

Institute Report by the Director

First of all, I extend a warm welcome to the Chief Guest, Prof. Uday B Desai, the Guest of Honor, Shri Srinivasa C Raju, the members of Board of Governors, representatives of Government of India and Government of Andhra Pradesh, Members of Senate, Distinguished Invitees, Deans, Registrar, Members of faculty and staff, Parents and dear Graduands, I extend a warm welcome to you all on the occasion of Graduation Ceremony of 2022 and 2023 batch of Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Sri City Chittoor.

We are deeply honored to have Prof. Uday Desai, an Emeritus Professor and former Director at IIT Hyderabad, Chancellor - Anurag University and the 1st Mentor Director of IIIT Sri City from 2013-2018 as our Chief Guest. Prof. Uday Desai finished his PhD from John Hopkins University, USA in 1979 and had a distinguished academic career at IIT Bombay. He is the founding Director of IIT Hyderabad and well-known for putting IIT Hyderabad in top 10 of NIRF rankings. Notably, he has been the 1st mentor Director of this Institute, IIIT Sri City. IIIT Sri City has completed 10 years and as we begin the celebration of a decade of Academic Excellence, there is no better choice than Prof. Uday Desai to have as Chief Guest. We welcome you once again to this Institute. Further, I extend a cordial welcome to Shri Srinivasa C Raju, Chairman Sricity Foundation and member of Board of Governors of IIIT Sri City who is also the Guest of Honor of this event. Shri Srinivasa C Raju has been a visionary educationist and has been with several Institutions such as IIIT Hyderabad, ISB, Indian Institute of Public Health, Krea University, etc.

In the two batches of 2022 and 2023, there are 500 BTech Graduands, 14 MTech, 3 MS and 3 PhD Graduands. I convey my heartiest congratulations to all Graduands and wish you all the best in your academic, professional and personal endeavors.

This is also a proud moment for all of us, especially parents, who played crucial roles in guiding you to receive quality education. In addition, there are four medal winners, two from each batch, for the highest CGPA, in CSE and ECE respectively. Established in 2013, IIIT Sri City has grown to be one of the top institutes among its peers based on various programmes and initiatives. The institute offers UG programmes in three disciplines - Artificial Intelligence and Data Science (AI&DS), Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) and Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE). The institute also offers Post-graduate and PhD programmes in the disciplines.

From a humble beginning of 52 students in 2013 in a rented campus, we moved into our own campus in July 2018; and admitted about 270 students in 2018 as per sanctioned strength. As of July 2023, the Institute admits nearly 420 students every year across all branches and our total strength now is 1470 students. These include students from “DASA” and “Study in India” programmes of Government of India. About 40 percent of the students are from other States of India including many northern States. IIIT Sri City admits students through the JEE Main exam and follows Government of India norms for admissions.

The year 2022 and early 2023 saw construction of 2 Hostel blocks (BH3, BH4) that can accommodate 750 students. In the 2nd half of 2023, the entire north wing of the 2nd floor was constructed with 14 faculty cabins and 16 Labs. Different state-of-the-art teaching labs such as Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning (AIML), Data Analytics, IoT (Cyber Physical System), Cyber Security were created to facilitate specialized courses and programs. In addition, several research labs were created based on sponsored/ funded projects. These include: Geo-Spatial and Machine Intelligence Lab, Aerial Robotics Lab, Smart Transportation Research Lab, Robotics Intelligence Lab, etc.

IIIT Sri City is unique as it is located in a modern industrial city comprising large MNCs and domestic industries. No other institute has this significant advantage. While other IIITs in PPP mode have one or two Industry Partners to support the institute, IIIT Sri City has access to more than 100 companies, facilitated by our Industry Partner, Sricity Foundation.

On this occasion, I thank the two BoG members, Shri Srinivasa C Raju and Shri Ravi Sanna Reddy for enabling valuable industry linkages and also providing support for various other activities of the institute.

Qualified faculty is an important pre-requisite for an academic institution. We have attracted faculty members who have earned their PhD from leading overseas universities and IISc/IITs; and many with relevant experience in industry and research institutions. In addition, the Institute has been quite proactive in attracting visiting faculty from leading organizations and academia to teach industry-relevant courses. Faculties of IIIT Sri City are here mainly because of their passion to teaching and igniting young minds.

Apart from teaching and research, most of them are also mentors to 15+ technical and non-technical clubs. In addition, there are around a dozen visiting faculty teaching courses on Advanced Communication Skills, Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Start-ups.

The institute has significant thrust for Research and Development realized through two research centers (Design and Innovation Center, Center for Smart Cities), sponsored projects, IPs, scholarly publications, etc. Particularly, the Design Innovation Center at IIIT Sri City, under the mentorship of IIT Hyderabad had been working towards promoting culture of innovation and creative problem solving, undertaking systematic design through projects, enhancing interdisciplinary design-focused innovation, etc.

The Institute has completed 15+ projects and currently presently on another 15+ projects. Currently, the institute is focusing on development of products that can help make villages and cities smart using cutting edge technology. Specifically, IIITS is working on Urban Data Analytics, Transportation, Computational social sciences for urban society and City safety and security.

Notably, in 2022 and 2023, the Institute has secured funding through several national agencies such as DST, ISRO, DRDO, and international agencies such as IEEE Intelligent Transportation System (ITSS), UKIERI, British Council, etc. Importantly, several research-oriented workshops were organized in the 2 years; such as: Workshop on Advances in Deep Learning (WADLA), Smart Transportation and Autonomous Systems (STAS), Cyber-TEA, Computer Vision driven UAV Applications, etc. In fact, for the first time, any conference was held in IIIT Sri City in May 2023 - the 11th Intl. IEEE ESDC (Electronic Systems Devices and Computing) Conference, sponsored by IEEE and British Council was organized in IIIT Sri City.

As we complete a decade of academics and research, we have a grand plan for the coming years. With support of all stakeholders, we propose to take up major initiatives. In fact, the coming academic year would see lot of streamlining and significant student-centric and student-learning activities.

IIIT Sri City is continuously delving deeper, pushing further, and asking bigger questions - and to leverage the knowledge to enrich all human life. Let this graduation ceremony mark the beginning of celebration of academic 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.

My sincere thanks are due to the Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India and Government of Andhra Pradesh and industry partners 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. I thank all my colleagues, students and staff for their cooperation for successfully leading the institution.

The Graduation 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, Assistant and Associate Deans, HoGs; and staff led by Registrar have been working towards the success of this event. I sincerely thank them for their valuable support.

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 !