

# Institute Report by the Director

Honorable Chief Guest, Dr S Somanath, Dr. Sridhar Vembu, CEO of Zoho Corporation and Chairperson, Board of Governors, IIIT Sri City, membres of the Board of Governors and the Senate, special invitees, fellow faculty members, members of the staff, students, press and media, and Dear Graduating students off 2024 batch; and their parents, on behalf of the IIIT Sri City family, I welcome all of you to the Convocation ceremony.

## **Chief Guest Welcome:**

We are deeply honored to have Dr S Somanath as our Chief Guest today. In June 2015, Dr Somanath took over as director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre at Valiamala, Thiruvananthapuram and served until January 2018. Somanath took over as Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre. In January 2022, he took over as the Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation. Sir, we are extremely grateful to you for accepting our invitation to grace the occasion. We focus on interdisciplinary state-of-the-art education and your vast experience in this field will serve as a huge motivation for all our students and researchers at IIIT Sri City. We welcome you once again to IIIT Sri City.

In the 2024 batch, 300 graduands will receive their Degrees; and this includes: 291 B.Tech, 2 MTech, 2 MS and 5 PhD students. In addition to this, the Institute gold medal would be conferred on the highest CGPA students in ECE and CSE group.

In the year 2023-24, six projects were initiated and four projects were completed from different funding agencies such as DST, DRDO, UKIERI, British Council, IEEE, NM-ICPS, etc. There were six patents filed, four published and two patents were granted. Importantly, our research publications have been 50+ in AY 2023-24, almost all of them involving under-graduate, post-graduate and PhD students.

In fact, one of the faculty, Dr Lokendra Chouhan got a single author paper in IEEE Transactions on NanoScience. Congratulations to all faculties and students who had been working tirelessly to get their research work to a demonstrable outcome

### **Hackathons and Workshops:**

Realizing the importance of short-term courses and outside academic learning, in May 2024, IIIT Sri City went forward with conducting several hackathons and workshops. In Nov. 2023, the Institute co-organized and co-hosted a Medical Hackathon in its premises, wherein students from all-over-India participated in it. The other two hosts were from Hyderabad and Bengaluru. Particularly, the Institute has made a conscious decision to conduct workshops/certificate programs immediately after the end of every Academic Semester. In this regard, in Dec. 2023, the Institute conducted a IEEE ITS (Intelligent Transportation System) Winter School on “IoT and 2-Wheeler Mobility” from 4 - 6 Dec. 2023. This was the 1st winter school of IEEE ITS outside the USA held completely in physical mode. There were 120 participants of which around 20 were from our Institute and 100 from other colleges across AP, TN and Telangana. The speakers were distinguished academicians and industry professionals coming from all over India, with online talks from UK and USA.

Similarly, after the end of S2024 semester, the Institute conducted a 2-week certificate program on “IoT and Autonomous Systems” wherein three state-of-the-art courses on IoT, Intelligent and Autonomous Systems and Digital Twin were taught through an intense 108-hour learning-by-doing method. This event represented a notable achievement as it was the first collaborative initiative backed by prominent international entities: the IEEE from the USA and British Council from the UK.

Notably, the Institute conducted a workshop on “Exploring Cutting-Edge Trends in Integrated Circuit” in April-May 2024. A total of 80 students benefited out of which 60 students were our own students. Further, in May 2024, the Institute also conducted an outreach program wherein the young school children from 9th - 12th grade were invited and taught an Overview of Computers and Technologies in a 1-week fully funded program.

### **IEEE based Activities:**

Importantly, in AY 2023-24, the IEEE Student branch was re-initiated in IIIT Sri City. With this reestablishment, the IEEE Student Branches seek to offer a platform for students to investigate emerging technologies, engage in international technical events, and connect with professionals and peers in their areas of interest. The branches are anticipated to conduct workshops, technical sessions, and conferences while encouraging active participation in IEEE’s various societies and programs. In a noteworthy advancement intended to promote specialized education and research, three new IEEE Student Branch Chapters have been created: the Electron Devices Society (EDS), the Circuits and Systems Society (CASS), and Joint Chapter for the Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (GRSS) and the Computational Intelligence Society (CIS). The establishment of these chapters represents a deliberate effort to enlarge the technical ecosystem at IIIT Sri City, enabling students to deepen their engagement in their fields of interest and to participate actively in global IEEE initiatives. These chapters are expected to organize various events, including workshops, seminars, and collaborative projects, creating a stimulating environment for both academic and professional development. In fact, around half a dozen of our faculties are senior members of IEEE.

This highlights the institute's dedication to fostering technical excellence and providing students with avenues to enhance their skills while contributing to the wider engineering and technological community.

### **New Infrastructure:**

In the second half of 2023, the entire north wing of the 2nd floor was constructed facilitating 14 faculty cabins and 16 labs at IIIT Sri City. Its infrastructure was also enhanced by constructing two additional hostels, designated as BH3 and BH4. These huge hostels could accommodate 750 students, offering modern amenities and a pleasant living environment to improve the overall student experience. At present, the hostels are occupied by students from the undergraduate cohorts UG3 and UG1, ensuring they have a supportive atmosphere for both academic pursuits and personality development. The objectives of addressing the increasing students' demands on the institution and promoting an active campus community were met by establishing these hostels.

### **Sports:**

During the academic year 2023-24, IIIT Sri City organized a variety of sports and NSS activities, reflecting its commitment to fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and socially responsible campus culture. The International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 21st June 2024 in collaboration with the NSS Cell, under the theme "Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," promoting mental and physical well-being among students, staff, and local school participants. The Spectra Sports League 2024, the institute's flagship sports event, engaged all undergraduate students in inter-house competitions, fostering sportsmanship, teamwork, and preparation for future intercollegiate events. To further encourage unity and camaraderie, Sports Tournament was organized during Republic Day celebrations, creating a platform for healthy competition across UG batches.

In external tournaments, IIIT Sri City excelled at the Sanyog Sports Tournament held at IIT Tirupati from 3rd to 5th November 2023, securing first place in Men's Table Tennis and fourth place in Men's Volleyball, with 70 students proudly representing the institute. Despite rain disruptions, the cricket team reached the semifinals.

The NSS unit actively contributed to social and environmental causes throughout the year. Highlights included the Swachh Campus Drive and Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign 2023, which involved comprehensive campus and hostel clean-up drives, road cleaning initiatives, and awareness campaigns on hygiene and sustainability. The Anganwadi Donation Drive on 22nd August 2023 provided educational toys to local children, fostering early learning and strengthening community bonds. The Nasha Mukth Bharat Abhiyan on 1st November 2023 featured workshops, quiz competitions, and anti-drug pledge campaigns to raise awareness about substance abuse. Additionally, the Tree Plantation Drive on 25th November 2023 saw enthusiastic participation from students, staff, and faculty, contributing to the institute's green cover and promoting environmental responsibility.

These activities, combined with sports and fitness initiatives, underscore IIIT Sri City's commitment to holistic student development, community engagement, and the promotion of unity, teamwork, and social responsibility.

### **MoUs and Future:**

In the AY 2023-24, two MoUs were signed - one with XTrans Pvt Ltd, Bengaluru for setting up IoT Lab and with the Ministry funded CBDE program (Capacity Building for Design and Entrepreneurship). In fact, IIIT Sri City is the first Institute in India to formally sign the MoU for CBDE program, in March 2024. These MoUs are targeted to improve the research profile of the Institute and importantly, enable both

students & faculties to promote design thinking, innovation and entrepreneurship spirit. IIT Sri City is continuously delving deeper, pushing further, and asking bigger questions - and to leverage the knowledge to enrich all human life. Let this Convocation ceremony mark the beginning of celebration of academic and research excellence, leave you with hearts filled with memories, minds filled with ideas and thoughts of future possibilities and the soul filled with the renewed energy and spirit to see them become reality.

Let this Convocation ceremony mark the beginning of celebration of academic and research excellence, leave you with hearts filled with memories, minds filled with ideas and thoughts of future possibilities and the soul filled with the renewed energy and spirit to see them become reality

The Convocation Ceremony is an important occasion for the institute because we recognize the achievements of our students. A team consisting of faculty led by Dean Academics, all Asst and Assoc Deans, HoGs; and staff led by Registrar have been working towards the success of this event. I sincerely thank them for their valuable support. My sincere thanks are due to the Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India and Government of Andhra Pradesh for the support and encouragement to this Institute. I thank the members of the Board of Governors, members of the Senate and Building Works Committee for extending their support for the growth of the institution.

Graduands, today is a milestone. It tells you how far you have come. Keep learning, keep trying, keep accomplishing, and keep venturing on through your journey. I once again wish all the Graduands success in their career and life.

**Thank you. Dhanyawaad !**