PRESS RELEASE

IIT Mandi becomes the first IIT to introduce a full-fledged B.Tech. Course in Data Science and Engineering

A Bachelor's degree in Data Science and Engineering will open up several career options like Data Engineers, Data Architects, Data Analytics and Business Analysts, among others

MANDI, 28ᵗʰ May 2019: Indian Institute of Technology Mandi has become the first IIT to launch a full-fledged Bachelor's Programme in Data Science and Engineering. It will train students in Computer Science, Applied Statistics, Applied Mathematics and Machine Learning, fields that are required in the context of Data Science and its applications. The programme is being jointly offered by the School of Basic Sciences (SBS) and the School of Computing and Electrical Engineering (SCEE) from the coming academic year (2019-2020).

Data Science is key to many technological developments in the future. With a vision to be a leader in Science and Technology education, knowledge creation and innovation, and keeping in mind the mounting importance of the Data Science paradigm, IIT Mandi is the first IIT to start a four-year programme in Data Science and Engineering. Between 15 and 20 per cent of IIT Mandi faculty works in Data Science and allied areas on sponsored research projects with industry demand driven objectives.

Speaking about the programme, Prof. Timothy A. Gonsalves, Director, IIT Mandi, said, *"All-pervasive sensors are collecting exponentially-increasing amounts of data about our machines, our structures, and ourselves. Our BTech in Data Science and Engineering will train students to collect, process and study these large data sets, discerning underlying patterns and deriving actionable insights. Graduates of this programme will have future-proof expertise that will enable them to thrive in the rapidly changing world of the next few decades. This degree will equip students with advanced skills to thrive in a rapidly changing world. The study of Data Science as a BTech discipline is becoming essential to cater to the growing need for professionals and researchers to deal with the future challenges of India."*

Speaking about the importance of the programme, Dr. Manoj Thakur, Course Coordinator and Associate Professor, School of Basic Sciences, IIT Mandi said, *"The Data Science and Engineering programme is a rigorous course which emphasizes the integration of theory and practice. Labs and practicums are integral part of the course to provide the students a all-inclusive learning experience. The program would make the students well trained with ample*

knowledge of various aspects of data science and engineering required to provide technological solutions to face next generation challenges."

This programme will help students fulfil the increasing demand of experts to capture, analyse and synthesize a large amount of data in a number of application domains to better understand various phenomena and to convert this information into actionable strategies such as new scientific discoveries, business applications, policy-making and healthcare.

IIT Mandi has a unique course curriculum based on project-based and inter-disciplinary learning, and in the past two years, the Institute has launched the following six new Master's programmes:

1. M.Sc. in Physics
2. M.Tech. in Power Electronics and Drives (PED)
3. M.Tech. in Structural Engineering
4. M.Tech. in Very-Large-Scale Integration (VLSI)
5. M.Tech. in Communications and Signal Processing (CSP)
6. M.A. in Development Studies

The Institute is also introducing two new courses, B.Tech Engineering Physics and B.Tech - M.Tech Integrated Dual Degree Programme in Bioengineering, from August 2019.

To cater to the growing and changing needs of Indian industry and the aspirations of students, IIT Mandi is planning to introduce several other new courses starting from the next academic year.

###

About IIT Mandi
Since the first batch of 97 students joined in July 2009, IIT Mandi has grown to host 1,300 students including 300 PhD, 46 MS research scholars, besides 110 Faculty and 150 staff. IIT Mandi's fully residential campus in Kamand boasts 1.2 lakh sq.m. of completed buildings with 95,000 sqm currently under construction. IIT Mandi has been ranked No. 20 in the Engineering Institutions Category in the India Rankings 2019 released by National Institutional Ranking Framework, Ministry of Human Resources Development, Govt. of India. In the Outreach and Inclusivity metric of NIRF, IIT Mandi is 1st among all 23 IITs.

Since 2010, IIT Mandi's faculty has bagged nearly 180 projects worth more than Rs. 85 crore. A notable mention is the Advanced Materials Research Centre (AMRC), created in 2013 with an investment of about Rs. 50 crore, housing advanced instruments for characterization of materials. The Institute also hosts a 'Class 100 Clean Room' facility, a world-class research centre that is first-of-its-kind in India. In

2017, the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, selected IIT Mandi to lead the prestigious Rs. 10 crore FarmerZoneTM Project.

The unique, project-oriented B.Tech curriculum is centred around its 4-year long Design and Innovation stream. It is poised to become the first IIT to offer a B.Tech in Data Science & Engineering. There are many active MoUs with TU9 in Germany since May 2011. About 25 students from WPI, U.S., have been visiting IIT Mandi every year since 2013, along with 2 WPI faculty.

Launched in 2016, IIT Mandi's Catalyst is the first Technology Business Incubator in Himachal Pradesh. EWOK (Enabling Women of Kamand Valley) is another innovative program run by IIT Mandi, which focuses on imparting Skills training to rural women to enable them to start village-scale business.

Media contact for IIT Mandi:
IIT Mandi Media Cell - mediacell@iitmandi.ac.in / Landline: 01905267832
Akhil Vaidya – Footprint Global Communications
Cell: 9882102818 / Email ID: akhil.vaidya@footprintglobal.com
Samriddhi Bhal - Footprint Global Communications
Cell: 7905887524 / Email: samriddhi.bhal@footprintglobal.com
Palak Sakhuja - Footprint Global Communications
Cell: 9582338333 / Email: palak.sakhuja@footprintglobal.com
Sairam Radhakrishnan - Footprint Global Communications
Cell: 9840108083/ Email: sairam.radhakrishnan@footprintglobal.com
Bhavani Giddu - Footprint Global Communications
Cell: 9999500262 / Email: bhavani.giddu@footprintglobal.com