



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **IIT Mandi launches Bachelor's programme in Engineering Physics**

**The course will help undergraduate students build a solid foundation in Physics along with Engineering in order to tackle today's technology challenges**

**MANDI, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019:** Indian Institute of Technology Mandi is launching a new B.Tech. programme in Engineering Physics from the next academic year (August 2019). The programme is being offered jointly by School of Basic Sciences (SBS), School of Computing and Electrical Engineering (SCEE) and the School of Engineering (SE) at IIT Mandi. The curriculum of Engineering Physics will introduce students to a wide variety of fields in pure as well as applied Physics.

**A Bachelor's in Engineering Physics will open several career paths in interdisciplinary areas such as Quantum Technology, Photonics, Nano-Electronics and Artificial Intelligence, which are promising to become dominant in the near future.**

This course will prepare students to apply Physics to tackle these 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges. Additionally, this programme will also prepare students to pursue an advanced degree in Physics as well as in Engineering.

**Speaking about the uniqueness of the programme, Dr. Pradeep Kumar, Course Coordinator, School of Basic Sciences, IIT Mandi, said, "21<sup>st</sup> century belongs to the interdisciplinary areas and Engineering Physics will act as catalyst to bridge the gap between basic science and traditional engineering disciplines to tackle the next generation technological challenges such Quantum technology, Artificial Intelligence".**

The core course will cover basic areas in Physics such as Quantum Mechanics, Condensed Matter Physics, as well as feature basic courses in Mathematics and Engineering. Besides a number of courses in Science and Engineering, courses from other branches like Humanities and Social Sciences will also be available as electives, under this programme. This broad base choice of courses will allow students to explore their areas of interest.

**Speaking about the importance of this programme, Dr. Pradeep Parameswaran, Dean (Academics), IIT Mandi, said, "The principles of Physics are fundamental to the theory and practice of Engineering. IIT Mandi since its inception has believed in challenging rigid disciplinary boundaries, and our course offerings reflect our interdisciplinary outlook. Hence, we feel this Engineering Physics course will appeal to all stakeholders: potential students as well as employers in industry and academia."**

The Engineering Physics programme will enhance the cross-functionality and will bridge the gap between pure science and traditional engineering disciplines which so far have been pursued independently. This is necessary because in today's world, major scientific and technological breakthroughs happen in a multidisciplinary environment where scientists from pure science



work along with engineers. It is therefore highly important to inculcate both scientific and technological aspects, and the programme in the Engineering Physics will serve this purpose.

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#### **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.

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