



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान रोपड़
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROPAR

13th Convocation

MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Prof. Rajeev Ahuja

Director, IIT Ropar





Esteemed guests, parents of the graduating batch, my colleagues, and dear students, Good Morning.

It's an honor to address you today on the occasion of the 13th convocation of IIT Ropar.

As the Director of IIT Ropar, I am proud to witness the culmination of your hard work. Congratulations!

Friends, the year 2024 has been remarkable for us. We have achieved several milestones regarding new academic programs, cutting-edge R&D, global research collaborations, and meaningful investments in infrastructure and faculty recruitment.

As we celebrate your achievements today, I highlight your remarkable accomplishments. Our students have excelled in various fields, from academics and research to building deep tech startups, sports, and community service. You have represented IIT Ropar at national and international competitions, winning recognition for your talents.

We are proud that our alumni network is growing, with over 3500 graduates employed globally. As the graduating students of this year, you join the league. We wish you all the best and warmly wait to hear about your journey ahead.

As we move forward, we remain committed to providing our students high-quality education and research opportunities. Our faculty members are recognized globally for fundamental and outcome-oriented R&D. With a strong focus on research and innovation, we are investing to set up state-of-the-art infrastructure and facilities for a world-class learning experience at IIT Ropar.



As we conclude this convocation, I want to remind you that real education is a balanced blend of acquiring knowledge and developing character and values. This will guide you throughout your lives. I urge you to continue learning, growing, and contributing to society.

Proud parents and dear guests, on behalf of the IIT Ropar, thank you for your support and trust in this Institute.

Once again, congratulations to all graduating batch. May your future be filled with success, happiness, and fulfillment!

As customary, I will now present a brief report of IIT Ropar.

Starting with academics, today, at this convocation, 601 students are graduating, including 342 B.Tech, 57 M.Sc, 150 M.Tech, 40 PhDs, and 12 B.Tech - M.Tech Dual Degree students.

This year, we have over 3000 students on campus comprising 1514 UG, 522 PG, 796 PhD, and research interns and project fellows.

In the current academic year, 29 foreign nationals have been admitted to IIT Ropar for PG and PhD programs in different schemes.

I am happy to share that female enrolment at IIT Ropar has increased 8-fold now compared to 2018 – 19.

We have started B.Sc. B. Ed program from the academic year 2024-25 with 50 seats in the framework of ITEP and NEP2020.

To match the rapid global rise of AI-powered intelligent systems, IIT Ropar started offering “Minor in AI” to all branches in the framework of our “Open for All” initiative.

Our B. Tech. Program in AI and Data Engineering has graduated from a School on AI and Data Engineering.

Our research quality has significantly increased in recent years, with an average citation per paper at 19 and an H-Index of 94. This ranks us as one of the best among tier 1 institutes in the country.

During this year, our colleagues have published 500+ research papers in high-ranking international journals.

The institute has attracted high-quality students and faculty members to lead innovative research projects in diverse areas of science and technology. The number of PhD students on campus is now in a 1-to-5 faculty-to-PhD student ratio.

In 2023, IIT Ropar was ranked 22nd in the Engineering Category and 33rd in the Overall Category by NIRF. The Institute entered the Research Ranking for the first time; we ranked 46 in the research quantum.

Further, the institute has been ranked number one globally in the 'graduate quality index.' As per the research work of Jeff Horwich, senior economics writer at Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, the graduates of IIT Ropar have not just been found to be the best in India, they have also been reported to be the most promising students on the planet, as measured by their earning potential.

Our commitment to interdisciplinary education and research lead us to start different CoEs. Presently, our CoEs are:

Centre of Engineering Education aims to carry out engineering education research, curriculum development, and education management.



Our Centre of Studies and Applied Research in Defense and Security works closely with the armed forces.

With Punjab Police, we started an AI Lab at IIT Ropar to solve real-world problems related to law and enforcement.

Centre for Rural Technologies and Skills for advancing the rural technology ecosystem and skills.

Centre of Research in Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation.

CoE in Thermal Spray Coatings jointly supported by DST, Applied Materials USA, and Metallizing Equipment Company.

We started hosting entrepreneurs at our Alumni Centre in Bengaluru, dedicated to promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, and positive social impact through various programs and initiatives.

Recently, the state of Punjab has sanctioned a CoE on Sustainable Mining.

IIT Ropar is now an 'Eat Right Campus.' Inspired by preventive healthcare, the 'Eat Right Campus' is an initiative of FSSAI in the framework of the National Health Policy 2017 to promote safe, healthy, and sustainable food on campuses.

The Career Development and Placement Cell at the Institute is pivotal in facilitating professional growth and placement opportunities for our students. In a global slowdown, IIT Ropar received 162 companies on campus for the placement. 73% of IIT Ropar UG students are placed at an average package of 23 lakhs. I am happy to note that our 68 B.Tech. students secured Pre-Placement Offers.

External Funding is like fuel for R&D. IIT Ropar is actively engaged in various R&D projects supported by different funding agencies.

We have received 500+ R&D projects with an outlay of Rs. 350+ crores and 600+ Industrial Consultancy Projects to the tune of 40 crores.

For newly joined faculty members, we started offering Institute Research Initiation Support (IRIS) so that they can hire a PhD student as soon as they enter the institute to initiate their research group without waiting for a grant from external funding agencies.

We added a unique internship program, Summer Internship for Noetic Exposure (SINE), for meritorious students from all over the country.

Recently, the Ministry of Education approved phase – 1 of a mega project to set up an AI CoE for Agriculture. I am happy to note that IIT Ropar is one of the two institutes in the country that has been declared successful for the AI Mission of the country.

Our DST Technology Innovation Hub, AWaDH, has been recognized as one of the best-performing hubs in the country, and IIT Ropar as the most promising institute in AgriTech with the development of 56 advanced technologies resulting in 43 technology products and more than 120 IPs and publications.

Adding to the mega project portfolio of the Institute, the Ministry of Textiles and the Ministry of Earth Sciences have approved projects worth 30 crores to the institute.



Further, to add value to the academics and R&D ecosystem of the Institute, IIT Ropar entered into cooperation with, BIKAL TECH, a UK-based technology company, will set up an HPC for joint research in 5G and AI for security and law-enforcement applications.

We are offering a certification program titled ‘Applied Deep Learning for Computer Vision and Beyond’ with Samsung India Electronics Private Limited’s Design Division and Mobile Research & Development Centre in Noida.

The University of Oulu, Finland, for joint research activities.

Uppsala University, Sweden, for joint degree programs and R&D.

NSDC for running skill development courses for skilling, re-skilling, and up-skilling the ever-growing human resources in the country so that they can efficiently contribute to the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.

Omega Seiki Mobility for testing and evaluating hydrogen fuel-cell kits and vehicles.

DAAD Germany to promote R&D and academic and cultural cooperation between India and Germany.

Indian Navy to foster R&D for made-in-India Defence Technologies.

Ministry of Home Affairs to conduct skilling/training, capacity building, operational research and technical studies at the national level.

We also signed agreements with the University of La Rochelle (France), Mid Sweden University (Sweden), Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (Indonesia), the University of Oulu (Finland), TSU Russia, Siberian State Medical University Russia for academic collaboration.

Delegations from Dalhousie University, Canada; Asia University, Taiwan; National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan; South Dakota State University, USA; Kaohsiung Medical University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA; Mid Sweden University visited IIT Ropar this year to explore R&D possibilities.

At the Institute, we have created a supportive and inclusive environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Adding to academics and research, we established SNEHITA – a well-being cell to support the mindfulness of the residents on campus.

One-of-its-kind Outdoor, Adventures, and Social Activities Club supports our student community. Different clubs organize technical, Cultural, Sports, and Literary fests and other activities.

We are offering our students a very vibrant startup ecosystem. Our mission is to enable and empower researchers and students to build deep tech startups that cover a wide variety of technologies and innovations.

The Institute has started the SAMRIDHI Startup Conclave for Acceleration of Market-Ready Innovations in collaboration with DST to foster sustainable tech Agriculture and Water Technology startups.



As you know, the institute started functioning at the present campus in 2017-18 phase-wise. Marking the completion of Phase – 1, the Prime Minister of India dedicated the campus to the nation on 20th February 2024.

Through our NGO, Pehchan, IIT Ropar elevates underprivileged school students to achieve academic excellence, acquire necessary skills, and confidently pursue their educational goals despite limited resources. Some of the initiatives of our NGO are School Safar Saathi, Evening Paathshala, Mobile STEM lab, and support for the Atal teacher training program.

Now, I get closer to my concluding remarks.

Friends, as we celebrate your graduation today, I am filled with pride and joy. You have spent your days and nights at IIT Ropar, receiving an education comparable to the best in the world.

You are now ready to take on more significant challenges in life. I believe you will shine and contribute significantly to humankind in harmony with nature.

While I congratulate you on this momentous occasion, I underline the sacrifices your parents and family made to see you achieve this success. The education you have received at IIT Ropar is not just a degree but a tool to bring harmony to society as individuals. We gave you an education that goes beyond academic knowledge and encourages the development of your character, intellect, and skills.

As you step out of this institute today as proud alums of IIT Ropar, I urge you to uphold the core values of integrity, merit, excellence, and freedom of thought. We will always look to you for a strong association and cherish this relationship.

My dear graduating students, I wish you all true success. Let the motto of IIT Ropar, "धियो यो नः प्रचोदयात्," be your guiding light as you embark on a new chapter in your lives.

Thank you. Jai Hind





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