact research. We are home to 212 brilliant faculty members, a blend of young and experienced professionals, all striving for excellence across various disciplines.

### 2.1 Sponsored Research Grants and Patents

IIT Mandi has successfully secured 59 external sponsored research projects, amounting to a

total grant of ₹36.10 crores during 2024–25 (September 2024 – October 2025). In addition, the institute has undertaken 90 consultancy projects valued at ₹8.67 crores. Cumulatively, IIT Mandi has implemented 523 external sponsored research projects worth ₹255.95 crores and 252 consultancy projects totalling ₹19.76 crores since inception.

During the same period (September 2024 – October 2025), the IIT Mandi community filed 51 patents, granted 27 patents. Furthermore, 9 design registrations were filed, and 13 designs were granted.

## **2.2 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. According to the web of science, our researchers have done an exceptional job in publishing 847 research articles in 2024 and 721 research articles by October end in 2025.

## **2.3 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.

List new labs established this year

- Sapiotectonics Lab
- Sleep Research Lab
- Plant Consciousness Lab
- Apah-Mahabhuta Lab
- Library for Himalayan Literature and Culture
- Quantum Photonics materials and Devices lab
- Experimental High Energy Physics Lab
- Optics laboratory for quantum computing Research
- High-end AI Lab for PG students
- High-end AI lab for PhD students
- Construction Material Lab
- Water Resources Engineering Lab
- VLSI Lab
- Electrical Vehicle Lab

## **2.4 Academic Awards**

To foster a culture of excellence, the institute acknowledges young faculty members for their outstanding performance in research grants, publications, and patents.

This year, the Young Achiever Award was presented to Dr. Ashutosh Kumar, Assistant Professor, SCENE. The Young Faculty Fellowships were awarded to Dr. Sunny Zafar, Associate Professor, SMME, and Dr. Rahul Shrestha, Associate Professor, SCEE.

Furthermore, I am pleased to announce that on Teachers' Day, 2025, the institute bestowed the Teaching Excellence Award upon:

- Dr. Deepak Sachan, SMME
- Dr. Harshad Vijay Kulkarni, SCENE
- Prof. Muslim Malik, SMSS
- Dr. Nitu Kumari, SMSS
- Dr. Qaiser Jahan, SMSS
- Dr. Aparna Malviya, SHSS
- Dr. Aditya Nigam, SCEE
- Dr. Prateek Vishnoi, SCEE
- Dr. Rohit Saluja, SCEE
- Dr. Jinesh Machchhar, SCEE
- Dr. Venkatesh H Chembrolu, IKSMHA

### 3. Academic Activities

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi comprises nine academic schools and six specialized research centres. The institute offers twelve B.Tech. programs with an annual entry of 592 students, along with many MTech, MTech(R), MBA, and PhD programs in various disciplines. 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 2025:

#### 3.1 New Degree Programs

- **MS (Research) and PhD in Music and Musopathy:** This pioneering program integrates music, therapy, and technology to advance health and well-being, reflecting our commitment to interdisciplinary learning and the burgeoning field of Musopathy within the framework of Indian Knowledge Systems.
- **MA in Indian Knowledge System:** This program is a blend of classical and modern curriculum, aiming to produce graduates who are not just well-versed in Indian Knowledge System texts but are also adept at utilizing modern tools to analyze these texts. The integration with fields like Machine Learning and NLP will open new avenues of research and employment in tech-driven educational and research institutes.

### 3.2 Current Student Strength

Our current total student strength is Three thousand six hundred nine (3609). This includes students enrolled in various degree programs: 1772 B.Tech, 111 i-MBA, 53 BS, 130 MSc, 192 MTech, 99 MBA, 46 MA, 280 MS (Research), 24 I-PhD, 46 M.Tech (Research PhD Dual Degree), 92 part-time PhD and MS/MTech (Research), and 817 PhD.

Name of the Programme	Students
Bachelor of Technology in Civil Engineering	169
Bachelor of Technology in Computer Science and Engineering	347
Bachelor of Technology in Electrical Engineering	264
Bachelor of Technology in Mechanical Engineering	202
Bachelor of Technology in Data Science and Engineering	200
Bachelor of Technology in Engineering Physics	97
Bachelor of Technology in General Engineering	75
Bachelor of Technology in Materials Science and Engineering	73

Bachelor of Technology in Microelectronics & VLSI	93
Bachelor of Technology in Mathematics and Computing	96
Bachelor of Technology in Bioengineering	103
BS in Chemical Sciences	53
Master of Arts in Development Studies	31
Master of Arts in Indian Knowledge System	15
Master of Science in Chemistry	45
Master of Science in Applied Mathematics	42
Master of Science in Physics	43
Master of Technology in Power Electronics and Drives	35
Master of Technology in Biotechnology	42
Master of Technology in Structural Engineering	30

Master of Technology in VLSI	48
Master of Technology in Computer Science and Engineering	37
Master of Business Administration in Data Science and AI	99
I-MBA	111
Integrated-Doctor of Philosophy in Physics	24
Doctor of Philosophy including Joint Degree Programme	817
Master of Science(Research)/Master of Technology(Research)	280
M.Tech Research+PhD Dual Degree Programme	46
Part time Ph.D. and M.S.(Research)/M.Tech (Research)	92
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3609</b>

## 4. Events at IIT Mandi

IIT Mandi has been very active in organizing several academic workshops, meetings, and conferences. The Center for Continuing Education (CCE) alone organized 64 programs



between September 2024 and October 2025, including 7 Conferences, 8 Workshops, 8 FDPs, 6 Symposiums, 20 Short Term Courses, 14 Minor Degree Programs, and 1 Executive Development Program.

## **4.1 Conference and Workshops**

CCE organized the following events between September 2024 to October 2025:

1. The 9th International Conference on Sustainable Energy and Environmental Changes was held from 13th to 15th December 2024, coordinated by Prof. Atul Dhar (SMME), Dr. Satvasheel Powar (SMME), Prof. Shyam Kumar Masakapalli (SBB), Dr. Sarthak Nag (SMME), and Dr. Gajendra Singh (SMME) with financial support from SERB.
2. Conference on "Professional Excellence: A Framework from Bhagavad Gita" by Dr. Akhaya Kumar Nayak, Associate Professor (SOM), held from 13th-15th September 2024.
3. Conference on 2024 Indian Judgment and Decision Making" by Dr. Varun Dutt, Associate Professor (SCEE), as Coordinator(s), held from 05-10-2024 to 06-10-2024.
4. Conference on "Interdisciplinary Approaches to South Asian Ecology" by Dr. Thirthankar Chakraborty, Assistant Professor (SHSS), as Coordinator(s), held from 23-10-2024 to 25-10-2024.
5. Workshop on "Detailed Project Report (DPR) Preparation for Mitigating Various Hazards" by Dr. Kala Venkata Uday, Chairperson, Center for Climate Change and Disaster Management, as Coordinator(s), scheduled from 18-09-2024 to 20-09-2024 with financial support from DDMA (Mandi, HP).
6. Workshop on "A Hands-on Workshop on Composites Design and Manufacturing" by Dr. Sunny Zafar, Associate Professor (SMME), and Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Associate Professor (SMME) as Coordinator(s) from 16-06-2025 to 20-06-2025 with financial support from DRDO.
7. Workshop on Clinical Challenges and Control: AI Landscape" by Dr. Sneha Singh, Assistant Professor (SCEE), as Coordinator(s) on 19-10-2024 for one day.
8. Workshop on "DST-sponsored Expert Advisory Committee Meeting" by Dr. Ajay Soni, Associate Professor (SPS), as Coordinator(s) from 25-10-2024 to 26-10-2024 with financial support from DST.
9. Symposium "AIXCELRATE" coordinated by Dr. Ashish Bollimbala, Assistant Professor (SOM), held on 05-06 October 2024.
10. Faculty development program on "Capacity Building Program for PGT Physics" by Dr. Prabhakar Palni, Assistant Professor (SPS) & Dr. Ravindra Kumar Yadav, Assistant Professor (SPS) as Coordinator(s) from 05-11-2024 to 09-11-2024 with financial support from SCERT.
11. Short Term Course on "Maintenance of Rural Road in Hilly Terrain" by Dr. Ashutosh Kumar, Assistant Professor (SCENE) as Coordinator(s) held from 05.12.2024 to 09-12-2024 with financial support from NRIDA.
12. Faculty development program on "Capacity Building Programme for PGT Chemistry" by

- Dr. Prem Felix Siril, Professor (SCS) & Dr. Moupriya Das, Assistant Professor (SCS) as Coordinator(s) held from 05-11-2024 to 09-11-2024 with financial support from SCERT.
13. Short Term Course on "Integrated Product Design and Development with CAE and CAM" by Dr. Sunny Zafar, Associate Professor & Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Associate Professor (SMME) as Coordinator(s) held from 09-12-2024 to 14-12-2024 with financial support from ESDP.
  14. Short Term Course on "Winter School on Modelling Water Flow and Contaminant Transport in Subsurface using HYDRUS 2D/3D Software Packages" by Dr. Deepak Swami, Associate Professor (SCENE) as Coordinator(s) held from 27-01-2025 to 31-01-2025 with financial support through registration fees.
  15. Short Term Course on "6th Winter School on Cognitive Modelling" by Dr. Varun Dutt, Associate Professor (SCEE) as Coordinator(s) scheduled from 09-11-2024 to 09-11-2024 for one day.
  16. Faculty development program on "Capacity Building Program for PGT Mathematics" by Dr. Manoj Thakur, Professor & Dr. Preeti, Assistant Professor (SMSS) as Coordinator(s) scheduled from 25-11-2024 to 29-11-2024 with financial support from SCERT, Delhi.
  17. Short-term course on "Wide Band Gap Devices in Power Electronics Applications" (NPTEL)" by Dr. Moumita Das, Assistant Professor (SCEE) as Coordinator(s) from 01-07-2024 to 01-12-2024 with financial support from NPTEL.
  18. Short-term course on "Manufacturing of turbines (gas, steam, hydro and wind)" by Dr. Sunny Zafar, Associate Professor (SMME) as Coordinator(s) from 01-01-2025 to 01-04-2025 with financial support from NPTEL.
  19. Faculty development program on "Capacity Building Program for PGT Biology" by Dr. Prasad Kasturi, Assistant Professor (SBB) as Coordinator(s) held from 19-11-2024 to 23-11-2024 with financial support from SCERT, Delhi.
  20. Short-term course on "Signals and Systems" by Dr. Hitesh Shrimali, Professor (SCEE) as Coordinator(s) held from 01-01-2025 to 30-04-2025 with financial support from NPTEL.
  21. Short-term course on "Linear Dynamical Systems" by Dr. Tushar Jain, Associate Professor (SCEE) as Coordinator(s) held from 01-01-2025 to 01-04-2025 with financial support from NPTEL.
  22. Short-term course on "Large Applications Practicum" (NPTEL)" by Dr. Varun Dutt, Professor (SCEE) as Coordinator(s) held from 01-01-2025 to 01-04-2025 with financial support from NPTEL.
  23. Symposium on "Matrix Biology Research Convergence (MBRC) 2025" by Dr. Trayambak Basak, Assistant Professor (SBB) as Coordinator(s) from 09-01--2025 to 10-01-2025.
  24. Short-term course on "State Space Approach to Control System Analysis and Design" by Dr. Akhilanand Pati Tiwari, Professor (SCEE as Coordinator(s) scheduled from 01-01-2025 to 01-04-2025 with financial support from NPTEL.
  25. Short-term course on "Financial Accounting" coordinated by Dr. Puran Singh, Associate Professor (SOM), held from January to April 2025. The program was fully funded by NPTEL.

26. Short-term course on "Mastering 3D Printing: from Basic to Advanced Techniques" by Dr. Prateek Saxena, Assistant Professor (SMME), as Coordinator(s) held from 05-12-2024 to 09-12-2024 with financial support through registration fees.
27. Short term course on "Mathematical Foundations of General Relativity" by Dr. Rahul Kumar Kothari, Assistant Professor (SPS) as Coordinator(s) held from 09-12-2024 to 14-01-2025.
28. Workshop on "A Deep Learning workshop for Beginners" by Dr. Aditya Nigam, Associate Professor (SCEE) as Coordinator(s) held from 08-02-2025 to 09-02-2025.
29. Workshop on 'Futuristic Technologies for Energy Efficient, Safe and Smart Ropeway Systems' was conducted on 21st July 2025, coordinated by Dr. Rajeev Kumar, Professor (SMME), and Dr. Vishal Singh Chauhan, Professor (SMME).
30. Short term course "HCL Training and Mentoring Program" by Dr. Aditya Nigam, Associate Professor (SCEE) as Coordinator(s) held on 30-01-2025 with financial support from HCL.
31. One-week residential Short-term course on "Entrepreneurship Mindset Development Program (EMDP) & Advance EMDP on General Management /Leadership program" by Dr. Puran Singh, Associate Professor (SOM) as Coordinator(s) held from 27th January 2025 to 1st February 2025 & 24th Feb to 01st March, 2025 and funded by the Govt. of India.
32. Symposium on "Himalayan Business Summit (HiBS)" by Dr. Ashish Bollimbala, Assistant Professor (SoM) as Coordinator(s) from 18-01-2025 to 19-01-2025.
33. Symposium on "1st SCS Research Meet, 2025" by Dr. Indu Bala, Assistant Professor (SCS) as Coordinator(s) held on 25-01-2025 with the financial support from sponsorship.
34. Symposium on "Molecular Intricacies of Plant Associated Microorganisms 2025 (MIPAM-2025)" by Dr. Shyam Kumar Masakapalli, Professor (SBB) as Coordinator(s) held from 06-03-2025 to 08-03-2025 with the financial support from NIRF & registration fees.
35. Faculty development program on "Capacity Building Program in "Emerging Technologies and Pedagogy" by Dr. Anjan Kumar Swain, Professor (SoM) as Coordinator(s) held from 16-12-2024 to 20-12-2024 with financial support from SCERT, Delhi.
36. One week short-term course under the GIAN scheme titled "Data-Based Systems and Control" by Dr. Tushar Jain, Associate Professor (SCEE) as Coordinator(s) held from 7th April to 11th April 2025 with financial support from GIAN & registration fees.
37. Executive Development Program on "Conduct of Lectures at School of Technical Training, Armoured Corps Centre & School, Ahmednagar (online mode)" by Dr. Tushar Jain, Associate Professor (SCEE) as Coordinator(s) from 29th January to 8th Feb.2025. Funded by the Armoured Corps Center & School, Ahmednagar.
38. One-week residential short-term course under the GIAN scheme, titled 'Wetting, Capillarity and Phase Transitions: Experiments and Simulations', was conducted from 28th April to 2nd May 2025. The program was coordinated by Dr. Parmod Kumar, Associate Professor (SMME), with financial support from GIAN & registration fees.
39. First batch on Minor Degree Program in Data Science and Machine Learning (online) by Dr. Indu Joshi, Assistant Professor (SCEE), as Coordinator(s) from 29-07-2024 to 05-10-2025 with financial support from registration fees.
40. 2nd batch on "Minor Degree Program in Data Science and Machine Learning (online) by

Dr. Indu Joshi, Assistant Professor (SCEE), as Coordinator(s) from 29-09-2024 to 05-10-2025.

41. First batch on Minor Degree Program in Embedded Systems (Online) by Prof. Shubhajit Roy Chowdhury, as Coordinator(s) scheduled from 17-03-2025 to 18-02-2026.
42. First batch on Minor Degree Program in CSE & Advanced Technology (Online) in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) by Dr. Prateek Vishnoi as Coordinator(s) start date 05-10-2024 end date 28-09-2025.
43. 2nd batch on Minor Degree Program in CSE & Advanced Technology (Online) in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) by Dr. Prateek Vishnoi as Coordinator(s) start date 10-01-2025 end date 10-11-2025.
44. First batch on Minor Degree Program in Software development 2.0 With Emerging Tech. (Online) in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) by Dr. Prateek Vishnoi as Coordinator(s) start date 28-04-2025 end date 12-02-2026.
45. 3rd batch on Minor Degree Program in CSE (Online) in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) by Dr. Varun Jaypaul & Dr. Preeti as Coordinator(s) start date 29-03-2025 end date 16-08-2026.
46. First batch on Minor Degree Program in Cyber Security & Ethical Hacking (online) by Prof. Anjan K. Swain, School of Management (SoM) as Coordinator(s) scheduled from 17-02-2025 to 26-11-2025.
47. First batch on Minor Degree Program in AI & DS (Online) by Dr. Indu Joshi & Prof. Manoj Thakur as Coordinator(s) scheduled from 20-03-2025 to 04-01-2026.
48. 2nd batch on Minor Degree Program (Online) in AI & DS by Dr. Indu Joshi & Prof. Manoj Thakur as Coordinator(s) scheduled from 25-08-2025 to 25-05-2026.
49. First batch on Minor Degree Program in Business Analytics (Online) by Prof. Anjan K. Swain, School of Management (SOM) as Coordinator(s) scheduled from 10-02-2025 to 30-10-2025.
50. 2nd batch on Minor Degree Program in Business Analytics (Online) by Prof. Anjan K. Swain, School of Management (SOM) as Coordinator(s) scheduled from 29-03-2025 to 16-08-2026.
51. First batch on Minor Degree Program in Artificial Intelligence (Online) by Dr. Sneha Singh & Dr. Parimala Kancharla (SCEE) as Coordinator(s) scheduled from 29-03-2025 to 16-08-2026.
52. First batch on Minor Degree Program in Data Science (online) by Dr. Aditya Nigam & Dr. Adarsh Patel (SCEE) as Coordinator(s) scheduled from 29-03-2025 to 16-08-2026.
53. One week Short-term training on Carpenter batch PM Vishwakarma Scheme held from 19 June 23 June 2025 by Dr. Tushar Jain (Head, CCE) as Coordinator. A total of 11 participants attended the training, which was fully sponsored through the PM Vishwakarma Scheme fund.
54. Mind, Brain, and Consciousness Conference - 2025 (MBCC-25) was organized under the coordination of Dr. Arnav Bhavasar, Professor (IKSMHA). The conference was held from 4th June to 7th June 2025 and was financially supported by the institute and

sponsorships, and through registration fees.

55. One-month Short Term Course on Robotics, AI & IoT (PRAYAS 3.0), coordinated by Dr. Tushar Jain, Associate Professor (SCEE), held from 16-06-2025 to 15-07-2025. The program brought together 120 school students from across India, fostering curiosity and scientific temperament while providing immersive exposure to STEM fields.
56. Conference on Indigeneity in the Global South, convened by Dr. Shyamsree Dasgupta, Associate Professor (SHSS), held from 10-09-2025 to 12-09-2025. The conference brought together scholars and practitioners to engage in critical discussions on indigenous knowledge systems, sustainability, culture, rights, and decolonial perspectives within the Global South.
57. Three-part Workshop Series on "Structural Safety Audit, DPR Preparation, and Landslide and Earthquake Mitigation" for DDMA Bilaspur, coordinated by Dr. Kala Venkata Uday, Associate Professor (SCENE), scheduled from 26-05-2025 to 28-05-2025, 29-05-2025 to 31-05-2025, and 09-06-2025 to 11-06-2025. The workshops aim to strengthen technical capacity and practical understanding of disaster risk reduction and resilient infrastructure planning with financial support from DDMA (Bilaspur, HP).
58. The Certificate Program on "B.Tech (ECE) Programme in Semiconductor Design and Technology with Micro Credit Certification from IIT Mandi" is coordinated by Dr. Hitesh Shrimali, Professor (SCEE). The program is scheduled to run from August 2025 to July 2029 and is conducted in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and The NorthCap University (NCU).
59. A workshop Building Cognitive Experiment: Hands on Training in Psychtoolbox, Psychopy MATLAB & Python Basics was conducted from September 18, 2025 to September 20, 2025, under the coordination of Dr. Ramajayam Govindaraji (IKSHMA).
60. The "AiXcelerate 3.0" symposium, coordinated by Dr. Ashish Bollimbala, Assistant Professor (SoM), was held from 6th September 2025 to 7th September 2025. The event received financial support of ₹30, 15,000/- from the Institute.
61. A "One-Week Training Program on Electric Vehicles", was conducted from September 15 to September 23, 2025, under the coordination of Dr. Gajendra Singh, Assistant Professor, and Dr. Atul Dhar, Professor, School of Mechanical & Materials Engineering (SMME). The program received financial support from ICLEI South Asia.
62. A Capacity Building Training Program for PGT Mathematics Teachers, was conducted from September 22, 2025, to September 26, 2025, under the coordination of Dr. Tushar Jain, Head, Centre for Continuing Education (CCE). The program received financial support from the State Council of Educational Research & Training (SCERT), New Delhi.
63. The Kullhad Economy Festival (KEF) 2025 was organized under the coordination of Dr. Venkatesh Hanumant Rao Chembrolu, Associate Professor (IKSMHA). The festival was conducted from 2nd October 2025 to 6th October 2025 at IIT Mandi.
64. A Capacity Building Programme for PGT Chemistry Teachers was coordinated by Dr. Moupriya Das, Assistant Professor (SCS), and co-coordinated by Dr. Indu Bala, Assistant Professor (SCS). The program was held from October 13 to October 17, 2025, and was

fully funded by the State Council of Educational Research & Training (SCERT), New Delhi.

## 4.2 Institute Colloquium

IIT Mandi routinely invites eminent speakers for the institute colloquium. The colloquia held this past academic year are listed below:

- Dr. R. Venkatesan, National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) and the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), "Emerging Technologies to Tackle Climate Change - Focus on Oceans"
- Dr. Ranjan K. Mallik, Department of Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, "Noncoherent Communications for Single-Input Multiple-Output Systems"
- Dr. U Vindhya, Deputy Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad, "Configurations of masculinities in contemporary India: Some reflections from research"
- Prof. Debabrata Maiti, Department of Chemistry, IIT Bombay, "Unlocking new chemical space via selective catalysis"
- Prof. Santanu Chaudhury, Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Delhi, "Celebrating AI"
- Prof. Pandu Rangan Chandrasekharan, Department of Computer Science, IIT Madras, "Algorithmic Thinking"
- Prof. Mrityunjay Chakraborty, Department of Electronics and Electrical Communication Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, "Compressed Sensing - Basics and Some New Results"
- Prof. Partha Ghose, Indian physicist, author, philosopher, musician and former professor at the S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences in Kolkata; Former chairman of Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata, "The Story of Bose, Photon Spin and Indistinguishability"
- Prof. Aditya Murthy, Centre for Neuroscience (CNS), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, "The Cognitive Neuroscience of Eye Movements"
- Prof. G. L. Sivakumar Babu, Department of Civil Engineering & Centre for Sustainable Technologies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, "Sustainable Geotechnics"
- Prof. K. Srihari, Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, "Dreaming of mode-specific chemistry —inside a box?"
- Prof. Devdas Menon, Retd. Professor - Structural Engineering Group, Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, "Spirituality at Work"
- Prof. Srinivasan Sampath, Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, "Interfaces in Electrochemistry: Fundamentals to Energy Storage, Conversion, Sensors ..."
- Prof. T. K. Datta, Adjunct Professor, National Centre for Disaster Mitigation and Management, Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur, "Productivity of Scientists and Engineers in Academic Setting"
- Prof. Jaywant Arakeri, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, "Fluid Mechanics Through Pictures"

- Prof. Ramesh V. Sonti, Director, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi & Former Director, National Institute of Plant Genome Research, "Biotechnological tools for Crop Improvement"
- Prof. Ujjwal Maulik, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, "Application of Artificial Intelligence: Current Trends and Challenges"
- Prof. Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay, Director, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata, "Machine Learning Applications in Biology"
- Prof. C. K. Raju, Honorary Professor, Indian Institute of Education, Ex-Tagore Fellow, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, "Teaching calculus as ganita"
- Prof. Chiranjib Bhattacharyya, Department of Computer Science and Automation, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, "Challenges and research efforts in Democratizing AI"
- Prof. P. Balaram, Indian biochemist and former Director of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; Senior Visiting Professor, NCBS & Chairperson ATREE, "Evolution: The Rise of Chemistry, the Birth of Biology and Beyond"
- Prof. Sudheshna Sinha, Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Mohali, "Harnessing Chaos"
- Prof. Anindya Chatterjee, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, "New Paradigms for the IIT System: AI and Scale"
- Prof. Suman Chakraborty, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, "Community Transformation via Democratized Diagnostic Technologies for the Underserved"
- Shri Babaji Shivananda, "A Journey Towards the Self"
- Prof. Chandra R. Murthy, Department of Electrical Communication Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, "Beyond 5G Communications: Questions and Some Answers"
- Prof. Giridhar U. Kulkarni, President, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Jakkur, Bangalore, "AI is not sustainable, what we need is ABI (Artificial Biological Intelligence)"
- Padma Shri Dr. Subhash Palekar, Indian agriculturist and author of Subhash Palekar Natural Farming, "Let us go back towards spiritual creative way of human life again for our sustainable survival"
- Prof. Gadadhar Misra, Honorary Visiting Professor, Statistics and Mathematics Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore & Visiting Professor, Department of Mathematics, Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, "Euler's product formula and the Ramanujan sum"
- Prof. Umesh V. Waghmare, Department of Theoretical Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, "First-principles Theory, Multi-Scale Modelling and Simulations of Phase Transitions in Materials"
- Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Valter Böhm, Ostbayerische Technische Hochschule Regensburg, Germany, "Selected Possibilities of Realizing Compliant Robotic Systems Based on Tensegrity Structures"
- Prof. Shekhar Mande, Former Director General, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research and

Former Director, NCCS Pune, "AI in Biological Sciences"

- Prof. C. S. Manohar, Retd. Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, "Engineering Safe Structures: Integrating Computation and Experimentation"
- Prof. Dipankar Deb, IIT Mandi, "Patenting Through Design Thinking"
- Mr. Jijith Nadumuri Ravi, Former ISRO Scientist and Researcher in Sacred Geography, Vedic Chronology, and Indian Knowledge Systems, "Veda, Itihāsa Purāṇic Geochronology"
- Prof. Sanjay Puri, School of Physical Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, "Pattern Formation in the Kinetics of Phase Transitions"
- Prof. Sundar Sarukkai, Professor of Philosophy at the National Institute of Advanced Studies; Founder-Director, Manipal Centre for Philosophy and Humanities; Visiting Faculty, Centre for Society and Policy, Indian Institute of Science, "Humanising the Sciences"
- Prof. Sriram Ramaswamy, "The Strange Physics of Self-Driven Particles"

## 5. Infrastructure updates

The area of the institute campus is approximately 503 acres. The built-up area as of now is approximately 2.26 lakh sq meter. Currently, the institute houses approximately 3609 students, 212 faculty members, and 150 staff members. By 2027, we plan to have more than 5000 students, 500 faculty members, and 550 staff members.

This requires an infrastructure push for which we have already obtained a HEFA loan of INR 333 crores. The work for these developments is entrusted to CPWD. Furthermore, another HEFA loan of INR 375 crores has been approved by the Ministry, which will help us build additional academic blocks, 150 3BHK apartments, 150 2BHK apartments, and a state-of-the-art student activity center, including sporting facilities. We anticipate these projects to be completed by 2028.

Key project updates:

- Construction of hostel facilities for 1377 students in the North campus is in progress and expected to be completed by March 2026.
- Planning for a Lecture Complex (3500 seating capacity) and an academic block (10,000 sqm) is being done by CPWD for tendering.
- Tendering for a 400-bedded girls' hostel, 80 apartments for married research scholars, and an academic block is completed, with work expected to start soon.
- A hostel with approximately 300 capacity has been completed by IIT Mandi's internal Construction Department.
- The construction of a bridge over Kataula Khad, connecting Land parcel-1 with the upcoming hostel cluster, has been completed.
- A two-lane road connecting areas within the campus, complete with street lights, drains, and footpaths, is under execution and expected to be completed by December 2025.



- Safety measures funded by MoE (INR 67 crores), including Gabion walls, protecting walls, advanced drainage, and boundary walls following the 2023 monsoon damages, have been completed, significantly enhancing campus safety against landslides and water ingress.
- IIT Mandi has started the fully functional Rewalsar Hostel in South Campus, which is the eleventh hostel of the institute.
- A new mess, namely Sanobar, has been inaugurated which will cater to the students of IIT Mandi.
- A new canteen, Sunbird, serving all Amul products has been inaugurated in the South Campus of the institute.
- In March 2025, 12 Automatic Vending Machines were installed at various locations.

## 6. Student Placements

A key objective of our academic programs is to equip students with the necessary skills and exposure for successful careers through industry placements. During the previous academic year, IIT Mandi attracted 266 recruiting organizations, including leading global and national companies such as Google, D.E. Shaw, LinkedIn, Microsoft, Walmart, Adobe, BNY, Sprinklr, Samsung, Cisco, Warner Bros. Discovery, GlobalLogic Hitachi, Accenture India, Anumana.AI, Arista, Nvidia, Intel, Qualcomm, Texas Instruments, Cadence, AMD, Media.Net, VE Commercial Vehicles, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Electronics, LTI Mindtree, TCS, Infosys, L&T, BPCL, IRDEA, CDAC, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Turing, ZS, among others. International recruiters included Accenture Japan, Aiful, Commerce Robotics, and Morabu Hanshin.

The Undergraduate program achieved outstanding results, recording an average salary of approximately ₹21.64 LPA and an impressive placement rate of 95.04%. Similarly, post-graduates secured an average salary of around ₹10.93 LPA, with 78.88% of students successfully placed. To further strengthen their career prospects, many students undertook prestigious internships with leading companies and academic institutions. A number of students also opted to pursue higher education at reputed institutions in India and abroad.

Beyond placements, the Career and Placement Cell undertook several initiatives throughout the year to enhance students' career readiness and awareness of diverse opportunities. These included career guidance sessions by eminent academicians, entrepreneurship talks by successful startup founders, seminars on competitive examinations conducted by reputed coaching institutes, interactive sessions with alumni, and workshops on interview preparation.

## 7. Achievements of Faculty Members

Our faculty members have achieved recognitions and laurels both nationally and internationally:

- Dr. Sandeep Sahu: Selected as Senior Individual Member, INAE (2025) and awarded Royal

Society Alumni Follow-on Grant (UK, 2024–2025).

- Prof. Mohammad Talha: Featured among Top 2% Scientists (2024) by Stanford/Elsevier and served as Editor for Springer's "Lecture notes in Mechanical Engineering".
- Dr. Rajesh Ghosh: Received Springer Nature Editor of Distinction Award 2025 (Editorial Contribution and Author Service).
- Prof. Varun Dutt: Won Tech Pioneer Award 2025 for his startup and was appointed editor of Nature Scientific Reports (July 2025).
- Dr. Pushpendra Singh & Prof. Anirban Bandyopadhyay: Book proposal "Nanobrain IX" accepted by CRC press.
- Prof. Rajendra Kr. Ray: Awarded "IAAM Scientist Award - 2024" and served as Lead Guest Editor and Editor for Springer publications (2024).
- Prof. Muslim Malik: Received Teaching Excellence Award 2025 at IIT Mandi.
- Prof. Nitu Kumari: Appointed Managing Editor of a Springer Nature Book Series (2024-2027) and received Teaching Excellence Award 2025.
- Dr. Prabhakar Palni & Dr. Amal Sarkar: Named laureates of the Fundamental Physics Breakthrough Prize 2025 for contributions to LHC experiments.
- Prof. Suman Kalyan Pal: Elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (2024).
- Prof. Ajay Soni: Elected as a Young Leader Committee Member of the Editorial Team for Wiley Energy and Environmental Materials (2024-2025).
- Dr. Arko Roy: Earned "IOP Trusted Reviewer" status.
- Prof. Chayan Kanti Nandi: Elected as a Fellow of the Indian Chemical Society (Dec 2024) and Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (Oct 2024).
- Dr. Shyamasree Dasgupta: Became a member of the NIAS Academic Advisory Board (2025) and served as a Guest Researcher at AIT, Thailand (2024).
- Dr. Thirthankar Chakraborty: Named a Visiting Fellow at the Leuven Centre for Irish Studies (2025).
- Dr. Manu V. Devadevan: Invited as a Scholar-in-Residence Fellow by the Kerala Council for Historical Research (2025).
- Dr. M. H. Adil: Received the Young Scholars' Best Paper Award (2024) and the 'Prof M. J. Manohar Rao Young Economist Award' (2024).
- Dr. Nilamber Chhetri: Awarded the "M. N. Srinivas Memorial Prize 2024" by the Indian Sociological Society.

## 8. Student's Gymkhana

The Student Gymkhana is an integral part of the IIT Mandi Student Community, which plays a very important role by supporting all kinds of activities under its ambit. Our student community regularly organizes activities of diverse genres and celebrates national or cultural festivals with remarkable enthusiasm. The year was full of students' events and activities. In October 2024, **Rann-Neeti** (the annual inter-college sports fest), in March 2025, **Xpecto** (the annual inter-college technical fest) and **Exodia** (the annual inter-college cultural fest) in April 2025 were

organized. These events highlighted the spirit of participation and unity among the student community on a much larger scale. 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.

## **8.1 Students' Achievements and Activities**

Some of the notable achievements are as follows:

- Team IIT Mandi grabbed 1st and 3rd Positions in PAN IIT Gen-AI Hackathon 2024.
- In Google Summer of Code'24 IIT Mandi secured 13 selections.
- IIT Mandi won Silver Medal in IGDC Game Development and 5th Position in ISRO Astronomy PS in Inter-IIT Tech Meet 2024.
- IIT Mandi grabbed 3rd position in Design Different in Inter IIT Civil conclave.
- IIT Mandi has secured Silver Medals in Hindi Slam Poetry and English Poetry in Inter-IIT Cultural Meet 7.0.
- Mr Ayush and his team was honored as the runner-up for Best Invention at the Invention Factory at IIT Jammu.

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

- Jan-Jatiya Gaurav Diwas Mahotsav
- Virasat-A 3 days long cultural event in collaboration of SPICMACY
- National Unity Day Celebration
- Lecture series on Yoga, Meditation, Panch Koshas, etc.
- Lecture series on Drug Abuse, Anti-Ragging, Art of Living etc.
- Khadi Mahotsav
- Anusandhan 2.0- An Annual Research Fair
- Miraz 2023- Inter-Institute event

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 Upadhyay, 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
- Sh. Jai Ram Thakur, Former CM of Himachal Pradesh
- Prof. Vinay Pathak, Vice-Chancellor of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur
- Dr. Amit Kumar Pandey, CTO of Space Robotics and AI, Paris, France
- Guru Kalamandalam Girija, a Koodiyattam artist from Kerala
- Wg Cdr Kunal Sharma, NCC Airwing, Kullu
- Ms. Anjali Vakil, An expert of Tribal Art of Chamba
- Vidushi Geeta Chandran, Padam Shree awardee Bharatnatyam dancer
- Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan, Padam Shree awardee, Sitar Vadak
- Prof. (Rtd.) B.S. Panwar, Faculty, IIT Dehli
- Cmdr. (Rtd.) V.K. Jaitly
- Mr. Saurabh Sharma, a Wellness and Nutrition Enthusiast
- Dr. Sunita Khurana, Director, Centre for Training, Research and Advocacy
- Ms. Paulomi Mukherjee, Sr. Faculty, Art of Living
- Mr. Vikram Sridhar, Storyteller, Originator, "Around the Story Tree"

## 9. Achievements of Alumni

The Dean's Office of Resource Generation and Alumni Relations (DORA), headed by Prof. Varun Dutt, plays a vital role in cultivating enduring relationships with our alumni, corporate partners, and other stakeholders. DORA's primary focus is on alumni relations and fundraising to support critical initiatives such as research endeavors, scholarships, infrastructure development, and the establishment of new academic centers.

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, Paralympic Gold Medalist (Badminton SL3, Paris 2024), Arjuna Awardee, and proud alumnus of IIT Mandi, visited his alma mater as the Chief Guest on the 79th Independence Day. A historic moment was the inauguration of the “Nitesh Kumar Pavilion” by him, named in his honour at the Sports Complex, standing as a symbol of perseverance and inspiration for generations to come. Shri Nitesh also gifted his Paralympics-winning T-shirt, leaving the IIT Mandi community deeply moved and proud.
- IIT Mandi awarded the following distinguished alumni with the Young Achiever Award 2025:
  1. Dr. Nalam Venkat Abhishek (an IIT Mandi Alumnus, B.Tech. - Electrical Engineering – 2014, Roll No. B10065, graduated in the year 2014) – For Academic Excellence.
  2. Mr. Harshit Varshney (an IIT Mandi Alumnus, B.Tech. Electrical Engineering, graduated in the year 2018) – For Professional Excellence.
- Dr. Aastha Gupta (an IIT Mandi Alumnus, Ph.D. Chemistry, graduated in the year 2023) successfully cracked the highly competitive Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (HPPSC) – College Cadre examination and secured the prestigious position of Assistant Professor of Chemistry in the Department of Higher Education, Government of Himachal Pradesh, India.
- Dr. Ashish Tiwari (PhD, 2015–2020), alumnus, named as ambassador of the prestigious NSF Accelerating Research Translation (NSF-ART) program. He has also received the Institute for Engineering Driven Health (IEDH) Postdoctoral Researcher Award for 2024–2025, co-funded by NSF and the University of Delaware, USA.
- Dr. Sanjay Rathee, (an IIT Mandi Alumnus, Ph.D. Computer Science Engineering, graduated in the year 2018), became an Associate Director, Department of Oncology, Astrazeneca UK.
- Gopal Krishan Aggarwal (B.Tech CSE 2017), has made significant strides in the global technology space as an Engineering Manager at Tonichi Printing Co., Ltd., Tokyo. Mr. Aggarwal has been an exemplary alumnus, continually supporting his alma mater through his active role as the Secretary of the Japan Alumni Chapter of IIT Mandi. Under his esteemed leadership, the Chapter has been consistently strengthening ties between IIT Mandi and Japanese industries, both in India and Japan.

## 10. 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 27 plus active MoUs with international partners.

Since 2013, over 208 of our students have had the chance to go for semester exchange to partner institutions in Germany, Japan, and Norway. Over 193 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.

### **10.1 International Students at IIT Mandi**

Currently, there are 13 International students enrolled in Undergraduate, Masters and Ph.D. programs at IIT Mandi. Of these, two students are from Bangladesh, and three students are from Nepal. Three students joined IIT Mandi from Ethiopia for the Ph.D. program. One student is from Korea (part-time PhD), one student is from America (M.Sc.), and three students are in the B.Tech program from Canada and America.

Ms. Malavika from the University of Western Ontario, Canada, visited IIT Mandi for a short-term Internship from May to June 2025. Dr Wadzani Dauda visited IIT Mandi for a post-doc from Nigeria under the DBT-TWAS, 2022, from March 2024 to September 2025, on a Postdoctoral Fellowship.

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

A total of 62 IIT Mandi graduate and undergraduate students visited several European, Japanese, and Norwegian institutions under an academic exchange program in the year 2024-2025. The undergraduate visits included: 10 students to RWTH Aachen, 10 students to Technical University of Munich, 07 students to the Technical University of Darmstadt, 05 students to Technical University of Dresden, 05 students to the Technical University of Braunschweig, 06 students to Leibniz University Hannover, 08 students to Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway, 07 students to Kyushu University Japan and 02 M.Tech. students to Germany under DAAD (KOSPIE) program. In October 2025, 47 more B.Tech. and M.Tech. students are expected to visit Germany, Norway and Japan on semester exchange programs.

### **10.3 International Visitors at IIT Mandi**

- Ms. Hinaho Kishi and Ms. Moena Watanabe, language teachers from Japan, visited the School of Humanities in January 2025.
- A KOICA Delegation visited IIT Mandi for a collaboration meeting in January 2025, including Mr. Woochan Chang (Country Director), Prof. Jay-Gill Pyeon, Prof. Yu Tack Kim, Mr. Seonggi Lee, Mr. Sungsu Kim, Ms. Bomi Kim, Ms. Sinae Won, Ms. Maria Strella Samuel, Ms. Tanisha Chakraborty, and Mr. Kuldeep Chauhan.
- Dr. Juan Luis Toribio Vazquez, visiting faculty from Spain, visited the School of Humanities in March 2025.
- Dr. Abel Curtis visited IIT Mandi from WPI, USA for the ISTP project in March 2025.
- Mr. Markus and Dr. Mohit Kumar from Software Competence Center Hagenberg, Austria, visited for a collaboration meeting in April 2025.
- Prof. Wada Kenji (Vice President) and Mr. UETA Koji from Kagawa University, Japan, visited

in August 2025 to discuss future collaboration.

## **11.4 New MoUs**

- Renewal of Student Exchange Agreement with Leibniz University Hannover, Germany (June 2025).
- Software Competence Center Hagenberg GmbH, Austria (April 2025).
- Chung Yuan Christian University, Taiwan (July 2025).
- University of Bordeaux, France (July 2025).

## **10.5 Faculty visits to foreign countries**

- Dr. Mousumi Mukherjee, Assistant Prof., visited IS-Grenoble 2024 in Grenoble, France, in September 2024 to attend the International Symposium.
- Dr. Prasanna R, Assistant Prof., visited Jaffna, Sri Lanka, in September 2024 to attend the International Conference on Engineering – 2024.
- Dr. Mohammad Talha, Associate Prof., visited Maltepe University, Istanbul, Turkiye, in October 2024 to attend the 25th International Conference on Advances in Materials & Processing Technologies (AMPT-2024).
- Dr. Baskar Bakthavachalu, Assistant Prof., visited Heidelberg, Germany, in October 2024 to November 2025 to attend the EMBO's 60th Anniversary Celebratory Meeting.
- Dr. Ranbir Singh, Assistant Prof., visited Universitat Rovira I Virgili, Tarragona, Spain, in November 2024 to attend the 6th International Conference on Soft Materials (ICSM-2024).
- Dr. Anirban Sarkar, Assistant Prof., visited Songdo Convensia, Incheon, Korea, in November 2024 to attend the 29th International Symposium on Antennas and Propagation (ISAP 2024).
- Dr. Puran Singh, Associate Prof., visited Nantes, France, in November 2024 to attend the 9th Effectuation Conference Bridging Research and Practice.
- Prof. Satinder Kumar Sharma visited Universitat Rovira I Virgili, Tarragona, Spain, in November 2024 to attend the 6th International Conference on Soft Materials (ICSM-2024).
- Dr. Kaustav Sarkar, Associate Prof., visited the University of Reading, UK, in December 2024 to attend SPARC-UKIERI project related activities.
- Prof. Suman Kalyan Pal visited Boston, Massachusetts, USA, in December 2024 to attend the 2024 Materials Research Society (MRS) Fall Meeting and Exhibit.
- Dr. Varun Dutt, Associate Prof., visited Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany, in December 2024 for research collaboration.
- Prof. Arti Kashyap visited New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, in January 2025 to attend the 16th Joint Conference on Magnetism and Magnetic Materials and Intermag.
- Dr. Sneha Singh, Assistant Prof., visited Singapore in December 2024 to attend the IEEE TENCON 2024 Conference.
- Dr. Nitu Kumari, Associate Prof., visited New York University, Abu Dhabi (UAE), in December 2024 to attend the 14th AIMS Conference.
- Dr. Moupriya Das, Assistant Prof., visited the Nordic Institute for Theoretical Physics at

Stockholm, Sweden, from December 2024 to January 2025 as a research visitor to NORDITA.

- Prof. Syed Abbas visited King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), Thailand, in December 2024 to pursue research and collaborative works.
- Dr. Satvasheel Ramesh Powar, Associate Prof., visited Ecole des Ponts Business School and the ReTech Centre, Paris, France; Global Institute of Robotics and AI Founders, Paris, France; Universal Robotics Headquarter, Odense, Denmark; Robotics Department of the University of Southern Denmark (SDU), Odense, Denmark; Wageningen University, the Netherlands; Austrian Society for Artificial Intelligence, Hagenberg, Austria; and Dalarna University, Sweden, from October to November 2024.
- Dr. Amit Prasad, Associate Prof., visited New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, in November 2024 to attend the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH-2024) annual meeting.
- Dr. Radhe Shyam Sharma, Assistant Prof., visited Dhahi (UAE) in December 2024 to attend the 18th International Conference on Control, Automation, Robotics and Vision (ICARCA 2024).
- Dr. Nitu Kumari, Associate Prof., visited New York University, Abu Dhabi (UAE), in December 2025 to attend the 14th AIMS Conference.
- Dr. Varun Dutt, Associate Prof., visited Syneos Health, NC, USA, from December 2024 to January 2025 for research collaboration.
- Dr. Ranbir Singh, Assistant Prof., visited Ulster University in January 2025 to attend the UK – India International Semiconductor – Photonics Symposium 2025.
- Dr. Dericks Praise Shukla, Associate Prof., visited Ehime University, Matsuyama, Japan, in January 2025 to participate in the JST Sakura Science Program.
- Dr. Sunny Zafar, Associate Prof., visited King Mongkut's University of Technology, North Bangkok, Thailand, in January 2025 as a Visiting Professor.
- Dr. Parmod Kumar, Assistant Prof., visited Toulouse, France, in May 2025 to attend the 11th International Conference on Multiphase Flows (ICMF 2025).
- Prof. Arnav Vinayak Bhavsar visited Porto, Portugal, in February 2025 to participate in BIOSTEC 2025.
- Prof. Satinder Kumar Sharma visited San Jose, California, USA, in February 2025 to attend the Advances in Patterning Materials and Processes XLII conference.
- Prof. Satinder Kumar Sharma visited Ulster University, UK, in January 2025 to attend the International Semiconductor-Photonics Symposium 2024 conference.
- Dr. Masudul Hasan Adil, Assistant Prof., visited Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, in April 2025 to participate in the International Conference on Banking Finance and Business (ICBFB 2025).
- Prof. Shubhajit Roy Chowdhury visited Yokohama, Japan, in April and May 2025 to participate in the CHI 2025 International Conference.
- Dr. Moumita Das, Associate Prof., visited the University of Birmingham, London, U.K., in



September 2025 to receive a "Royal Society Yusuf Hamied International Exchange Award."

- Dr. Trayambak Basak, Associate Prof., visited Colby Sawyer College in New London, New Hampshire, United States, in July 2025.
- Dr. Gajendra Singh, Assistant Prof., visited the National University of Singapore in May 2025 to attend the 15th Asia-Pacific Conference on Combustion (ASPACC 2025).
- Dr. Rajneesh Sharma, Associate Prof., visited Vienna, Austria, in April 2025 to attend the FraMCoS XII Conference - Fracture Mechanics.
- Dr. Baskar Bakthavachalu, Assistant Prof., visited Renaissance Tuscany II Ciocco, Italy, in May 2025 to attend the Gordon Research Conference CAG Triple: Repeat Disorders 2025.
- Dr. Kala Venkata Uday, Associate Prof., visited the University of Vigo, Vigo, Spain, in June 2025 to attend the 6th International Conference on Environmental Geotechnology, Recycled Waste Materials and Sustainable Engineering (EGRWSE-2025).
- Dr. Prateek Saxena, Assistant Prof., visited Ulster University, Londonderry, Northern Ireland, UK, in May and June 2025 to attend the academic collaboration meeting.
- Prof. C S Yadav visited Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, in March 2025 to attend the "Trilateral Conference on Advances in Materials Research (TCAMR)."
- Dr. Ashutosh Kumar, Assistant Prof., visited the Institute of Hazard, Risk and Resilience (IHRR) at Durham University, UK, from June to July 2025 to work with researchers of the Institute of Hazard, Risk and Resilience (IHRR).
- Dr. Sandeep Sahu, Assistant Prof., visited the University of Southampton, UK, from June to July 2025 to pursue a collaboration under Newton International Fellowships Alum 2024.
- Dr. Vadakkan Neethi Alexander, Assistant Prof., visited the University of Galway, Ireland, in August 2025 to attend the Biennial Conference.
- Dr. Swati Sharma, Assistant Prof., visited Saint Malo, France, from June to July 2025 to attend the IMCS 2025 Conference.
- Dr. Samir Shukla, Assistant Prof., visited the University of Florida, USA, from May to June 2025 to pursue a collaboration research.
- Dr. Shashank Pathak, Assistant Prof., visited the National University of Uzbekistan in April 2025 to attend the Republican Scientific Conference.
- Dr. Venkatesh Hanumant Rao Chembrolu, Associate Prof., visited Barcelona, Spain, in July 2025 to attend the Science of Consciousness 2025.
- Prof. Chayan Kanti Nandi visited Barcelona, Spain, in July 2025 to attend the Science of Consciousness 2025, and UKRI Science and Technology Facilities Council, UK, in July 2025.
- Dr. Baskar Bakthavachalu, Associate Prof., visited Wurzburg, Germany, in April 2025 to attend the "EMBO Sectorial meeting - RNA and Structural Biology."
- Dr. Deepak Raina, Associate Prof., visited Berlin, Germany, in June 2025 to attend the "39th International Congress and Exhibition on Computer Assisted Radiology and Surgery (CARS) 2025."
- Dr. Vadakkan Neethi Alexander, Assistant Prof., visited the University of Maryland, College

Park, USA, in July 2025 to attend the Collective Atmospheres 2025 ASLE Conference.

- Dr. Masudul Hasan Adil, Assistant Prof., visited Paris, France, in June 2025 to attend the 9th International Workshop on Financial Market and Nonlinear Dynamics (FMND).
- Dr. Gajendra Singh, Assistant Prof., visited Corfu Holiday Palace, Corfu, Greece, in June 2025 to attend the 13th Mediterranean Combustion Symposium and 9th International Workshop on Measurements and Computation of Sprays (TCS-09).
- Dr. Thirthankar Chakraborty, Assistant Prof., visited Shenzhen University, P.R. China, in June 2025 to attend the International Academic Conference “Sri Aurobindo and Xu Fancheng: A China – Indian Dialogue on Spiritual Philosophy.”
- Dr. Indu Bala, Assistant Prof., visited Colby-Sawyer College in New London, New Hampshire, US, in June 2025 to attend the Gordon Research Conference on Artificial Molecular Switches and Motors.
- Dr. Dinesh Singh, Assistant Prof., visited Rome, Italy, in July 2025 to attend the International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN 2025).
- Dr. Amal Sarkar, Assistant Prof., visited CERN, Geneva, Switzerland, in June and July 2025 to participate in the CMS collaboration research activities.
- Dr. Prabhakar Palni, Assistant Prof., visited CERN, Geneva, Switzerland, in June and July 2025 to participate in the CMS collaboration research activities.
- Dr. Shashank Pathak, Assistant Prof., visited Ghent University, Belgium, in July 2025 to pursue research collaboration in the Department of Mathematics.
- Prof. Tulika Prakash Srivastava visited Vienna, Austria, in August 2025 to attend the 19th International Congress of Immunology (IUIS 2025).
- Dr. Prateek Vishnoi, Assistant Prof., visited the University of Bordeaux, France, in August 2025 to do research with the team of Logic and Foundations of Computing at Laboratories Bordelais de Recherche en Informatique (LaBRI).
- Dr. Moupriya Das, Assistant Prof., visited the Nordic Institute for Theoretical Physics at Stockholm, Sweden, from June to July 2025 to attend a seminar talk and strengthen scientific collaboration with NORDITA.
- Prof. Satinder Kumar Sharma visited MIT Lincoln Laboratory in Lexington, MA, USA, in June 2025 to attend the 2025 EUVL and Source Workshop.
- Dr. Rohit Saluja, Assistant Prof., visited Palermo, Italy, in July 2025 to attend the 26th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education 2025 (AIED 2025).
- Dr. Aliva Nanda, Assistant Prof., visited Paro, Bhutan, in June 2025 to attend a workshop series III on Himalayan Freshwater: Assessing Services and Vulnerability.
- Prof. Prem Felix Siril visited the University of Sarajevo and University Mostar to deliver talks and to explore potential collaborations and to attend the IEEE international conference “Nanomaterials: Applications & Properties” at Bratislava, Slovakia, in August to September 2025.
- Dr. Amit Jaiswal, Associate Prof., visited Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre, Singapore, from June to July 2025 to attend the International Conference on Materials for

Advanced Technologies 2025 (ICMAT 2025).

- Prof. Arnav Vinayak Bhavsar visited Madrid, Spain, in June 2025 to attend the 38th IEEE International Symposium on Computer Based Medical System (IEEE CBMS2025).
- Dr. Garima Agrawal, Associate Prof., visited Bristol, UK, in September 2025 to attend the 39th ECIS, UK Colloids 2025.
- Prof. Hari Verma visited Sapporo Hokkaido, Japan, in July and August 2025 to attend the 34th International Conference on Photonic Electronic and Atomic Collisions (ICPEAC2025).
- Prof. Shubhajit Roy Chowdhury visited Singapore in June 2025 to attend the Super AI 2025 conference.
- Dr. Raj Kiran, Assistant Prof., visited Ton Duc Thang University, Vietnam, in July 2025 to pursue research collaboration.
- Prof. Shubhajit Roy Chowdhury visited Warsaw University of Technology, Warsaw, Poland, in September 2025 to attend the '6th International Conference on Frontiers in Computing and Systems (COMSYS 2025)."
- Dr. Moupriya Das, Assistant Prof., visited Krakow, Poland, in September 2025 to attend the "38th Marian Smoluchowski Symposium on Statistical Physics."
- Dr. Shyamasree Dasgupta, Associate Prof., visited Kiyosato, Japan, in September 2025 to attend the 2025 Balaton Group Meeting.
- Dr. Aditya Nigam, Associate Prof., visited Osaka, Japan, in September 2025 to attend the IEEE International Joint Conference on Biometrics (IJCB) 2025.
- Dr. Bhaskar Mondal, Associate Prof., visited Humboldt Universitat zu Berlin, Germany, in August 2025 to attend the 7th Quantum Bio-Inorganic Chemistry Conference (QBIC VII).
- Prof. Rik Rani Koner visited the University of Leipzig, Germany, in July 2025 to pursue research work and establish research collaboration.
- Dr. Thainswemong Choudhury, Assistant Prof., visited Lausanne, Switzerland, in September 2025 to attend the 14th International Conference on Structural Analysis of Historical Constructions.
- Dr. Jaspreet Kaur Randhawa, Associate Prof., visited Bratislava, Slovakia, in September 2025 to attend the IEEE international conference "Nanomaterials: Applications & Properties."
- Dr. Dericks Praise Shukla, Associate Prof., visited Ehime University, Matsuyama, Japan, from June to July 2025 to supervise his PhD student Ms. Ipshita Priyadarsini Pradhan.
- Dr. Samir Shukla, Assistant Prof., visited Montana State University in Bozeman, MT, USA, in July 2025 to attend the 11th Conference in the Algebraic Topology: Methods, Computation & Science (ATMCS) series.
- Dr. Saumya Dixit, Assistant Prof., visited Dijon, France, in July 2025 to participate in the 2025 AMS World Marketing Congress.
- Prof. Varun Dutt visited Penang, Malaysia, in July 2025 to attend the 15th IEEE International Conference on Power Electronics and Drive Systems (PEDS 2025).

## 10.6 Events with International Participation

- The Indian Judgment and Decision Making Conference (IJDM 2024) was held at IIT Mandi in October 2024. This prestigious conference attracted researchers from India and abroad, with international speakers including Prof. Cleotilde Gonzalez (Carnegie Mellon University, USA), Prof. Ido Erev (Technion – Israel Institute of Technology), and Prof. Marieke Van Vugt (University of Groningen).

## 11. Entrepreneurship and IIT Mandi Catalyst

Established in 2016, IIT Mandi Catalyst is Himachal Pradesh's first technology business incubator and a leading force in the Himalayan startup ecosystem. The incubator has supported over 600 startups, including more than 100 between September 2024 and October 2025, by providing financial support, mentorship, and collaborative workspaces. Its emphasis on innovation and sustainability is evident in milestones such as WattCycle Sustainable Solutions, a portfolio startup that secured a ₹10 crore grant from GIC Re for deep-tech solar waste management. IIT Mandi Catalyst has appointed its first CEO to further strengthen its leadership and expand its impact.

The incubator's startups have received more than 200 national and international awards, reflecting IIT Mandi's standing as an innovation leader. Catalyst has disbursed Rs 25 crore in funding, facilitated over 4,000 jobs, and helped file more than 75 patents. With the launch of the BioNEST-IIT Mandi Catalyst Centre—funded through a Rs 5 crore BIRAC grant—Catalyst is also powering biotech and healthcare entrepreneurship tailored to the Himalayan region.

Catalyst's core focus areas include Human-Computer Interaction (HCI), Build for Bharat (B4B), Energy & Sustainability (E&S), and Bio-innovation (BI). It supports ventures tackling pressing issues at both local and global levels, with programs adapted to every stage of the entrepreneurial journey.

Among its signature education initiatives, the StartUp Practicum program offers selected students scholarships, up to 22 academic credits, and a platform to develop, prototype, and launch innovative projects. The program emphasizes interdisciplinary teamwork through the Design Practicum, where students collaboratively address real-world challenges within a budget limit, blending academic rigor with practical entrepreneurship.

## 12. The Way Forward

Since our inception in 2009, IIT Mandi has grown into a vibrant and dynamic academic community, now home to 3,609 students, 212 faculty members, and 150 staff. This remarkable growth is a testament to our collective commitment to excellence,

innovation, and service to the nation.

Our progress is reflected in this year's NIRF rankings, where IIT Mandi secured 10th in Innovation, 26th in Engineering, and 58th overall. These achievements underscore our rising stature as a hub for cutting-edge research, deep scholarship, and impactful technological advancement.

This year, 604 students, including 66 Ph.D. scholars, are graduating from IIT Mandi—a strong indicator of the institute's flourishing research ecosystem and academic rigor.

To the parents, families, and friends of our graduates: today is equally your celebration. Your encouragement, sacrifices, and unwavering support have been foundational to your children's success. We are deeply grateful for your trust in IIT Mandi.

To our graduates, I offer my heartfelt congratulations once again. As you step into the next phase of your journey, you carry with you the legacy of this institute. You are the ambassadors of our values, our vision, and our aspirations. We have immense confidence that you will lead with integrity, serve with compassion, and innovate with courage.

Your achievements in the coming years will not only define your personal success but also bring pride and honor to IIT Mandi.

Go forth with confidence. Lead with purpose. Serve with humility. And always remember the roots that nurtured you.

Jai Hind!