

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Good morning everybody!

Respected Prof. Surendra Prasad, Chairman of the National Board of Accreditation and former Director of IIT Delhi, Shri Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel, Chairman, Board of Governors, members of Board of Governors, members of Senate, distinguished guests, graduating students, their proud 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 to the 5th convocation of IIT Bhubaneswar in this scenic campus of the institute.

Today, we are privileged to have Prof. Surendra Prasad, who was gracious enough to accept our invitation to be the Chief Guest on this ceremonious occasion, where 110 B.Tech., 55 M.Tech., 69 M.Sc., and 7 Ph.D. students will receive their degrees. Our Chairman is a well accomplished industry leader and a great source of inspiration and support for us. I am sure that the graduating students will find the presence of both of these leaders in this convocation as one of the memorable moments in their life.

For the IIT Bhubaneswar family, it has been a wonderful journey of eight years during which the Institute grew steadily with its mission to become globally competitive. I took over as the director of this venerable institute on 22nd April 2015 with the mission of taking this institute to greater heights at an accelerated ascent. In this context, several innovative initiatives have been taken up at the institute on raising global class faculty, fostering teaching-learning excellence, infrastructure building, collaborative research, entrepreneurship and startup activity. Now, I take this privilege to share with you a brief account of our journey emphasizing achievements and important milestones during the year 2015-16, in fulfilling our dream of building an institute of distinction.

The Permanent Camus and Infrastructure:

Over the past 16 months, we ensured that construction of residential and academic facilities accelerated, the facilities are utilized and the campus is made operational, in spite of pending finishing work. Notable among these facilities are,

In addition, we are also using one hostel block of 200 capacity of NISER to accommodate our Masters students. We immensely thank Director, NISER for his kind gesture of goodwill and support in providing the hostel facility free of charge.

I am happy to share with you that, with the above arrangement in place, during the last one year, we have moved 80% of our academic activities and residences to the campus by July 2016 starting from nothing. We are awaiting the completion of the main administrative building and the School of Mechanical Sciences before December 2016 for completing the exercise.

The campus community enjoys Gigabit Ethernet connectivity through fibre optic network as well as point-to-point Wireless bridges. The library, computer center and e-class rooms cater to the users till midnight, all set up in-house by the Computer and IT services Cell of the institute in a cost effective manner.

Green Campus Initiatives: We are working on war-footing to make the campus green, eco-friendly and zero-energy drawing with a variety of theme based plantations, effective waste management facilities and solar photovoltaic systems. In the current season during the last three months we planted as many as 7,500 trees and shortly going to add another 7,500 in the next month. Some of these include 15 feet tall grown up trees giving the campus a mature look.

Academic Programmes:

With an objective to grow to fulfill the aspirations of the society, this year we started a new BTech programme in Electronics & Communication Engineering and 5-year Dual degree programme in 4 disciplines, two each in Schools of Mechanical Sciences and Infrastructure. Intake of the BTech students is increased from 180 to 260 in a significant step. Now, the growth is going to be a phenomenon, almost every year. With this the number of programmes at the institute includes BTech programmes in 6

branches of Engineering, 5-year Dual degree programme in 4 disciplines, M. Tech. in 8 specializations and MSc in 5 disciplines besides PhD in almost all the disciplines. Currently the Institute has 1237 Students, 112 full-time faculty members, 15 officers and other supporting staff.

Research & Development Activities:

There has been considerable progress on Research and Development front at the institute in the last one year. A total of 68 sponsored and consultancy projects worth about Rs. 29.00 Crore have been sanctioned to the Institute during the year. Besides, 35 project proposals worth about Rs. 20.00 Crore have been pending sanctions.

The Institute has recently submitted proposals worth Rs. 92.45 Crore for setting up of five Centres of Excellence (CoE) such as the Centre for Advance Research in Next Generation Networks.

Several Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with industries and academia including one with Paradeep Phosphate Limited (PPL) in the presence of the Hon'ble President and Hon'ble Prime Minister in November 2015, which is a major initiative in the direction of industry academia partnership, one with Govt. of Odisha in presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister for setting up of a Centre for Management and Training for Rural Road Research and one with Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China for collaborative research and faculty and student exchange in the areas of materials science in the presence of hon'ble President. The other notable ones include MoU's were signed with the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), ITR Chandipur for research collaboration.

The Govt. of Odisha has sanctioned a seed grant of Rs. 1.0 crore for establishment of Innovation-cum-Incubation Center in Affordable Housing and New Materials and Nanotechnology.

An endeavour for rural development is the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), a flagship mission of the MHRD, in which our Institute is participating actively. This programme targets to use the expertise

available in the Institute to improve quality of rural life through innovative and affordable technological interventions.

The Institute is also actively participating in the national level efforts namely, IMPRINT and Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana (UAY) mission.

Land Allocation for Bay of Bengal Coastal Observatory (BABCO): It gives me immense pleasure to announce that Govt of Odisha allocated 40 Acres of land near Laudigaon, Ganjam district to establish BABCO. The institute has got over Rs 9.22 Crore sanction from Ministry of Earth Sciences for the equipment of BABCO and it has been working with ambitious plans for the same.

Research Publications & Patents: During the last one year, the institute contributed immensely to creating new knowledge by publishing more than 350 papers including 209 in National and International Journals of repute, such as Physical Review Letters, Nature Geoscience, and Nanoscale, 141 papers in various national and international conferences, and 10 Book-chapters. 3 patents have been granted and 5 have been filed. School of Electrical Sciences topped the Table with the highest number of publications followed by School of Basic Sciences.

Faculty Matters:

Teaching Excellence Awards: In an endeavour to create an environment of teaching-learning of high order, faculty members who got highest rating in student feedback on courses and teaching, have been honoured with teaching excellence awards.

Holding Faculty selections abroad: In its endeavour to move towards creating global standards, the institute created a policy for conducting faculty selections abroad by the side of Bhubaneswar and also to recruit Visiting faculty of foreign origin to serve at IIT Bhubaneswar for a semester or more. Recently Prof Luis Malera, Shippensburg University, USA, a Fulbright scholar served in the School of Basic Sciences for 6 months and taught Mathematics.

Awards & Honours Received by Faculty: Several academic distinctions, honours, distinguished fellowships, associate ships, named lectureships, coveted medals and awards have been bestowed on our faculty, staff and students in recognition of their academic achievements, during the last year. Very notable examples of these distinctions include the following:

- Prof R. K. Panda has been elected as a fellow of Indian Water Resources Society.
- Dr. Meenu Ramadas received the ASCE State of the Art of Civil Engineering Award 2016 and the G M Nawathe Puraskar 2015 award by Indian Society for Hydraulics.
- Dr. Subhransu Ranjan Samantaray received the NASI-SCOPUS Young Scientists Award.

Collaborative Research:

The Institute is very actively engaged in collaborative research with many reputed universities and research organizations across the world.

About 36 faculty members and 6 students visited foreign countries on various academic and research assignments and paper presentations. The institute also had an innumerable number of distinguished visitors for academic, research and other collaborative programmes.

The distinguished personalities visited include, Shri S C Jamir; Smt Smriti Zubin Irani, Shri Naveen Patnaik; Padma Bhushan Dr R Chidambaram, Shri Achal Malhotra, Indian Embassy, Vienna Prof. Kiran Seth; Dr. Joseph Fiksel, Ohio State University, USA, and Faculty & Executive Director of the Sustainable and Resilient; Zellman Warhaft and Ambassador Lalit Mansingh, Shri Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel, Shri S K Roongta besides many other luminaries from different walks of life. and addressed the institute community.

Student Activities:

As it has evolved in the IIT system, the Students' Gymkhana at IIT Bhubaneswar is a central hub for all round development of students. The annual techno-management fest *Wissenaire'16*, socio-cultural fest *Alma Fiesta'16*, and Entrepreneurship meet *E-Summit'16* have set a distinguished mark in the eastern zone. Other notable events include *UTSAV*, a children Fest for physically challenged children, *SPIC-MACACY* events, *NAI DISHAYEN* – interaction and teaching program for students in villages adjoining the campus.

Students and student groups also won several awards at conferences and inter institutional competitions.

The Dramatics society won second prize in *Rangmanch*, an event held at IIT Kharagpur during the Spring Fest 2016. *CineWave*, the Cinematic Society won the first position in *ODISHA* in the 'We Care Film Festival' for the second consecutive time for a movie made on the perspective of a disabled man. *CineWave* also participated in a 48 hour short filmmaking competition in *Rendevouz* of IIT Delhi and won the first prize despite fierce competition. IIT Bhubaneswar also won the 3rd prize in quiz competition in the Inter IIT Tech Meet-2016 held at IIT Mandi.

- M.Sc. (Geology) students won the first prize of Mineral Development Awareness Quiz (MDAQ) Programme.
 - Lokanath Tripathy, and Deepak Kumar, Research Scholars of School of Electrical Sciences have been selected for the POSOCO Award-2016 in Doctoral Category
 - Mr. Purusottam Das Vairagi, got the best paper award for his paper presented in the International Conference on Waste Management at IIT Guwahati.
 - Ms. Pooja Verma and Mr. Dipanjan Dey of School of Earth Ocean and Climate Sciences participate in International Indian Ocean Expedition in Bay of Bengal on-board ORV Sagar Kanya.
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Entrepreneurship & Startup Activity:

IIT Bhubaneswar drafted a vision paper for encouraging entrepreneurship at the institute, put and Entrepreneurship Cell (E-Cell) in place and took very ambitious steps during the last one year. The E-Cell organized two workshops – one on “Business Plan, Opportunities and Risks, and Sources of Funds for Startups” and the other on “Funding Opportunity and Legal Aspects of Startups”.

Technology Incubator: The Institute has established a Technology Incubation Centre to facilitate incubation of ideas of its students, alumni and faculty members for conversion into successful prototypes. Four teams of incubates have been selected in April 2016.

Startup Centre: A Startup Centre has been established at IIT Bhubaneswar with a grant of Rs.1.50 Crore from the DST and MHRD, to inculcate a culture of innovation-driven entrepreneurship in and around IIT Bhubaneswar and to promote technology and innovation based startups.

In the first attempt itself we got as many as 51 applications Individuals and teams of individuals, from across the country. This is very encouraging and I am confident that IIT Bhubaneswar would be generating next generation entrepreneurs for this region and the country.

Continuing Education Programme (CEP):

Continuing Education is part of the IIT Bhubaneswar’s outreach programmes created to extend its arm for the promotion and extension of the science and technology benefits to the society.

A number of conferences and workshops have been organized by the institute in the last one year.

- A workshop on “Innovative and Sustainable Energy Technologies-iSET-01” in collaboration with Planning and Coordination Dept., Govt of Odisha,
 - The Global Wireless Summit-2015,
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- International conference on Microwave, Optical and Communication Engineering (ICMOCE-2015), are a few of the notable ones amongst many others.

One of the Flagship programs of the MHRD is GIAN (Global Initiative of Academic Networks) where support is provided to conduct short term courses inviting Guest Faculty from abroad and currently about 25 short term courses have been approved and a number of them have already been organized.

Career Development Cell (CDC)

The year 2015-16 witnessed a dramatic 85% rise in placement over the previous years, both in terms of number of placements and annual CTC offered, due to a special drive taken up by the Institute. The undergraduate placements reached the 96% mark. This trend would further continue.

Women's Grievance Redressal Committee (WGRC):

IIT Bhubaneswar has an active Women's Grievance Redressal Committee which conducts several training programmes and workshop for capacity building. These include a workshop on the implementation of "Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2013".

Graduates of the Year:

In a short while from now, 110 B.Tech., 55 M.Tech., 69 M.Sc., and 7 Ph.D. students are going to receive their degrees in this convocation.

Mr. Priyam Dey, Electrical Engineering won the coveted President of India Gold Medal for topping all B.Tech. branches.

Ms. Shubhashree Subudhi, Mechanical Engineering won the coveted Director's Gold Medal for topping all M.Tech. specializations.

Ms. Shweta Singh, Atmosphere and Ocean Sciences won the coveted Director's Gold Medal for topping all M.Sc. branches

The printed report presents the list of Institute Silver medals winners for topping in their respective branches/specializations and other medals.

Other Activities:

The Institute observed and celebrated several events like the National Science Day, 9th Foundation Day, 9th Institute day, Yoga day, Teacher's day besides the regular national events and a large number of students, faculty and staff members participated in the events.

Acknowledgements:

This Institute and its entire activities could not have been carried out well without the full participation and support of all stakeholders – our faculty, students and staff; agencies and industries sponsoring R&D and consultancy projects; professionals from other organizations and our alumni. The Institute is grateful to them and the Ministry of Human resource Development, for its continued and sustained encouragement and support.

Before I conclude, I congratulate all the graduating students, awardees and medal winners and wish all happiness, professional success and fulfillment in their lives.

Jai Hind!

**Prof R. V. Raja Kumar
August 30, 2016**
