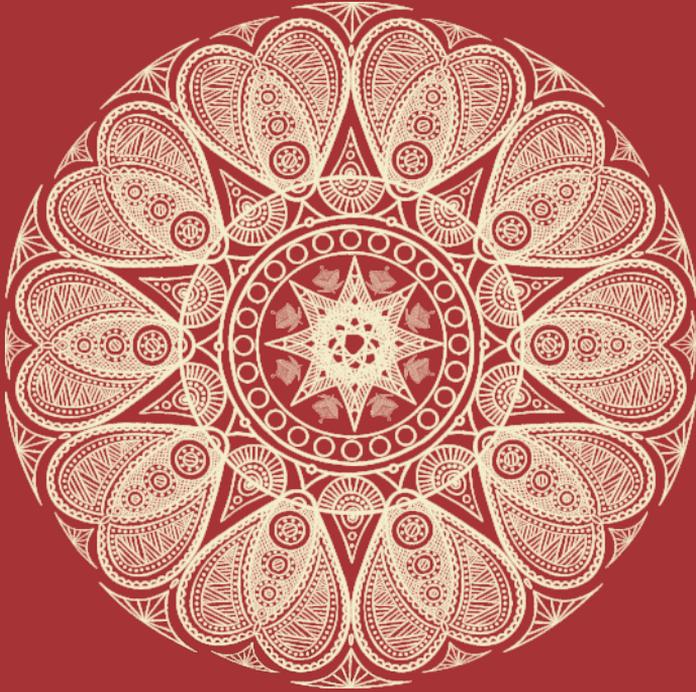


भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान कानपुर
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur



अध्यक्ष द्वारा संबोधन

Chairperson's Address

डा. कोपिल्लिल राधाकृष्णन
अध्यक्ष संचालक मण्डल
भा. प्रौ. सं. कानपुर

Dr. Koppillil Radhakrishnan
Chairperson, Board of Governors
IIT Kanpur

५३^{वाँ} दीक्षान्त समारोह

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53rd CONVOCATION

22 OCTOBER 2020

ADDRESS BY CHAIRPERSON

Dr. K. Radhakrishnan
Chairperson, Board of Governors
IIT Kanpur

53rd CONVOCATION

22 October 2020

Celebrated Chief Guest Dr. Arvind Krishna, our distinguished alumnus and CEO, IBM; Admirable Director Prof. Abhay Karandikar; Eminent Members of the Board; Erudite Deans, Heads, Senators and Academics; Resourceful Registrar and Non-academic staff members; Dear Graduating Students and their Proud Parents; Friends from the Media; Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 1) This Convocation is very special and different; special, because the Institute is in the Diamond Jubilee; different, because of the prevailing scenario.
- 2) The humanity is in the dawn of a historic mutation. The pandemic, Covid-19, came with a bang and disrupted everyone's ways of life, study, work and interactions. Humanitarian services and determination have become the order of the day. The world is yet to grasp the bigger picture of propagation and consequences of the virus. Difficult days are still ahead and undefined. We should face it and equip ourselves for the new state of equilibrium in the social economy and geopolitical comity.
- 3) For us, at IIT Kanpur, the month of March was awaited with a jam-packed schedule for academics, but the plans turned completely topsy-turvy with the arrival of Covid-19. The unprecedented situation was deftly handled at the Institute with timely decision to move the students out from the campus to the safety of their homes, diligent alternatives to close the semester, and a host of protective measures for the campus. Rapid transition to remote teaching and inclusively reaching out to more than 7000 students are praiseworthy. With the first batch of PhD students returning to the campus recently, we have also taken our first tentative steps towards the restoration of normalcy. Director and the entire team deserve accolades for their exemplary response to the evolving situation.
- 4) Further, delightfully, the Institute's fraternity teamed up spontaneously with several research and innovation initiatives and helped the national efforts to combat Covid-19. A few products are in regular use. I wish to complement every

member of the IITK fraternity and Industry partners for contributing their might responsibly for a societal imperative.

- 5) Our Institute is in the Diamond Jubilee of its foundation. We are here on the bedrock of 'Brand IITK' built and raised by the visionary founder, Prof. P.K. Kelkar, an illustrious array of teachers, functionaries and our alumni. I am proud to have been associated with this pre-eminent Institution for the past 20 months. Also, I am aware of the bold vision and pragmatic goals for 2025, as pronounced by the Director.
- 6) The Director reported that despite the difficulties and distractions, our Institute did successfully navigate several new initiatives including The Mehta Family Centre for Engineering Medicine, a National Centre of Excellence in Geodesy, a Technology Innovation Hub in Cyber Security, a raise in the ecosystem for Biomedical entrepreneurship and the Smart Grid Control Centre. Notably, international collaborations have grown substantially; I cherish being present at the campus during the launch of Rice-IITK Collaborative Centre in January 2020. The Start-up Innovation and Incubation Centre, and the Technopark@iitk have been vibrant all through. More and magnificent ones are on the anvil.
- 7) Our Institute has been singularly privileged to second its faculty to lead many national institutions and some of them returned with creditable tenure and host of experiences. It has been a rewarding experience for one to interact with the amazing, world-class faculty who continue to bring laurels to the Institute. Many of them are waiting in the wings to bloom and script the future of multi-disciplinary education and research in the country, enunciated in the new National Educational Policy.
- 8) A sizable number of brilliant young faculty have arrived. I understand that the enrolment for PhD has gone up by about 35% over the past five years. Obviously, the Institute is on its

ascent in national and global bench marking, impactful research and on the right path to evolve as a preferred international destination in the near future.

- 9) Our alumni continue to make indelible mark in science and technology, management, governance and leadership, both nationally and globally. We value their bond, extending mind and might to reinvent their Alma Mater. Our Chief Guest of the day, Dr. Arvind Krishna has made the Institute and his teachers proud. He is a beacon for the young graduating students ready to take off for a bright future.
- 10) I am happy to note that 2008 students are receiving their degree today. Friends, let me congratulate you all for this coveted academic distinction. Your hard work and intrinsic learning skills have paid off. Importantly, it is also a culmination of the sacrifices made by your parents, family and spouses as well as the guidance and support of your teachers. Please bow in reverence to all of them and remember it all through your life.
- 11) Young Friends, You are now stepping into a world that is waiting with many more challenges and immense opportunities. I shall conclude by restating my learning of life: 'Knowing' and 'Doing' are important for professional success; but 'Being' what you are, your character and conscience will elevate you as emulable ones. Each one of us could live to leave behind a legacy and make a difference to the society we are a part of, our nation and the humanity at large.
- 12) My best wishes are always with you.



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