

IIT Mandi's 9th Foundation Day Celebrations

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IIT Mandi celebrated its 9th Foundation Day on 24 February 2018 at its permanent campus at Kamand. Prof. Bringi Dev, Professor of Management Practice at IIM Bangalore, was the Chief Guest at the function, and Prof. Hema Sharda, formerly Winthrop Professor at the University of Western Australia was the guest of honour. On the occasion, the Director of IIT Mandi, Prof. Timothy A. Gonsalves, welcomed dignitaries, faculty, staff, and students. The dignitaries included Prof. B. D. Chaudhary (Emeritus Professor and Dean Academics), Prof. Ramesh Oruganti (Emeritus Professor and Chairman of the Teaching and Learning Committee of IIT Mandi), and Prof. Deepak Khemani (Dean Faculty and Professor on Deputation from IIT Madras).



Prof. T. A. Gonsalves, Director, IIT Mandi addressing the gathering on IIT Mandi's 9th Foundation Day



Prof. Bringi Dev and Prof. Hema Sharda being felicitated on IIT Mandi's 9th Foundation Day.

In 2009, IIT Mandi's foundation stone was laid on this day at Kamand to mark the beginning of this Institute. Then, the campus community had only a handful of residents. However, the campus community now consists of more than one thousand residents, all engaged in transforming the area into a hub of world-class research and teaching.



Faculty, staff, and students gathered on the occasion of the 9th Foundation Day event.

The function commenced by the lighting of the lamp and the singing of the national anthem. In his address to the audience, the Director, Prof. Gonsalves, highlighted two new ambitious initiatives with strong technological content and practical application. Both are expected to have a profound impact on lived reality. The first is “FarmerZone,” a research and development initiative sponsored by the Department of Bio-Technology (DBT), Government of India, which aims at collecting a repository of agriculture relevant information, analyzing it

using machine learning and artificial intelligence, and making it available to farmers. The second project is in the realm of eco-friendly and affordable electric public transport for Mandi district. The Energy Centre at IIT Mandi is expected to play a pioneering role in this effort. Prof. Gonsalves expressed the hope that electric autos would be ready for testing by the end of this year itself.



Students from six primary schools participating in a race competition at the football ground, IIT Mandi, Kamand campus.

The Director’s address was followed by a stimulating speech by the Chief Guest, Prof. Bringi Dev, who has decades of experience in the corporate, entrepreneurial, and academic worlds. Prof. Dev commended the thousands of workers who had played a seminal but invisible role in creating a “global centre of learning” in Himachal Pradesh. He mentioned that three important foundational elements of IIT Mandi’s campus include its officers, staff, and community. Prof. Dev’s address was followed

by a speech from the General Secretary of the Students’ Gymkhana, Anurag Rakde. Anurag shared

the students' perspective on IIT Mandi as a sanctuary. He also updated the audience about the various cultural, sporting, and technical events around the country where IIT Mandi students have excelled.



Staff and students participating in a tug-of-war game on the occasion of IIT Mandi's 9th Foundation Day celebrations at Kamand

The day also saw the distribution of awards to students for contributing to the campus community, to staff members for diligent performance of their duties, and to faculty for their achievements. Additionally, Mrs. Hema Oruganti handed out sports and art awards to students from six primary schools (including the campus school and four government schools in the neighboring areas of Kamand), who had participated in sports and arts competitions. IIT Mandi has excellent sporting arenas and facilities, and several events were organized to emphasize and highlight sporting prowess. Cross-country runs and a tug-of-war witnessed the enthusiastic participation of faculty, staff and students.

Although nine years is a short period in the life of an institution, IIT Mandi has carved a unique niche for itself in HP and India in this time, and also attained international recognition in the realm of science and technology research. By giving back to the community through a variety of initiatives, IIT Mandi is doing Himachal proud.

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