

Report on the Inaugural Ceremony of Diamond Jubilee Celebration Aug 17, 2020

IIT Delhi established in 1961 is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee year starting Aug 17, 2020. The inaugural ceremony of Diamond Jubilee was held in a virtual mode on Aug 17, 2020 (10:30 am - 1 pm). Honourable Vice President Shri M Venkaiah Naidu was the Chief Guest and the HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' was the Guest of Honour. The ceremony was compered by Prof Richa Kumar from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences IIT Delhi. In this ceremony IIT Delhi released a logo for the diamond jubilee and a document for its vision and strategy plan 2030.

The ceremony started with a welcome address by Prof V Ramgopal Rao Director IIT Delhi who presented a brief historical account of IIT Delhi and some of its recent activities and achievements. He mentioned that in the last 5 years IIT Delhi faculty has published 10000 papers, has got 500 patents, and more than 1400 Crs of funds for sponsored research. IIT Delhi has become the number one institute for Entrepreneurship in India. Half of all unicorns founded by Indians are by IIT Delhi alumni. IIT Delhi is ranked 47th in engineering institutes in this year's QS ranking. IIT Delhi got the status of Institute of Eminence in 2018. He mentioned about the contributions from IIT Delhi to combat the recent pandemic — from affordable testing kit to distribution of 40 lakh PPE prepared by IIT Delhi to conducting scientific studies of "Ashwagandha" as efficient anti-Covid-19 drug. He emphasised that IIT Delhi apart from academics has been contributing in many other ways to the society, for example to Indian cultural heritage through SPIC MACAY, technologies for rural India through CRDT and industrial interaction through FITT. He concluded by mentioning that the institute has expanded its academic activities in a big way by recently setting up seven degree awarding academic units and 11 centres of excellence for research.

The HRD Minister in his address felicitated IIT Delhi for its Diamond Jubilee. He acknowledged and thanked its many contributions in nation building including during the challenging period of Covid-19. He talked about New Education Policy (NEP 2020) giving some of its salient features such as — advocating multiple languages, promoting 'nation first with character must', being impactful, inclusive and interactive, having content, patent, and remaining relevant. He mentioned that due to the recent pandemic there is a huge challenge of providing online education to 33 Cr students and called upon premier institutes like IITs to come forward and provide their support in dealing with it.

This was followed by a brief ceremony of launching the Diamond Jubilee Logo, which was prepared by the Department of Design IIT Delhi, and the release of Vision & Strategy 2030 document prepared as *pro bono* support from McKinsey. The Chief Guest, Honourable Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu in his remarks gave his best wishes on this milestone and appreciated that IIT Delhi has emerged as a leader in entrepreneurship that sets up the trend of becoming jobs provider from jobs seeker. He was pleased to note the efforts that IIT Delhi is making to raise a

billion dollar endowment funds from alumni which reflects the “giving back” attitude and sentiments of “share and care”. He desired that private industries should get more involved with research and collaborate with academia. Recollecting the ancient time he mentioned how India acted as a “Vishva Guru” where education was imparted to gain knowledge and wisdom and aimed towards complete self realisation. In today’s time education should help finding optimal and sustainable solutions for the problems which are around us. Considering the effects of climate change, it requires us to focus on ecological balance — combine nature, culture for a better future. He also mentioned that we need to be inclusive and work for an equitable world order.

Prof Subir Saha, the chairperson diamond jubilee committee extended his votes of thanks to the chief guest and the guest of honour.

The second session of the ceremony had two talks and a panel discussion. The session was chaired by Prof Vivek Buwa. Prof Devang Khakhar, a distinguished alumnus of IIT Delhi and a former Director, IIT Bombay gave the first talk titled “IIT Delhi: Path to Excellence”. He gave a historical perspective of how a concept of higher technical education institutes got developed from pre-independence time when the Sarkar Committee report in 1946 provided a blue print which was subsequently used for setting up IITs. According to him there is a significant impact IITs created in India from many of its graduates joining the academia and industries in India to playing major role in the IT revolution and becoming entrepreneurs. In the first phase the older five IITs got set up, with a novel curriculum that was designed to make science and humanities grounded engineers. The second phase noticed criticism from media, public and government that IITs are source of brain drain and are there more for the benefit for the west. In its third phase a change in attitude was observed considering the role of its alumni and international recognition of IITs. He finds that there is an upswing now and feels that IIT Delhi has a bright future.

The second talk was delivered by Prof. M. Balakrishnan, Vice Chancellor, Satya Bharti Institute of Technology & Professor (On Leave), Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Delhi. The title of his talk was “IIT Delhi: National Leadership to Global Eminence”. According to him, IITs have achieved national reputation and global visibility but need to work for global eminence. The reasons for its achievements are primarily academic, regulatory & financial autonomy, strong competition and collaboration among IIT’s for faculty and students, its governance for empowering faculty with no pyramidal structure, and innovative steps from time to time for faculty recruitment. For going forward he gave some suggestions such as more autonomy in BoG and Director’s selection, restructuring of senate, recruitment of Administrative Officer and change in the selection of head which should be based on one’s vision and administrative ability.

The last item of the session was a panel discussion with panelists as the former directors of IIT Delhi — Prof. V. S. Raju, Prof. R. S. Sirohi, Prof. Surendra Prasad and Prof. R. K. Shevgaonkar. The panel was moderated by Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi. Each of the panelists gave a brief account of their reminiscence which included the challenges they had to undergo and the satisfaction they

achieved in that period when they were the head of the institute. For example, reducing non teaching staff, increasing student strength and bringing IBM Research Lab on campus (Prof V S Raju), removal of jhuggi clusters and strengthening of security on campus and partnership with industry and alumni for construction of buildings such as Bharti School of Telecom (Prof R S Sirohi), increase in student strength from OBC quota, mentoring of new IITs, setting up of School of Biological Sciences and initiating expansion outside Delhi (Prof Surendra Prasad), restructuring administrative structure, decentralisation of decision making, High Performance Computing facility and solar power on campus (Prof R K Shevgaonkar). The session and the function concluded with thanks by the session chair followed by the Director IIT Delhi.

With this report we humbly submit that IIT Delhi is extremely fortunate to have been blessed with the association of the Most Revered Prof P S Satsangi Sahab Who had spent about 28 years working in different academic and administrative capacities and contributed enormously to its growth. May IIT Delhi continue to flourish and achieve new heights. A soft copy of the Vision and Strategy 2030 document as released is also being humbly submitted (as a separate attachment).