

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Respected Dr. Avinash Chander – Scientific Adviser to the Raksha Mantri; Secretary Department of Defence R&D; and Director General DRDO, Shri S. K. Roongta, Chairman of the Board of Governors, members of Board of Governors and the Senate of the Institute, distinguished guests, graduating students and their family members, my faculty and staff colleagues, dear students, media persons, friends, ladies and gentlemen – it gives me a great pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to you all on the occasion of the 3rd Convocation of the Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar.

Today, we are privileged to have amidst us Dr. Avinash Chander, who was gracious enough to accept our invitation to be the Chief Guest on this solemn occasion.

Dr. Avinash Chander, an IITian himself, is globally acknowledged to be the chief architect of Agni Series of Ballistic Missile Systems, propelling the country to the elite club of five advanced nations having ICBM capability and bringing a quantum jump in critical technology. With his exemplary vision, Dr. Chander has brought a new dimension to the Defence R&D in many strategic sectors, which will have long term impact on technology enabled development. It is needless to mention that his passion towards innovation has brought laurels from several quarters. To cite a few, he has been conferred the prestigious Padma Shri Award, Dr. Biren Roy Space Science & Design Award, Technology Leadership Award of DRDO and many more. He is a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering, Honorary Fellow of the IETE, and Fellow of many other leading professional Science and Engineering Academies. Many Universities across the country has conferred him with Honorary Doctorates.

I am sure that our graduating students would feel highly privileged to have a personality like Dr. Avinash Chander amidst us. I, on behalf of the Institute and on my personal behalf would like to extend a very special welcome to Dr. Chander to the Institute.

The Institute – a memorable journey

The Institute was established on 22nd July 2008; and started functioning from the city of Bhubaneswar from 22nd July 2009. For the IIT Bhubaneswar family, it has been an enriching journey of six years during which the Institute grew many fold with its mission to become globally competitive and locally relevant. In the past two convocations we have awarded degrees to B.Tech. and Ph. D. students. This year, the first batch of M.Tech. students will also be receiving their degrees. I take this opportunity to share with you a brief account of our journey with important milestones.

Campus

The Institute is currently operating from different locations including workshops and laboratories at CSIR-IMMT and CTTC Bhubaneswar. I sincerely acknowledge the generous help extended by CSIR-IMMT, CTTC, CIPET as well as many other Institutes in this city to keep the Institute flag furling high. I express my sincere gratitude to the people of the State and the Government of Odisha for their unstinted support throughout.

The first phase of construction and infrastructure development is in full swing in the permanent campus at Arugul. We are already in possession of a few buildings including the hostels, staff housing, and guest house. The academic buildings will be handed over in a phased manner from November 2014 onwards.

We are eagerly awaiting the formal allocation of land near Puri-Konark coast line by the Government of Odisha. This land will be used to set up the Bay of Bengal Coastal Observation Center BOBCO, which is a major initiative by IIT Bhubaneswar and Ministry of Earth Science, Government of India.

Academics

The Institute is running B. Tech. programme in 5 core engineering branches, joint M. Tech.–Ph. D. in 8 specializations, Joint M. Sc. – Ph. D. program in 5 specializations and Ph. D programme in Sciences, Engineering, Humanities and Social Sciences. Currently the institute has over 900 students with nearly 1:1 ratio of Undergraduate and Post-graduate students. There are 100 faculty members including 1 Chair Professor, 11 officers and 79 supporting staff.

Research & Development Activities

Our faculty members, research scholars and undergraduate students have been actively pursuing research in varying areas. The main research focus is on Energy, Climate Change, Minerals and Materials, Manufacturing, and Bio-Engineering. The Institute has received a number of sponsored projects from various funding agencies like DST, CSIR, ISRO, DRDO, ICSSR, NALCO, NPOL, IUSSTF, INCOIS etc and consultancy projects from industries worth more than 25 crores. Over 90 proposals have been submitted worth more than 40 Crores. We have recently established a Center of Excellence for Novel Energy Materials – CENEMA with the generous support from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

Publications & Patents

Within five years of existence in the city of Bhubaneswar, the faculty members and students have already contributed to creating new knowledge by publishing more than 390 research papers in National and International Journals of repute. Over 200 research papers have been presented in various conferences in India and abroad. Besides, 8 patents have been filed.

Research Collaborations

Since inception, the Institute has started academic and research collaboration with many universities abroad and also enjoyed endowment from Industries and others – the list is long. Worth mentioning is the most recent endowment of Rs. 5.5 Crore from Dr. S.K Das Foundation USA for setting up a Centre of Excellence and a Chair Professorship in Bioscience and Bioengineering.

Workshops & Conferences

A number of conferences and workshops have been organized by the Institute to foster scholarly exchange of ideas and research collaboration. A few of the recent ones are noted below. The School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Management in association with the Centre for Advanced Communication, Kharagpur organized a workshop in “Practical Aspects of a Communication Lab: the Road Ahead” on 4th May 2013. The School of Electrical Sciences conducted a three day Summer School on “Advance in Photonic Network and Communication Engineering” during June 14-16, 2013. A workshop on “Application of New Materials and Technologies in Rural Roads” was organized by the School of Infrastructure during September 13-15, 2013. A workshop on “End Violence Against Women” was organized by the Women's Grievance Redressal Committee on 4th October 2013. A 2-week long “Mini Mathematics Training and Talent Search (Mini-MTTS)” programme for college students was organized during December 9-21, 2013 by the School of Basic Sciences. The School of Minerals, Metallurgical and Materials Engineering has organized the “Indo-US workshop on ICME for Integrated Realization of Engineered Materials and Products” during December 18-21, 2013. During February 14-15, 2014, the School of Infrastructure organized a workshop on “Application of Non-Conventional Materials and Technologies in Rural Roads”.

Awards & Honours

A number of recognitions have been bestowed on our students, teachers and staff over the years. A few of the recent ones are indicated here. Lokmat has honoured IIT Bhubaneswar with the Outstanding Engineering Institutes (EAST) Award. Prof. Subhasish Tripathy has been elected as a Fellow of Indian Geophysical Union, and Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences.

Prof. Ganapati Panda has been honoured with Biju Pattanaik Award for Scientific Excellence by Odisha Bigyan Academy. Prof. N.P.H. Padmanabhan received the VASVIK Award under the category, Chemical Sciences and Technology. Dr. Raj Kumar Singh received Mani Shankar Gold Medal for outstanding contribution in the field of Micropalaeontology by the Palaeontology Society of India. Dr. C.N.Bhende has been awarded Honorary Adjunct Fellow by the Victoria University Australia. Dr. Rajan Jha has been elected as an Associate of the Indian Academy of Sciences Bangalore. He also received the DAAD Fellowship under DAAD-IIT Faculty Exchange Programme 2013. Dr. P.K. Sahu has been elected as a Fellow of IETE.

Graduates of the Year

In this convocation we are going to confer degrees to 9 doctorates, 39 M. Tech. and 124 B. Tech. students.

The President of India Gold Medal will be awarded to Shri Soumya Prakash Dash of the School of Electrical Sciences for best academic performance among the entire outgoing B. Tech. (Hons.) batch.

For best academic performance in the respective schools, **the Institute Silver Medals** will be awarded to Shri Soumya Prakash Dash, Shri D. Revanth and Shri K. Yuvraj Balaji Rao among the outgoing B. Tech. (Hons.) batch.

The Director's Gold Medal will be awarded to Ms. Asha Vijayeta of the School of Earth, Ocean and Climate Sciences for best academic performance among the entire outgoing M. Tech. batch.

For best academic performance in the respective schools, **the Institute Silver Medals** will be awarded to Ms. Asha Vijayeta, Shri Saragadam Shakar and Shri N Anand Balu among the outgoing M. Tech. batch.

I congratulate all the graduating students, awardees and medal winners. Graduation is a milestone in the journey of life and each of you will now enter the big world of opportunities and endeavors. With your most formative years behind you, you will now begin a journey called life. I am certain that you will look back with pride and joy to your days in this Institute and the memories will inspire you in your pursuit of excellence, and service to the motherland. I also welcome each one of you as the would-be alumnus of the Institute and you will be our brand-ambassador of good will, peace, courage and knowledge.

Jai Hind
Prof. Sujit Roy
October 18, 2014