

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान रोपड़ INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROPAR CONDOCATION Wednesday, 16 July, 2025



DIRECTOR'S REPORT Prof. Rajeev Ahuja, Director, IIT Ropar



DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Esteemed Guests, Members of the Board of Governors and the Senate, Faculty Colleagues, Proud Parents, and My Dear Graduating Students and Scholars,

Good morning.

As the Director, it is my privilege to welcome you all to the 14th Convocation of IIT Ropar. Today, I am proud to witness the culmination of your hard

work. Congratulations!

This past year has been exceptional for IIT Ropar. We have expanded our academic footprint by launching new programs, undertaking impactful research and development projects, strengthening our global research collaborations, hosting international delegations, building deeper connections with our alumni, and making meaningful investments in infrastructure and faculty recruitment.

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

We take pride in our growing alumni network, which now includes over four thousand graduates contributing globally across academia, industry, and public service. As you join this



"dreaming big" community, we eagerly look forward to hearing your stories of impact in the years to come.

Looking ahead, we reaffirm our commitment to providing a high-quality, research-driven, and inclusive education. With a strong focus on research and innovation, we are investing in state-of-the-art infrastructure and research and development facilities to create a world-class learning experience at IIT Ropar.

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

Proud parents and dear guests, thank you for your support and trust in this Institute.

Once again, congratulations to the graduating class of 2025. May your future be filled with success, happiness, and purpose!

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

Starting with academics, today, at this convocation, 720 students are graduating: 354 B.Tech, 69 M.Sc, 181 M.Tech, 114 PhDs, and 2 B.Tech-M.Tech Dual Degree students. Currently, we have over 3,048 students on campus, composed of 1,570 undergraduate (UG), 562 postgraduate (PG), 898 PhD students, 18 B.Sc-B.Ed students, and 2 B.Tech-M.Tech Dual Degree students. This summer, we hosted a significant number of research interns and project fellows.

In the current academic year, 39 foreign nationals have been admitted to IIT Ropar for PG and PhD programs through various schemes.



I am pleased to report that female student enrollment at IIT Ropar has increased eightfold over the last five years, demonstrating our commitment to inclusivity and the institute's growing national impact.

This year, we launched two new UG programs: B.Tech in Digital Agriculture and Electrical Engineering (Integrated Circuit Design & Technology), expanding our UG offerings to 11 disciplines.

We have established two new research centers: the Centre for Drone & Autonomous Systems (DRAS) and the Centre for Engineering Solutions in Disaster Resilience, bringing our total operational R&D centers at IIT Ropar to seven.

Recently, we set up the Office of Corporate, Alumni, Placement & Strategies (CAPS), a dedicated platform that consolidates corporate outreach, alumni engagement, student placements, and strategic planning under one umbrella. CAPS is envisioned as a vital interface between the institute and external stakeholders, empowering students and advancing our long-term institutional goals.

Despite a global slowdown, IIT Ropar received 167 companies on campus for placements. Our UG students had a placement rate of 80.06%, with an average CTC of 23.07 lakhs. Notably, 85 B.Tech students secured Pre-Placement Offers..

In research, we witnessed a remarkable 97.7% increase in highquality publications, rising from 532 in 2020 to 1,052 in 2024. We rank #2 among second-generation IITs, with an average of 3.99 publications per author, an average citation of 22.45 per paper, and an H-index of 62.

IIT Ropar has been ranked 12th in India by the Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) for 2025. In the NIRF



2024 rankings, IIT Ropar placed 22nd in Engineering and 45th in Research.

Additionally, IIT Ropar graduates were ranked number one globally in the "Graduate Quality Index," which measures earning potential. According to research by Jeff Horwich, a senior economics writer at the Federal Reserve Bank, "IIT Ropar graduates are not just among the best in India; they could be the most promising students on the planet, at least as measured by their earning potential."

External funding is crucial for research and development (R&D). IIT Ropar is actively involved in various R&D projects supported by different funding agencies. We have successfully secured over 534 R&D projects with an outlay exceeding 750 crores, including four mega projects, along with 788 industrial consultancy projects worth 50 crores.

IIT Ropar is one of only seven institutes in India awarded 100 crores as part of the DST PAIR grant, serving as the lead institute for the DREAMS consortium (Dynamic Research Ecosystem for Advanced Materials Science). This initiative aims to empower regional universities to collaborate in research on advanced materials.

To support our newly joined faculty members, we offer the Institute Research Initiation Support (IRIS), enabling them to hire a PhD student immediately upon joining the institute, allowing them to initiate their research groups without waiting for external funding.

We also provide the Summer Internship for Noetic Exposure (SINE) program for meritorious students from all over the country. This year, we welcomed 67 top-ranking students for research internships.



One of our recent achievements is the launch of ANNAM.Al, an Al Center of Excellence for Agriculture, supported by the Ministry of Education with an allocation of 311 crores. Since its announcement in October 2024, it has become a national hub for digital agriculture innovation. From BuffSense for dairy health monitoring to BeeSense for pollination, and our affordable, IMD-validated low-cost Automatic Weather Station, we are developing next-gen Al knowledge engines, crop digital twins, and soil testing technology, all aimed at addressing the real-world needs of Indian farmers through technology to reimagine agriculture.

With ANNAM.AI and the DST-supported iHub - AWaDH, IIT Ropar has emerged as a leading institute in AgriTech. We have developed over 95 technologies, commercialized 12, and nurtured more than 200 deep-tech startups, collectively valued at over 1200 crores.

Our Technology Business Incubator (TBI) currently supports 38 futuristic startups working across AI, IoT, renewable energy, semiconductors, medtech, and more, with some reaching valuations exceeding 200 crores, exemplifying the real-world impact of our innovation ecosystem. This year, Mr. Ashneer Grover joined us for the E-Summit jointly organized by the Entrepreneurship Cell and TBI at the institute.

We have recently signed an agreement with the Western Command of the Indian Army, alongside IIT Kanpur. This collaboration aims to strengthen ties between defense and academia, stimulating advanced research in critical technologies for national security.

IIT Ropar has also partnered with the Government of Madhya Pradesh to establish a Centre of Excellence in Drone Technology. This center will focus on drone development,



training, application innovation, and startup support in this highgrowth sector.

Additionally, we have formalized memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to further expand our research and innovation ecosystem.

Our global partnerships have expanded, including agreements with Western Sydney University (Australia) for a Joint R&D Center and with Coventry University (UK) to establish a Centre of Excellence for Applied AI. Various delegations from ELI-NP in Romania, the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, and National Chung Hsing University (NCHU) in Taiwan have visited IIT Ropar this year to explore R&D opportunities.

At the Institute, we have created a supportive and inclusive environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. In addition to academics and research, the Snehita Wellbeing Cell offers confidential counseling and psychological support services to help address academic stress, adjustment challenges, emotional issues, and more. Through proactive and reactive outreach, including seminars, orientation programs, and wellness campaigns, the cell fosters a healthy and inclusive environment on campus. Supporting this effort, the Board of Wellness Affairs (BOWA), a student-led initiative, organizes awareness drives, events, and peer-led activities promoting mental health.

We also have a unique Outdoor, Adventures, and Social Activities Club that supports our student community. Various clubs organize technical, cultural, sports, and literary fests and other activities.

Looking ahead, we are moving forward with Phase II, which will include additional lecture halls, hostels, faculty housing, and a



state-of-the-art research park. This year, we have added a new 500-seat student hostel, along with room complex extensions to accommodate our growing student population. Today, our campus boasts an array of advanced facilities and resources supporting our educational mission.

Today, the campus boasts over 2.5 million square feet of builtup space, symbolizing the institute's rapid growth and its expanding academic and research ecosystem.

Through our NGO, Pehchaan, IIT Ropar empowers underprivileged school students to achieve academic excellence, develop essential skills, and pursue their educational aspirations with confidence. Key initiatives include Vigyanotsav, a science and technology exhibition for students in grades 6 to 12 across Punjab. This event is held in collaboration with KISEM, KV IIT Ropar, and the Women's Forum, featuring participation from over 50 teams and more than 150 students.

We also partnered with CERN to host a virtual tour of the ATLAS experiment, allowing students to explore frontier research in particle physics. Additionally, tinkering sessions, along with robotics and aeromodelling workshops conducted in local schools, help nurture practical skills and creative thinking among young learners.

As I approach my concluding remarks, I want to express my pride and joy as we celebrate your graduation today. You have dedicated countless days and nights at IIT Ropar, receiving an education that is comparable to the best in the world. You are now ready to face more significant challenges in life, and I believe you will excel and contribute meaningfully to humanity while maintaining harmony with nature.

While I congratulate you on this momentous occasion, I want to highlight the sacrifices your parents and families have made to



support your success. The education you have received at IIT Ropar is not just a degree; it is a powerful tool to foster harmony in society as individuals. We have provided you with an education that transcends academic knowledge, encouraging the development of your character, intellect, and skills.

As you leave this institute today as proud alumni of IIT Ropar, I urge you to uphold the core values of integrity, merit, excellence, and freedom of thought. We will always seek a strong association with you and cherish this relationship.

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

Thank you. Jai Hind.







भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान रोपड़ रूपनगर, पंजाब 140001 (भारत)

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROPAR Rupnagar, Punjab-140001 (India)

www.iitrpr.ac.in