

Director's Report



Director
IIT Tirupati

Prof. K. N. Satyanarayana

Hon'ble Minister of Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan Ji, Chairman, Board of Governors, Shri Sajjan Jindal Ji, members of the Board of Governors, members of the Academic Senate, distinguished guests, colleagues, graduands and their family members, and students – my heartfelt greetings to you all on this momentous occasion!

I am immensely pleased to welcome you all to the 4th and 5th Convocation of IIT Tirupati. On this occasion, we are proud to announce that a total of 355 B. Tech degrees, 106 M. Tech degrees, 02 Dual Degrees (B. Tech + M. Tech), 74 M. Sc. degrees, 17 M. S. (by research) degrees, and 21 PhD degrees from the Institute will be awarded today.

I will now share with you some snapshots of our journey.

The establishment of IIT Tirupati was announced in 2014 by the Government of India, along with five other new IITs. The foundation stone for the Institute was laid on March 28, 2015, and subsequently, the Institute launched its academic programme on August 5, 2015, with the support of its mentor Institute, IIT Madras, from a temporary campus situated on Tirupati-Renigunta Road. The Government of Andhra Pradesh provided this picturesque 548 acres of land with a mountain as a backdrop to develop the permanent campus of the Institute. The campus is planned to be developed in multiple stages. A master plan has been prepared to build a campus to eventually cater to

12,000 students while conserving its ecological features. The South Campus in about 35 acres consisting of essential laboratories, hostels, classrooms and sports facilities, was completed by 2018 using prefab and sustainable technologies. Thus, the Institute started partly functioning from the permanent campus in the fourth year of its operations and ensured that the first batch of students lived on the permanent campus in their final year.

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Phase 'A' of the permanent campus construction was completed by July 2023. However, the buildings and facilities were occupied in stages from August 2022 onwards. We are the first among the 3G IITs to submit the project completion report for the Phase A DPR. The construction primarily spanned into four zones: Academic, hostel, sports, and residential. The academic zone has a total built-up area of 62,351 square meters. It includes two Department Buildings with office spaces and department laboratories, a Central Instrumentation Facility, a Lecture Hall Complex, and an Administrative Building. The hostel zone includes two buildings with a housing capacity of 1000 students, a sports utility building, and a central dining facility comprising a student-mess on the ground floor and a spacious food court on the first floor. The total built-up area of this zone is 30,170 square meters. The faculty and staff residential buildings consisting of 168 apartments have been completed and occupied in the residential zone in a total built-up area of 33,769 square meters. This zone also comprises a Director's Bungalow and a 20-room Visitors' House. In line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's call to 'Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls', two beautiful lakes have also been created spanning over 10 acres of land with a capacity of 80 million litres to store and use rainwater in a sustainable manner.

In recognition of the sustainable construction, health, and safety practices adopted at our construction project, we have received 18 awards from various national and international agencies. Some notable awards include:

- GRIHA Council and HUDCO Awards for sustainable construction.
- International Safety Award Merit 2021 from the British Safety Council.
- RoSPA Gold Award 2021 from the Royal Society, England.
- 12th, 13th, and 14th CIDC Viswakarma Awards for the consecutive years 2021, 2022, and 2023.
- Shrestha Suraksha Puraskar Awards for the years 2021 and 2022 from the National Safety Council of India.
- CPWD's Best Project for Labour Welfare & Safety Measures in 2023 for our campus construction project.

All these achievements have been possible due to excellent teamwork among all the project participants, including the main consultants, M/s Suresh Goel Associates, M/s ADPL and their sub-consultants; the project management consultant CPWD; the main contractor, M/s Kalpataru

Projects International Ltd.; and the Engineering Unit of IIT Tirupati. We would like to wholeheartedly thank the thousands of construction workers who came from various parts of the country to help build this beautiful campus.

Academic Programmes

The Institute commenced its academic operations in 2015 by admitting 106 students in four B. Tech programmes (Civil Engineering, Computer Science & Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering). Subsequently, the B.Tech programme in Chemical Engineering was started in 2018. The M.S. (by research) and PhD programmes were launched in 2017. The M. Tech programs were started in 2018 and gradually expanded. The Institute currently offers 11 M.Tech programmes. The Science departments offer MSc programmes in Chemistry, Mathematics & Statistics, and Physics. In 2022, the Institute launched a master's programme in Public Policy, becoming the third IIT to offer this programme.

The current student strength of 1,508 includes 904 B. Tech students, 179 M. Tech students, 85 M. Sc. students, 35 MPP (Master of Public Policy) students, 36 MS and 269 PhD research students. It has often been pointed out that IITs have a skewed gender ratio. However, IIT Tirupati has had the highest percentage of female students since its inception. The overall percentage of the girl students enrolled in various programmes at the Institute is currently 22.7%.

Academic and Sponsored Research

Since its inception, IIT Tirupati has been engaged in recruiting world-class faculty members to teach and carry out cutting-edge research. The Institute has appointed 114 faculty members against the sanctioned strength of 120 faculty positions. We strive to establish one of India's leading environments for teaching, research and innovation to attract top Indian and global companies to recruit our students and conduct collaborative research. We are growing at a relatively fast pace in terms of student and faculty strength, physical infrastructure creation, and academic and research programmes to be one of the leading institutions in the country with its ideal of global outlook and local relevance.

The faculty members of the Institute have approximately 1,200 publications to their credit which include journal articles, book chapters, and authored and edited books published by publishers of international repute. IIT Tirupati has an IPR Cell and has filed around 25 patents so far. We ranked 56th in our very first participation in the Engineering Category of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2022 conducted by the Ministry of Education.

IIT Tirupati faculty members are actively engaged in research and consultancy projects. In the last two years, we have received 83 sponsored research projects worth around Rs. 28.04 Crores and 80 industrial consultancy projects worth around Rs.11.47 Crores. The overall numbers stand at 177 sponsored research projects worth Rs. 175.14 crores and 185 industrial consultancies worth Rs. 21.95 crores.

I would like to mention here some of the notable research projects and consultancies received in the last two years:

- The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Department of Electrical Engineering received grants of Rs. 1.58 crore and Rs. 1.46 crore, respectively, under the “Funds for Improvement of Science & Technology Infrastructure (FIST)” Scheme from the Department of Science and Technology.
- Prof. B. Krishna Prapoorna received a grant worth Rs. 12.97 crores on “National Facility for Accelerated Testing of Pavements and Vehicle Dynamics (NATPaVeD)” from the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH).
- Prof. KSMS Raghavaram was sanctioned a project worth Rs. 2.6 crores on “PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme CIC,” by Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Society.
- Prof. P. Muthukumar obtained a grant worth Rs. 2.09 crores on “Design, Development, Testing and Automation of LPG, PNG and CNG Operated Refractory Burners for Cooking and Industrial Applications” from the Science and Engineering Research Board.
- Dr. Bijily Balakrishnan has been sanctioned a sponsored research project worth Rs. 1.58 crores on “Development of Ultra-High-Performance Concretes (UHPCs) for Road/Bridge Infrastructure in Urban Areas,” funded by Kerala Highway Research Institute.
- Prof. Suresh Jain has been sanctioned a consultancy project worth Rs.1.78 crores by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India on “Impact Assessment of the Policy and strategic framework for preventing environmental pollution and protecting public health”.
- Dr. Shihabudheen Maliyekkal has received a grant worth Rs. 97.35 lakhs for his proposal for a Centre of Excellence on “Membrane Technologies for Desalination, Brine Management, and Water Recycling,” funded by the Department of Science and Technology.
- Dr. B. Janaki Ramaiah has been sanctioned a consultancy project worth Rs.107.30 lakhs by the Public Health Department, Govt of Andhra Pradesh, on “Geotechnical investigations of foundations soil along the proposed earthen bund alignment of Summer Storage tank at Juvvalapalem irrigation tank, Naidupeta, Peddacheruvu, Visakhapatnam, Mangalam Paducheruvu, Sullurupeta, Andhra Pradesh”.

Drawing on the strength of faculty expertise at IIT Tirupati and IISER Tirupati, a joint 'Center for Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Sciences Technologies (CAMOST)' was established. The Institute is actively participating in a number of national missions, including Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (ICPS), Quantum Technology Applications (QTA), Hydrogen Mission, India Semiconductor Mission, etc. The Institute has also established a Center of Excellence on Smart

Manufacturing and EV Technologies in association with Siemens and Wipro. We are also one of the institutions that have been selected by the government to set up 5G Use-Case Labs.

For a new Institute, it is a major achievement that it has been awarded the Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) in Positioning and Precision Technologies under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems. The Institute established a Section-8 company IIT Tirupati Navavishkar I-Hub Foundation, for implementing the objectives of this mission, including Technology Development, HRD & Skill Development, Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Start-up Ecosystem, and International Collaborations. The TIH will be receiving funding of Rs—one hundred crores over a period of five years. The TIH has signed an MoU with the Department of Science & Technology and Survey of India to set up a Geospatial Hub in Hyderabad.

Academic Distinctions Secured by the Faculty Members

In recognition of their academic achievements, our faculty, staff and students have been bestowed several academic distinctions, honours and awards, and memberships on editorial boards of journals. Notable among the awardees are:

- Prof KSMS Raghava Rao, Department of Mechanical Engineering, has been awarded the prestigious Life-Time Achievement Award by the “International Association of Engineering and Food”. He received the award at ICEF14 held at Nantes, France during 19-23 June 2023.
- Dr. B. Janaki Ramaiah, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, was co-opted as a member to the panel of Revision of Indian Standard (IS) 4968- “Method for subsurface sounding for soils” and Indian Standard (IS) 10589- “Equipment for subsurface sounding of soils” under BIS Section “Soil and Foundation Engineering CED 43:P14002E”.
- Dr Panchatcharam Mariappan, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, has been honoured as DAAD Research Ambassador. The tenure of this honorary position is for three years (2022 to 2025).

Conferences, Continuing Education and Outreach Programmes

Our faculty members have been proactive in organising seminars, conferences and workshops. The last two years diversified the range of the Institute's academic activities. Following the pandemic restrictions, the activities were realigned to cater to the needs of teachers, practising engineers, and researchers. Some notable academic events that the Institute organised in the past year include:

1. A 5-day online workshop on “Computer System Design” funded by ATAL Academy of AICTE, New Delhi

Academy of AICTE, New Delhi, was hosted by the Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering from January 3 to 7, 2022. Dr. G. Ramakrishna was the workshop coordinator.

2. A 6-day online workshop on “Advanced Manufacturing of Biomedical Devices for Precision Health Technologies” funded by ATAL Academy of AICTE, New Delhi, was hosted by the Dept. of Mechanical Engineering from January 24 to 29, 2022. Dr. M. Ravi Sankar was the coordinator of the workshop.
3. A one-month Vritika Research Internship Programme sponsored by the Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt of India, under the Accelerate Vigyan Vritika scheme was organised at IIT Tirupati by Dr. Ajay Kumar from January 03 to February 28, 2022.
4. The Department of Mechanical Engineering organised the 7th national and 1st international conference on Refrigeration and Air conditioning in collaboration with the Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Guwahati, from February 24 to 26, 2022.
5. The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences organised an International Workshop on 'Public Policies for the Post-Pandemic Era', in online mode, during The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences organised an International Workshop on 'Public Policies for the Post-Pandemic Era' in online mode from February 24 to 25, 2022. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Rahul A. Sirohi, and Dr. C.S. Bahinipati.
6. A GIAN course on “Cross Environmental Ethics: Challenges and Potential” was hosted online by Dr Bharath Kumar on 05, 06, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, and 27 March 2022 at the Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati. Prof. Monika Kirloskar Steinbach, Professor of Philosophy at VU University Amsterdam, was the teaching faculty for the course.
7. A GIAN course on “Migration and Citizenship: Comparative Perspectives on African American and Asian American Literatures” was hosted online by Dr Prabha Shankar Dwivedi on 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, and 23 March 2022 at the Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati. Prof. Amritjit Singh, Langston Hughes Emeritus Professor of English and African Studies at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, was the teaching faculty for the course.
8. A GIAN course on “The Advaita Vedanta Tradition and the Possibilities for a Hindu Theology of Liberation” was hosted online by Dr Bharath Kumar and Prof. A. Raghuramaraju, during April 25-29, 2022, at the Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati. Prof. Anantanad Rambachan, Professor of Religion at St. Olaf College, Minnesota, USA, was the teaching faculty for the course.
9. DRDO and IIT Tirupati organised an outreach programme on the Institute campus on September 7, 2022, to bridge the gap between academia and industry. The programme focused on collaborative research to strengthen the future of warfare in India.

10. Dr. Chandra Sekhar Bahinipati organised a five-day seminar on “Understanding and addressing systemic risks behind the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 in India and Japan: Developing a roadmap for a resilient and sustainable future” (in collaboration with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan), in Tokyo, Japan, from November 21 to 25, 2022. The seminar provided an overview of the systemic risks of COVID-19 in Japan and India, as well as the impact of COVID-19 on the domestic economy in these countries.
11. Dr. Vaneet Kashyap and Dr. Bharath Kumar conducted a two-week faculty development program entitled "Developing leadership and team management skills" sponsored by ATAL Academy between December 5, 2022, and December 16, 2022.
12. Dr. Rahul A. Sirohi and Dr. Chandra Sekhar Bahinipati organised an International Conference on “Credit Markets and Policies in South Asia: Issues and Challenges,” December 7-9, 2022 (in collaboration with YSI South Asia Working group & INET, New York), at IIT Tirupati, India.
13. The Department of Mathematics and Statistics organised a workshop on "Geospatial Data Science" from December 9 to 14, 2022. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Ananya Lahiri, Dr. Ishapathik Das, and Dr. Shilpak Banerjee.
14. The Department of Computer Science and Engineering hosted the International Conference on Information Systems Security (ICISS 2022), the 18th edition of the conference, from December 16 to 20, 2022. Alongside the broader objectives, the ICISS 2022 emphasised enhancing the cooperation between India and Australia on information security research activity.
15. A two-day international workshop on “5G and Beyond Wireless Communication: Application to Positioning and Precision Technologies” was organised jointly by the Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati, Linkoping University, Sweden, and Technology Innovation Hub (TIH), IIT Tirupati during March 18-19, 2023. The workshop was conducted under the umbrella of the Indo-Sweden VR-DST project titled “Physical Layer Secrecy for IoT Networks with Heterogeneous Traffic.”
16. A GIAN course on “Philosophy of Autobiography”, was hosted in-person by Dr Bharath Kumar, on July 18-22, 2023, at the Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati. Prof. Akash Singh Rathore, International Fellow of ETHOS at Luiss University, Rome, Italy, was the teaching faculty for the course.
17. Dr. Ajay Kumar, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, organised the 29th International Conference on 'Processing and Fabrication of Advanced Materials' from September 6 to 8, 2023, at the Institute campus. More than 350 delegates from India and abroad participated in the conference.

18. An Advanced Certification Course on 'Digital Manufacturing and Automation in Foundry Industry' was conducted by Dr. Ajay Kumar, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, from October 4 to November 4, 2023.
19. Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, in collaboration with CRISP India, organised a workshop on 'Public Policy in Practice' during October 9-10, 2023. The resource persons of the workshop were eight senior IAS officers who gave hands-on experience to the participants.

Memorandums of Understanding Signed

To nurture collaborative academic and research activities, IIT Tirupati has inked MoUs and academic associations with about fifty universities, research institutes and laboratories, and industry partners. Some of the notable MoUs signed with international academic institutions include Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES), USA, University of Agder, Norway, University of Calgary, Canada, and Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Further, the Institute has entered into MoUs with IIT TDM Kancheepuram, Indian Naval Academy (INA) Ezhimala, M/s Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Ruhvenile Biomedical OPC Private Limited, Indian Navy, National Highways Authority of India, Central Food Technological Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI), Central Manufacturing Technology Institute (CMTI), Bangalore National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL), Gadanki, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) to establish long-standing academic and scientific collaborations. These MoUs are aimed at facilitating research and teaching visits, startup and incubation facilities, mutual support in postgraduate programmes, and sharing of research facilities, etc.

Industrial partners with whom the Institute inked MoUs include Analog Devices India, Toshiba Software India Pvt. Ltd, NVIDIA Graphics India Pvt. Ltd, and Tata Consultancy Services. Also, the Institute signed an MoU with ASN Fuels (Tech-based Indian Startup) to develop technologies for the production of 2nd generation bioethanol with funding support from Hindustan Petroleum.

Student Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities

Apart from their academic rigour, students at the Institute are active in the overall development of their personalities. Students engage with their peers in social service, club activities, cultural programmes, an annual festival, etc. Some of them include:

Tirutsava: Techno-cultural Fest

Tirutsava, the annual techno-cultural festival of IIT Tirupati organised by the students sometime between February and March each year, is a witness to a motley of cultural and technical events. Coding challenges, think tanks, debates, quizzes, and cultural activities give the students a chance to identify their creative and analytic sides. Two editions of the fest were successfully organised during the last two years.

SPIC MACAY

SPIC MACAY has been very active at IIT Tirupati in its attempt to provide the students an opportunity to engage with the world of music, especially promoting the Indian classical music among the youth. SPIC MACAY Heritage club of the Institute organised a virtual Flute Concert by Pandit Ronu Majumdar accompanied by Shri Ajeet Pathak on Tabla on February 11, 2022, as the sixth virtual treat. The club conducted an in-person concert on Carnatic Music recital by Sri Sikkil Gurucharan accompanied by Padma Vibhushan, Sangita Kalanidhi, Kalaimamani awardee Dr. Umayalapuram K. Sivaraman on Mridangam, Sri V. Sanjeev on Violin and Sri B. Shree Sundar Kumar on Kanjira on May 28, 2022. The year 2023 began with a Koodiyatam performance by Smt. Kapila Venu on January 19, followed by a Sitar Concert by Pt. Kushal Das on January 31, and a Carnatic Vocal concert by Dr S Soumya on February 04. The cultural mosaic expanded with a Kuchipudi dance performance on August 07, and a "Kalaripayattu" programme and a Flute Concert on September 09, October 06 respectively. Enriching the cultural tapestry further, a Kalamkari Workshop conducted by Shri Niranjan Jonnalagadda as the resource person was organised on November 4-5, 2023. A Hindustani Concert featuring Pandit Vinayak Torvi, Satyajee Sanju on Harmonium, Yogeesh Bhat on Tabla, and Archana Kamath on Tanpura was organized on January 26, 2024.

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Activities

The Institute has been actively organising various activities relating to the Govt. of India's initiative 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' (EBSB). Last year, under the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, a nation-wide cultural exchange program 'Yuva Sangam' was launched as part of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'. The 'Yuva Sangam' celebrates the idea of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat", while strengthening the bond between the youth of North-East states and the rest of India. The state of Andhra Pradesh was paired with the state of Arunachal Pradesh. IIT Tirupati, being the nodal institute from the state of Andhra Pradesh in the first phase of the programme, welcomed 23 students and five faculty members from NIT Arunachal Pradesh for a week-long exposure tour to Andhra Pradesh under the Yuva Sangam Programme. A contingent of 50 students and four faculty and staff visited Arunachal Pradesh from Andhra Pradesh under this cultural exchange programme. Paraspar Sampark (people-to-people connect) was the highlight of the programme as students visited the houses of the locals to experience the life and culture of people in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The coordinators and volunteers at IIT Tirupati were able to observe how various customs, cultures, and languages interact while gaining a comprehensive understanding of the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat campaign.

National Service Scheme (NSS) Activities

The overall aim of the National Service Scheme is to give an extended dimension to the higher education system and orient the student youth to community services. In the past two years NSS team has organised about 70 activities in and out of the campus covering various aspects of social

well-being such as child welfare, awareness pertaining to education and cleanliness, rural development, and health camps. Some of the noteworthy activities were Gandhi Punyaha, Swachhtha Pakhwada - 2023, Open School Day, JEE awareness sessions in the government junior colleges, Science Hack 3.0, National Science Day celebrations, Blood Donation Camps, various awareness sessions on women's health and empowerment, and organic farming in villages, and regular visits to schools, old-age homes and villages for extending the helping hands.

Clubs and Sports Activities

IIT Tirupati has about 14 active clubs and societies under which students organise various extramural activities. With the increasing number of students, club activities have become more diversified. Various clubs are crucial in preparing participants for Inter-IIT cultural, technical and sports events. Competitions like National Leaders Painting, Logo Making Competition, Halloween Face Painting Session, Diya Painting Session, Still Life Sketching, Shutter Skills 3.0 Photo Contest, and Editor's Cut Video Editing Contest, Lorem Ipsum Graphic Design Contest, and Photoverse Photography Contest were organised by varied clubs. The Fitness Club organised FIT India Freedom Run, FIT India Cyclothon, Winter Tournament, Intra IIT Tournament, and International Yoga Day on the campus.

Placement

IIT Tirupati has a separate Career Development Centre that provides excellent placement and internship opportunities, with a strong emphasis on year-round career development and career guidance activities. CDC acts as a platform for students to interact with industry. IIT Tirupati has been able to attract top recruiters for providing internship and placement opportunities to the students since the beginning. It is worth mentioning here that the number of companies visiting, job roles, and packages offered have been improving significantly every year.

The institute had a successful placement season for the 2023 graduating batch, with over 120 companies participating in the recruitment process and offering diverse roles to our students. Major recruiters include Accenture, Adobe, Amazon, Allen, Arista Networks, Beehyv, BEL, C-DOT, Commvault, Deloitte, FactSet, Future First, GEP, Global logic Hitachi, IBM, IBM Research, ICICI, IMPACT GURU, JIO, Jio Platform, L&T, Mathworks, Maybank, Merilytics, MPM Info Softwares, Nation with Namu, Ninjacart, Open Data Fabric, Paytm, Publicis Sapient, Radisys, ServiceNow, Singularity Dynamics, Sprinklr, Strand Life sciences, TCS R&I, TECHNIP, Texas Instruments, Thoughtspot, Transcend Street, Valeo, VeGrow, and Versa Networks, among others, who have offered full-time jobs to our students.

GCU - Guidance and Counselling Unit

Sarathi, the Guidance and Counseling Unit (GCU) of the Institute, supports the student community in the betterment of their personality and mental health and spreads wellness

among the campus community. GCU has been providing counselling sessions and promoting mental health awareness through webinars and other initiatives on the campus. It arranges counselling sessions for all those who need them, guaranteeing the confidentiality of the matter. GCU has engaged a full-time counsellor for this purpose. YourDOST team (an online platform) is available 24X7 where students can interact with counsellors through texts, voice calls and video calls.

Acknowledgements

Keeping up with the demands of the growing Institute would not have been possible without the hard work, active support and cooperation of all our students, faculty, staff, agencies and industries sponsoring R&D projects.

We are grateful to the Ministry of Education, Government of India, for its continued and sustained encouragement and support. The Ministers, officers and staff at MoE have always actively helped and guided us. The liberal funding from the Govt. of India has enabled us to set up the infrastructure to lay the foundation on which the Institute will continue to grow. We are looking forward to the approval from the Ministry and the cabinet to start the Phase B of our campus infrastructure building.

I wish to avail this opportunity to place on record our sincere thanks to our mentor Institute IIT Madras which guided us since the inception and was always there to provide any required support.

I also thank the Government of Andhra Pradesh for all the support it continues to extend in multiple ways.

I wish to thank our former Chairmen, Board of Governors Shri R. Subrahmanyam, Shri Amit Khare, Shri K. Sanjay Murthy, and the current Chairman, Shri Sajjan Jindal, and all the Board members for their wise counsel, support and guidance, for enabling us to scale new heights.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister of Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan ji, for gracing this Convocation. We are eager to hear his words of advice to our graduating students.

Before I end, I would like to congratulate all the graduands and wish you all happiness, professional success, and fulfilment from a life of service to your profession, family, country and society at large. You have been an extraordinary batch and set a benchmark for future batches with the way you have conducted yourselves with maturity. Your two batches were among the most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I see a great future for this Institute and assure you that you will be proud of your alma mater.

Jai Hind!