

5th Convocation at IIT Mandi 7th October, 2017



The Indian Institute of Technology Mandi marked its Fifth Convocation Ceremony with a solemn event held at its Kamand campus on 7th of October 2017. The Chief Guest for the occasion was **Shri. Banmali Agrawala**, President – Infrastructure and Defence and Aerospace business of TATA SONS. The occasion also had **Shri. Subodh Bhargava**, Chairperson of the Board of Governors of IIT Mandi and the former Chairman of TATA Communications Limited, and **Prof. Timothy A. Gonsalves**, Director, IIT Mandi as eminent personages.



This year IIT Mandi graduated 24 Ph.D., 7 M.S. (by Research), 18 M.Sc., 4 M.Tech. and 116 B.Tech. students. The efforts and achievements of exceptional students were recognized and rewarded.



Ms. Samridhi Jain was awarded the **President of India Gold Medal** for outstanding academic performance among the B.Tech. graduating batch. She was also awarded the **Institute Silver Medal** for outstanding academic performance among the students graduating in B.Tech., Computer Science and Engineering.

Mr. Vivek Sharma was awarded the **Director's Gold Medal** for all around excellence in academics and extra-curricular activities.

Mr. Prince Garg received the **Institute Silver Medal** for top performance among the students graduating in B.Tech., Mechanical Engineering.

Ms. Shivangi Kataria received the **Institute Silver Medal** for outstanding academic performance from among the students graduating in B.Tech. Electrical Engineering in absentia. She was also awarded the **Rani Gonsalves Memorial Medal** for best performance among girl students of the B.Tech. batch.

Mr. Siddharth Gangal was awarded the **Balasundaram Endowment Prize for German**.

Mr. Mohammad Ashraf was conferred with the **Outstanding Academic Achievement Award for M.Sc. Chemistry** in absentia.

The congratulatory messages sent by the honourable President of India, **Shri. Ram Nath Kovind**; the honourable Vice-President of India, **Shri. M. Venkaiah Naidu**; the honourable Minister of Human Resource Development, **Shri. Prakash Javadekar**; the honourable Minister of State (Higher Education) for Human Resource Development, **Dr. Satya Pal Singh**; the honourable Governor of Himachal Pradesh, **Shri. Acharya Devvrat**; the honourable Chief Minister of the state, **Shri. Virbhadra Singh** and the honourable Minister of Technical Education of the state, **Shri. G. S. Bali**, among other dignitaries, in recognition of the achievements made by the Institute and its students were shared with the attending audience in the form of a brochure.

The function started with the welcome speech and presentation of the Director's report by Prof. T.A. Gonsalves. In his report, the Director described the development of IIT Mandi during past years. He mentioned that in 2017 IIT Mandi had started three new post-graduate programmes:

M.Sc. in Physics, M.Tech. in Power Electronics and Drivers and M.Tech. in Communications and Signal Processing. He reported that the Institute had a total of 979 international and national peer reviewed journal publications up to this present academic year 2017. This year, IIT Mandi carried out its 2nd 5-Week Induction Programme for the 1st year B.Tech. students, uniquely mentored by the faculty members. This year, the special effort to increase the proportion of women students in B.Tech. resulted in a successful intake of 22 aspiring young women engineers.

The Chairman (BoG), Shri. Subodh Bhargava, congratulated the graduating students, faculty and staff members of the institute for their efforts. He expressed appreciation for the setting up of state of the art research centres in the domains of Biotechnology, Electronics and Energy at IIT Mandi. At the same time, he underscored the necessity to expand academic infrastructure to leverage the full potential of the institute in times to come. Shri. Bhargava concluded his address by calling upon the ideas of, "Enjoy Change", "Remain imaginative", "Be credible" and "Learn from failures" for the graduating students in attendance.

The Chief Guest, Shri. Banmali Agrawala, congratulated all graduating students and urged them to remain steadfast in their efforts towards the creation of a modern and decisive India. In his speech, he stressed up on the traits of Purpose and Speed of decision making and about the ability to quickly adapt in the event of failures as essential to a successful professional of the present age. He emphasized on the necessity of achieving excellence and integrity, and of respecting sacrifices made by others in realizing one's success, to emerge as fine leaders.

Mr. Vivek Sharma, a graduating student of the B. Tech. Electrical Engineering batch, was the Valedictorian for the occasion. His address beautifully conveyed the unique experience of being a student of IIT Mandi – a culture wherein nothing is considered impossible and success is regarded as endless.

During the Convocation ceremony, a pledge was taken by graduating students. In the pledge, students took an oath to always act with honesty and integrity, and to uphold the dignity of their profession and Institute. They pledged to protect and promote the wellbeing of the environment, and the unity and secular ideas of India. They also pledged to utilize their knowledge in the service of India, so that it could become a just, inclusive, and sustainable society.

The Convocation was declared closed by Shri. Subodh Bhargava, following which there was a stirring rendition of the national anthem by all present. This formal and significant event in the life of the Institute was thus commemorated and celebrated in a manner befitting its importance.

