

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF GOVERNORS, IIT MANDI



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CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF GOVERNORS, IIT MANDI

Respected Chief Guest, Members of Board of Governors, Director IIT Mandi and Directors of other IITs, members of the Faculty, distinguished invitees, research scholars, dear students, parents of students receiving degrees, members of IIT Mandi staff, ladies and gentlemen, a very good morning to every one of you. I am indeed delighted to be amidst you, on this memorable day of the first convocation of IIT Mandi.



As IIT Mandi's first Chairman, BoG, I am honored to extend a hearty welcome to each one of you.

Established in 2009, IIT Mandi is the country's newest IIT, the only institute of its kind for the advancement of knowledge and education in science and technology in this beautiful Himalayan landscape. In a short span of 4 years, the institute has grown in strength, accommodating 455 students in B. Tech. programmes, 28 students in MS, and 81 students as Ph.D. Research scholars. Thanks to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, which generously accommodated the IIT in Vallabh College Campus, where the IIT started functioning from its transit campus at Mandi in 2010. This certainly helped kick start activities, while scouting for over 500 acres of forested land on the banks of river Uhl for the institute's permanent campus at Kamand. The sustained efforts by all concerned led to the acquisition of this land and development of the architectural plan of the entire campus. The construction activities of phase 1, comprising of new buildings for Hostels, Administrative Block, mess, labs, and classrooms are nearing completion. While it may take a couple of more years for the campus to be fully built, the academic and research activities are already flourishing here with vigour and vitality. I would like to convey my thanks to the Director, the faculty, staff and the enthusiastic student and research community for pursuing their activities unmindful of inconveniences and hardships.

A growing economy like India has challenges not only in cutting edge science and technologies in disciplines such as space, atomic energy, defense, communications, renewable energy and medicine, but also in housing and living conditions, food and nutrition, water and sanitation, healthcare, agriculture and transportation. It is vital to study and capitalize on traditional knowledge relating to medicine, architecture, arts, crafts and culture.

Dear faculty, scholars and students, India is a vibrant democracy, looking to opportunities to use developments in science and technologies as primary tools for delivering on economic growth and



bridging social disparities. The intellectual exercise of creative minds equipped with knowledge and expertise can find pragmatic solutions to our problems and provide for a variety of products, services, and systems to our society. While our growth in successive 5 year plans is impressive, the rising population and its aspirations demand innovative solutions that are practical and affordable.

We are a 5000 year old civilization with rich traditional knowledge and skill sets. We must find an appropriate blend of old and new knowledge and expertise to arrive at innovative solutions to some of our problems and lift the country from the malaise of poverty and hunger that stalks over a third of our population. It is not uncommon for us to blame the political class for the inadequacy of our development. However, for us to really change, things we need to look inward. Our country can only achieve development through outstanding contributions of intelligent, well qualified, and professionally committed work force that looks for opportunities in challenges within a resource limited environment.

I am confident the constant efforts of the faculty to present innovative teaching and research will help to build our knowledge and skill sets. I would also urge each one of you to appreciate the talent in every individual and seek ways and means of working effectively as a team member and as a leader. I have no doubts that as you enter the society as new graduates or scholars, you will make a strong impact, and at later stages share your experiences and expertise with your alma mater. It is only through your constant engagement that IIT Mandi can become the torch bearer for science and technologies and for the advancement of the nation and society at large.

May I take this opportunity to wish each one of you, graduating, post-graduating, or receiving a PhD degree, the very best in the years ahead for professional accomplishments and for a happy, healthy, peaceful, and prosperous life. May God Almighty bless each one of you and be with you in all your good deeds.

