



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI**



TWENTIETH CONVOCATION

Saturday 03rd August 2024



Director's Report



Prof. G. Aghila
Director
NIT Trichy



DIRECTOR'S CONVOCATION ADDRESS

Good Morning and Warm Greetings!

Our Chief Guest, Dr. (Mrs.) N. Kalaiselvi, Director General, CSIR & Secretary DSIR, Registrar i/c, Dr. N. Thamaraiselvan, Deans, Heads of Departments, Faculty, Staff, Students, Parents, Media Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to NIT Tiruchirappalli's 20th Convocation, a milestone we celebrate during our Diamond Jubilee year. As our institute celebrates sixty years of excellence, and we reflect on its evolution into a leading technical institute in India, I wish to re-emphasize that our dedication to academic excellence and the development of exceptional talent is focused on shaping future leaders who will drive positive change. In line with this mission, we are dedicated to implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Embracing NEP's transformative vision, we strive to create a dynamic, future-ready learning environment that fosters creativity, critical thinking, multidisciplinary collaboration, and a strong commitment to sustainability. Through this progressive framework, we empower our students and faculty to adapt, innovate, and lead in an ever-evolving global landscape.

Today, we celebrate not just the achievements of our students but also the relentless pursuit of knowledge and innovation that defines our institution. As we stand at the threshold of a new era, it is essential to recognize the critical role that research and innovation play in shaping the future of our society. Higher education institutions like NIT Tiruchirappalli are not merely centers of learning; they are incubators of ideas, catalysts for change, and engines of progress. Our commitment to research and



innovation is not just about advancing knowledge; it is about driving sustainable development and addressing the pressing challenges of our time.

One of the most significant challenges we face today is sustainability. Fostering awareness about sustainability among our students is paramount. It is crucial that we instill in them a sense of responsibility towards the environment and society. This awareness not only makes them better citizens but also significantly enhances their job prospects. In today's world, industries are increasingly looking for professionals who are not only skilled but also conscious of sustainable practices. By prioritizing sustainability, we prepare our students to be leaders who can drive change in their respective fields.

At NIT Tiruchirappalli, we are consciously integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) identified by the United Nations and are committed to encouraging projects that focus on renewable energy, waste reduction, and resource optimization. We urge our faculty, staff, and students to come together to explore and implement solutions that address environmental challenges. This collaborative effort will not only enrich our academic environment but also position us as a leader in sustainable innovation.

The disciplines of STEM, Management Studies, and Humanities Social Sciences all have crucial roles to play in addressing sustainability. STEM subjects, with their focus on technology and innovation, offer the tools and methodologies needed to develop practical solutions, while Management Studies can guide the strategic implementation of sustainable practices in organizations. Humanities and Social Sciences provide a critical understanding of the ethical, cultural, and societal implications of these practices. Together, these disciplines form a comprehensive approach to



sustainability in higher education and research. With these aspects in mind, NIT Tiruchirappalli is set for a major infrastructure upgrade to the tune of more than ₹250 crore including an innovation hub to promote research, additional buildings, hostels, green energy production, and basic amenities to meet the demands of the institute for the next 20 years.

In our endeavor to increase the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER), we recognize the importance of making education accessible to a broader audience. To this end, we are planning to launch new online and hybrid courses, and we are initiating this endeavor with an M. Tech. program in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science in collaboration with Illinois Tech. This initiative aims to provide opportunities for more students to engage with cutting-edge fields and gain skills that are in high demand.

As we celebrate the achievements of our graduates today, let us also reaffirm our commitment to research, innovation, and sustainability. Let us work together—faculty, staff, students, and partners—to create a future where knowledge serves the greater good, and innovation drives sustainable progress. Together, we can ensure that NIT Tiruchirappalli continues to be a beacon of excellence and a force for positive change in the world.

I am proud to state that NIT Tiruchirappalli has secured a spot in the 701-710 range in the QS Rankings 2025. In the QS rankings released this year, NIT Tiruchirappalli specifically demonstrated notable excellence in the field of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and Mechanical Engineering, achieving a commendable rank within the range of 451-500. Moreover, our institute continues to retain the prestigious No. 1 position among all NITs as per the NIRF 2023 rankings, and we eagerly anticipate



the announcement of the NIRF 2024 rankings, confident in our continued excellence.

I am pleased to announce that the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has approved the launch of the Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP), B. Sc. B. Ed., beginning in the Academic Year 2024-25. This programme is designed to prepare teachers for the Foundational, Preparatory, Middle, and Secondary stages, in accordance with the new school structure outlined in NEP 2020. The program will offer 50 seats, with specializations in Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics.

Under the NEP parameters, NIT Tiruchirappalli has introduced exit options for its undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) engineering programs. The institute has implemented a credit transfer system, allowing UG students to earn up to 18 credits and PG students up to 6 credits through online courses. Additionally, NIT Tiruchirappalli has created an Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) to streamline student records. Currently, 8,928 Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) IDs have been mapped with NIT Tiruchirappalli login in the Digi Locker Portal. We are also issuing printed NAD digital degree certificates in this Convocation 2024.

It gives me great pride to share that our institute has made significant strides in research and innovation. In 2023, we achieved a publications per faculty ratio of 4.65 and a citations per faculty ratio of 114. Additionally, 35.88% of our publications appeared in Q1 journals and 35.96% in Q2 journals, and we were granted 19 patents in 2023. We published 1557 Scopus-indexed research articles in 2023, a reflection our dedication to leading-edge research. The impact of our work is further demonstrated by the substantial number of citations we have garnered, with over 36901 citations in Scopus. This underscores the influence of our publications



within the academic community. Additionally, our publications in Q1 and Q2 journals have shown a consistent upward trend, with 884 such articles in 2023 compared to 837 in 2022, highlighting the growing excellence and relevance of our research.

NIT Tiruchirappalli has also secured sponsored projects worth 10.36 Cr and consultancy projects worth 5.30 Cr. Moreover, NIT Tiruchirappalli is one of the 100 institutions in India selected by the Department of Telecommunications to establish a 5G Use Case Lab, focusing on “Machine Learning Algorithms for Wireless Communication Applications in the Agriculture Domain,” to prepare academia and startups for the transition to 6G technology. I also wish to add that in Cycle II, 11 Ph.D. scholars have been awarded the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship. This underscores the high caliber of research at NIT Tiruchirappalli, and I extend my sincere congratulations to the awardees and their supervisors.

Under the Ministry of Home Affairs, we established a Census Data Workstation in partnership with the Directorate of Census Operations (DCO) Tamil Nadu on May 11, 2023. This initiative aims to promote research on census microdata, and we encourage all interested researchers and students to engage with this valuable resource at NIT Tiruchirappalli. In November 2023, our Institute signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Illinois Tech, Chicago, to foster collaborations in academic research and facilitate the exchange of faculty, scholars, and students between the institutions. With support from our alumni, we launched an 8-week internship program for Summer 2024 at Illinois Tech, Chicago, USA, as part of this MoU. As a result, Mr. Rithvik Ravilla, a third-year Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) student, secured an opportunity to work in the area of cybersecurity this summer at Illinois



Tech. Additionally, we signed a 5-year MoU with the Prince of Songkla University, Thailand, in March 2024.

The “Skill Training Hub” at NIT Tiruchirappalli established under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 4.0 scheme, in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has successfully trained 230 candidates in roles such as Junior Software Developer, Office Assistant, and Security Guard. Furthermore, on February 28, 2024, the Ministry of Jal Shakti signed an agreement with NIT Tiruchirappalli and IISc Bangalore for a comprehensive condition assessment and management plan for the Cauvery River Basin. In conjunction with this, a Centre for Condition Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) for Cauvery river basin was inaugurated at Department of Civil Engineering, NIT Tiruchirappalli on March 26, 2024. Additionally, under the Ministry of Education's “Nurturing Future Leadership Program,” as part of the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme (MMTTP), four of our faculty members have received training at prestigious IITs and IIMs to foster early-career leadership development.

The accomplishments of the Institute reflect the enhanced performance of our Departments and Faculty. NIT Tiruchirappalli promotes a culture of healthy competition among its various departments, which are evaluated and ranked based on NIRF parameters. Our faculty and students are also recognized for their outstanding achievements during the annual Institute Day celebrations, where they receive awards for their exceptional contributions. This year, the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering won the best department award in the engineering category, while the best non-engineering category award went to the Department of Chemistry. 11 top Faculty performers were recognized for their commendable performance in Teaching, Research and Institutional



Development and 14 Research Scholars were conferred with the Budding Researcher Award.

I am happy to report that this year, we are graduating a total of 2173 students, the highest number of annual graduands in the history of NIT Tiruchirappalli. The year 23-24 was one of the toughest years for campus placements globally because of major unfavorable factors including war, economic downturn, recessionary trends in Europe, etc. However, despite such harsh conditions, the Institute managed to weather the year with minimal impact securing over 1450 jobs by casting the net wider across different industry sectors, as a result of which over 275 Organizations participated in the campus placement process of the Institute. The overall placement for UG and PG stands at 91.3% as on date and efforts are still on to secure further jobs. In all, 40 students have been inspired to take up the noble profession of teaching through campus placements.

In January 2024, our esteemed Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, virtually inaugurated AMETHYST, a four-story boys' hostel spanning 1.2 lakh square feet. Furthermore, the construction of new annex buildings for the EEE, ICE, Civil, Production, Mechanical, and Metallurgical and Materials Engineering departments is advancing steadily. These new facilities will offer expanded space to support growth and enhance our research output. In March 2024, we welcomed 29 new faculty members across various departments, thus strengthening our academic community. We have also established the Office of Learning Support (OLS) to provide comprehensive assistance and capacity building for students with specific learning disabilities, such as perceptual disabilities, Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Dyscalculia, Dyspraxia, and Developmental Aphasia, especially during their transition to higher education institutions.



These initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment.

The Institute commemorated its 60th anniversary and the 10th anniversary of the Indian Geotechnical Society (IGS) Trichy Chapter with the International Symposium on Geotechnical Aspects of Heritage Structures (ISGHS 2024), where Prof. (Dr.) T G Sitharam, Chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), delivered the keynote lecture.

Furthermore, in alignment with the Amrit Kaal celebrations, we were honored to host Dr. P. Veeramuthuvel, Project Director of Chandrayaan-3 and an esteemed alumnus, who visited our campus on October 23, 2023, to deliver an inspiring guest lecture. On December 11, 2023, we celebrated the birth anniversary of Mahakavi Subramania Bharatiyar with the “My Language My Signature” campaign under the “Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat” Abhiyan.

As part of our alumni's commitment to giving back, RECAL, the Alumni Association of REC/NIT Tiruchirappalli, provided scholarships totalling Rs. 39 lakhs to 114 students. Additionally, with the support of the alumni and the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, 4,000 saplings were planted on campus behind the boys' hostel. The Distinguished Alumni Awards (DAA) and Young Achievers Awards (YAA) Ceremony was held on December 12, 2023 honoring 34 distinguished individuals.

On January 25, 2024, during the Golden Jubilee Reunion of the Class of 1974, the alumni generously contributed Rs. 1.15 crore. Drs. Ram and Thaila Ramanujam Foundation, California, USA, established by Dr. Ramanujam from the Class of 1974, has initiated grants for five student research projects annually over the next decade and two scholarships for



women in engineering who are the first in their families to pursue higher education at our institute. The third batch of the Business and Entrepreneurship for Engineers course, coordinated by alumni Mr. Baskar Subramanian and Mr. Shyam Ramamurthy from the 1984 batch, is successfully underway. The institute extends its sincere gratitude to RECAL for its steadfast support over the years.

As part of our Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC) activities, we hosted two workshops and were honored with several awards in 2023, including the THIRD PRIZE, along with the recognition of our efforts under the categories: **Rajbhasha Stambh, Rajbhasha Pathaprasarshak, and Rajbhasha Karamveer** within the Tiruchirappalli region. I am also immensely proud to congratulate the faculty and students of our Architecture department for their outstanding achievement in securing the 'Le Corbusier' trophy at the 65th annual convention of the National Association of Students of Architecture (NASA).

In our vibrant academic calendar, we recently celebrated the 20th edition of Pragyan, featuring a special guest lecture by Dr. Richard J. Roberts, the 1993 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine, alongside a range of events including exhibitions, workshops, infotainments, panel discussions, and more. In September 2023, Genesis '23, the flagship event organized by the Institute Innovation Council, highlighted innovation and entrepreneurship through enthusiastic student participation. I wish to highlight a couple of achievements of the members of our institute fraternity. Congratulations to Indresh P., who represented NIT-T at the prestigious Singapore-India Hackathon 2023, where he earned a second prize, further showcasing our institution's commitment to excellence. We



are also proud to congratulate Dr. (Prof.) Ganesan Kannabiran, who has been appointed as the Director of NAAC.

NIT Tiruchirappalli hosted the All India Inter-NIT Faculty and Staff Cricket Tournament this year, which was honored by the presence of Shri V. Devarajan, the esteemed Olympian and Arjuna Awardee in Boxing, at the opening ceremony. The All India Inter-NIT Hockey and Cricket Tournaments were inaugurated by Mr. P. Radha Krishnan Nair, the Dronacharya Awardee and Chief Coach of the Indian National Athletics Team. A total of 27 NITs participated in these events. I am proud to announce that our institute secured first place in Badminton (Girls) and won the overall championship in Power Lifting (Boys) and Athletics, with additional accolades in athletics, chess, swimming, kabaddi, and hockey.

NIT Tiruchirappalli is making efforts in multidimensional pathway to excel in Research, Innovation and Academics, ensuring holistic development of each and every stakeholder.

Congratulations to all our graduating students! At NIT Tiruchirappalli, we are incredibly proud of your exceptional achievements and the dedication you have shown in reaching this milestone. As you embark on your journey beyond academia, remember the potential you have to make a positive difference in society. Embrace your responsibility as good citizens and commit to improving the lives of others. We wish you every success in your future endeavours, trusting that your passion, dedication, and influence will leave a lasting legacy.

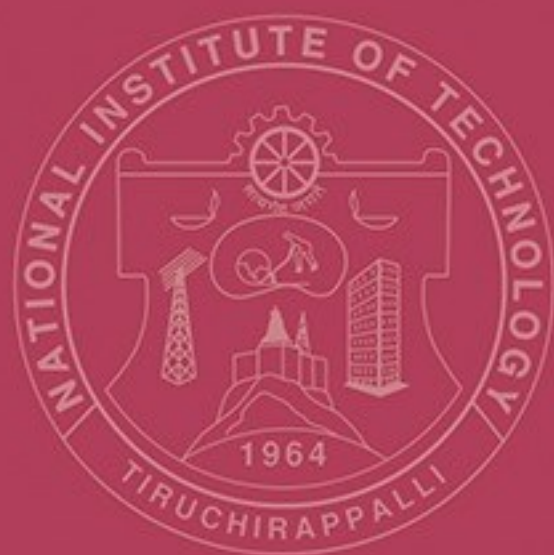
As we conclude, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Ministry of Education, Government of India, for their steadfast support of our Institute. I am immensely grateful to Shri Bhaskar Bhat, Director, Tata Sons, for his exemplary tenure as the Chairperson of the Board of Governors. His



leadership has been instrumental in guiding our institution towards greater achievements and fostering a culture of excellence. I also thank all the Board members for their continued guidance and support. My appreciation extends to the administrative staff, faculty members, and non-teaching staff for their invaluable contributions to our success. Finally, I would like to recognize the Convocation team 2024 for their efforts in making today's event a memorable occasion.

Thank you, and congratulations to the graduating class of 2024. Your journey has just begun, and the world awaits the impact you will make.

Jai Hind.



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