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पंजाब के माननीय राज्यपाल एवं केन्द्र शासित प्रदेश
चण्डीगढ़ के प्रशासक श्री बनवारी लाल पुरोहित जी
जिन्हें आज के इस कीर्त्तित समारोह में अपने मध्य
पाकर हम अत्यधिक गौरवांकित महसूस कर रहे हैं।

श्री राजेन्द्र गुप्ता जी, संस्थान के Board of Governors
के अध्यक्ष

Sh. Nitin Kumar Yadav, IAS UT प्रशासक के कार्यवाहक
सलाहकार एवं गृह सचिव - चण्डीगढ़

Ms Purva Garg, IAS PEC के BoG के उपाध्यक्ष

Deputy Director, Dean Academic, Registrar

प्रतिष्ठित अतिथिगण

Senators

संकाय सदस्य

पूर्व छात्र

कर्त्तव्य मित्र

स्नातक, जिन्हें आज डिग्री प्रदान की जानी है

मीडिया

देवियों एवं सज्जनो !

(2)

गौरवशाली अस्तित्व के 102 वर्ष पूरे होने पर आज पंजाब इंजिनियरिंग कालेज अपना 53 वां दीक्षांत समारोह मना रहा है।

एक शताब्दी की आड़ो एवं गजबूत नींव पर स्थापित अब हमारा संस्थान नये युग में प्रवेश कर चुका है।

ऐसे ऐतिहासिक अवसर पर हमारे मुख्य अतिथि पंजाब के माननीय राज्यपाल एवं केन्द्र शासित प्रदेश चण्डीगढ़ के प्रशासक श्री बनवारी लाल धुर पुरोहित जी का हार्दिक स्वागत और अभिनन्दन करना मेरे लिये अत्यंत ही हर्ष, गौरव एवं सम्मान की बात है।

माननीय राज्यपाल के भव्य व्यक्तित्व की उपस्थिति आज इस समारोह को सर्वोच्च सम्मान प्रदान करती है।

हमारे मुख्य अतिथि श्री बनवारी लाल पुरोहित जी एक वरिष्ठ राजनीतिक व्यक्तित्व हैं जिन्होंने पिछले चार दशकों से बड़े पैमाने पर सार्वजनिक मामलों को आकार दिया है।

बहुपुरवी प्रतिभा के चयन श्री पुरोहित जी नागपुर से तीन बार लोकसभा के सदस्य चुने गये। पंजाब के राज्यपाल का पदभार ग्रहण करने से पहले आप उत्तर प्रदेश, मेघालय एवं तमिलनाडु के राज्यपाल भी रह चुके हैं। आप एक प्रख्यात शिक्षाविद, प्रसिद्ध सामाजिक कर्मकर्ता, संस्था निर्माता एवं राष्ट्रवादी विचारक हैं।

आपने यह ख्याति और यहां तक पहुंचने की यात्रा निःसन्देह बहुत ही कड़ी मेहनत, अनुशासन एवं आदर्शों के मार्ग पर चलते हुए तय की है।

आज तकनीकी शिक्षा के इस ऐतिहासिक मन्दिर Punjab Engineering College में आपका हार्दिक स्वागत है, श्री गान्धे !

④
संस्थान के प्रांगण में BoG के अध्यक्ष
श्री राजेन्द्र गुप्ता जी की गरिमायुक्त उपस्थिति
द्वारे लिये आशीर्वाद एवं सौभाग्य की सौगात है।

यह भी हमारा सौभाग्य है कि आज के समारोह में
प्रशासक के कार्यवाहक सहायक एवं गृह सचिव
श्री नितिन कुमार मादव एवं Ms Purva Garg,
BoG की उपाध्यक्ष उपस्थित हैं।

हैं संस्थान की ओर से व आपकी ओर से
आपका हार्दिक स्वागत व अभिनन्दन करता हूँ।

आगे बढ़कर मैं कर बड़े मुद्रा में, इस मध्य सभा
में उपस्थित सभी अतिथियों, विशेषकर आज डिग्री
प्राप्त करने आये सभी छात्रों का स्वागत करता हूँ।

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The Convocation of an Institute marks the successful completion of the arduous yet rewarding and stimulating journey of our graduates. It is an attestation of the profound collective efforts put in by the students, faculty and staff of the Institute to uphold the quality of education and learning.

While the annual convocation is an opportunity to celebrate the successes of our past, it is also an opportunity to reflect upon the prospects the future holds for us. I take this opportunity to present a brief report of the notable achievements of the Institute during the last academic year.

Punjab Engineering College is now on the threshold of entering the 103rd year of its inception and it still continues to carry on its glorious legacy as the premier centre of higher technical education in the country and abroad. It has all been possible due to the notable contributions of my predecessors as well as present and former faculty, staff and alumni. It is heartening to share and acknowledge that with the visionary guidance and blessings of the UT Administration headed by our Chief Guest and the Board of Governors led by Shri Rajinder Gupta, the Institute has entered the new century with newer vigour and higher goals.

Very aptly we have combined our strong foundation of the previous century with an ambitious vision in our new tagline:

'Tradition We Trust, Excellence We Envision'

During the Convocation Ceremony today we shall be conferring the degrees of Bachelor of Technology to 640 graduates, Master of Technology to 96 postgraduates and Ph.D to 38 scholars.

The Senate of the Institute in its 104th meeting, conferred the Degree of Doctor of Science (DSc. Honoris Causa) on Dr Sreedhara Panicker Somanath, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organization.

Also, 31 medals, under different categories, shall be awarded today.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The year that went by was full of activities and accomplishments both horizontal and vertical.

With effect from Academic Session 2023-24 the Institute has started three new academic programmes in the emerging areas of technology and design. These are Bachelor of Technology in Artificial Intelligence, Bachelor of Technology in VLSI and a programme in Bachelor of Design.

With the addition of this, presently the Institute is offering 12 UG and 13 PG programmes in Engineering and Technology and Ph.D programmes in Engineering, Sciences, Humanities and Management to more than 3000 students annually.

A certificate programme is being run exclusively for the UT Police personnel for capacity building in the area of Cyber Security. It is an ambitious programme wherein all senior UT Police officers including the DGP have enrolled and are attending lectures and lab sessions religiously.

The Senate of the Institute has approved the commencement of an M.Tech programme in Quantum Physics in joint collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, and a joint degree Ph.D programme in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology Mandi.

Aligning with the National Education Policy, NEP 2020 commencing July 2023, we have revised the B.Tech curriculum and syllabi, that apart from technology and sciences, embodies humanities with a specific course on Human Values.

Besides other features, the inclusion of Honours degree and Minor Specialization in the B.Tech scheme, the Programme maps itself with Level 7 of the National Skill Qualification Framework and corresponds to a Bachelor's degree with advanced skills.

The year that went by also saw the induction of 34 faculty members at the levels of Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors. This is the highest number of faculty having been inducted in a single year ever since we were rechristened as a Deemed to be University.

At this point, I would like to take this opportunity to request the Administration to create faculty positions so that the requisite Faculty-Student Ratio for ensuring top-quality education can be maintained.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

During the last one year, our faculty members have published over 328 research papers in high-impact international journals, conference proceedings and books. During the same period 11 patents were filed and 05 patents were granted.

Faculty members of the Institute have been making us proud by being among the 'who's who' in their chosen areas of research. Prof. Vasundhara Singh of the Chemistry Department has been admitted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry London for her exceptional research and academic profile.

Prof. Arun Kumar Singh of the ECE Department has received the coveted 'Top-cited Paper Award 2022' from the Institute of Physics. Dr. Kamal Kumar of Mechanical Engineering falls in the category of top 2% of the most cited scientists in the world.

We are delighted to share that as many as 24 faculty members have been recognized and felicitated by various reputed academic, research and industrial bodies for their accomplishments.

We, on our part have also recognized and acknowledged the contributions of faculty members in the field of research in various forms by honouring them on the occasion of the Teachers Day.

The Institute has been playing a pivotal role in area of sponsored research and consultancy which has been gradually but constantly looking up.

A research group led by Prof. Ravinder Singh Walia of the PIE Department has bagged a FIST project of the Department of Science and Technology of Rs. 206 lakhs. A team of Prof. Rakesh Kumar, Prof. Poonam Saini and Mr Tushar Siag have been awarded a research grant of Rs. 143 lakhs from the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory of the DRDO.

PEC has been placed in the co-hort of 30 institutions covered under the aegis of C2S Scheme of the Ministry of Electronics and Prof. A. K. Singh and Prof. Sanjeev Kumar have secured a fund of Rs. 82 lakhs under this scheme.

During the recently organized India Mobile Congress 2023 Pardhan Mantri Shri Narendra Modi awarded and inaugurated 100 5-G labs and I am glad to share that Punjab Engineering College has been placed in that elite list.

Triggered by our research initiatives, the Alumni of the Institute have shown a remarkable interest in the research in the Institute. One of the illustrious alumni Prof. Roop Lal Mahajan of the 1964 Batch has set up a foundation to help the cause of research and an initial grant of Rs. 1 Crore has already been received.

During the period under record the Institute organized a number of conferences, workshops, training sessions and expert lectures. This includes an event conducted under the banner of G20/S20 in association with the Department of Science & Technology, Gol, two international conferences, one each by the Departments of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering and Civil Engineering. During the 27th International Conference on Hydraulics & Water Resources: HYDRO 2022 conducted in association with Indian Society for Hydraulics, the Institute had the honour to host the Honourable Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

The Career Development and Guidance Centre, CDGC of the Institute offers an all-round career solution to the students. The Cell is instrumental in getting placement and internship offers to B.Tech as well as M. Tech students. Till the time of record this year, the highest monetary package offered is of the order of Rs.52 lakhs per annum by Microsoft and for internship the stipend stands at Rs.1,60,00 pm by De.Shaw. The process is on.

The students of PEC have always displayed impeccable talent and intellect. A team of six students from the Institute participated in the NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge held in Huntsville, Alabama, USA and competed with 48 teams from around the globe.

The team had received a generous financial aid of Rs. 10 lakhs from the Honourable Governor Punjab cum Administrator UT Chandigarh for this endeavor.

Students have brought laurels to PEC in the field of sports as well.

Bhavtegh Singh Gill, a 2nd year student has won two bronze medals for

India at the ISSF World Championship Shotgun held in Croatia.

Bhavetegh also won an individual bronze medal in the skeet event in the

Khelo India University Games.

Nanki, of the B.Tech first year won the Gold Medal in senior women

Inline Hockey in the 60th National Roller Skating Championship 2022

held in Bengluru and was awarded the prestigious Chetan Chauhan

Award for her outstanding achievements in the realm of sports.

In the same event four more students of PEC:

Armaandeeep

Karan

Paras Dhiman, and Yashika Sharma

were among the medals

The much awaited Infrastructure of the Institute has started receiving its due share of the attention. Two boys hostels: one, a 154 - seater Himalaya Hostel is ready and is on the brink of being occupied.

Two, construction of a 365 seater Kurukshetra Hostel, the foundation stone of which was laid by the Honourable Raksha Mantri, Sh. Raj Nath Singh, is underway.

Formal requirements for setting the tender process in motion for 'Research Scholars Apartments' and 'Extension of the Vindhya Hostel' are in an advanced stage.

The BoG of the Institute in its 74th meeting has approved the proposals of the BWC for construction of a 2200 seater synergy Centre and 96 houses for faculty and staff.

The Estate Section of the Institute on its part has been toiling hard to improve and maintain the existing infrastructure. Among the notable improvisations and local creations are a Central Research Facility, Board Room, a Studio cum Conference Hall for the Production Engineering

Department, Seminar Hall for the Civil Engineering Department, Guest House rooms, renovation of kitchens and washrooms, etc. A suitable space has been improvised in the Shivalik Hostel of the Institute to create a Dhyan Kendra. For all this and much more the Estate Section led by Prof. Sushant Samir deserve a special mention. I take this opportunity to place on record our sense of gratitude to the UT Administration for this endowment. At the same time, I request the Administration to maintain this generous outlook and fund our projects to revive and replace the infrastructure which is close to 70 years old now.

In a bid to introspect as well as to have short-term and long-term planning, the Institute conducted an External Peer Review with the help of a BoG nominated 06-members committee from the academia, research, industry and alumni.

The Committee headed by former Director General of DRDO Dr. Satish Kumar Padamshri had submitted a comprehensive report which is being implemented at its action points.

I take this opportunity to thank Sh. Rajinder Gupta, Chairman BoG of the Institute for his unflinching support in all endeavors of the Institute.

I come forward to thank the members of all committees: BoG, Senate, the Finance Committee, BWC and the faculty & staff of the Institute for their hard work in taking the Institute forward.

I am sure the young boys and girls graduating today will move out into the University of Life with confidence and bring sincerity, devotion and professionalism in all aspects of their career.

Dear young friends, you are indeed fortunate to be graduating at a time when there are immense possibilities around. Our country is gaining prominence the world over, and is poised to become the Vishva Guru.

I conclude with a quote from Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya which he stated in a Convocation Address to the Banaras Hindu University

“Continue your studies throughout
Your life
Be just and fear none
Fear only to do that which is
ill and ignoble
Stand up for right
Love to serve your fellowmen
Love the motherland
Promote public weal.
Do good wherever you get a chance for it.
Love to give whatever you can spare.”

Once again, I extend a warm welcome to our Chief Guest and other distinguished guests and wish all graduating students a fulfilling life and career ahead.

Thank you!

Jai Hind!