

## **Director' Message on the Foundation Day of the Institute**

The 6<sup>th</sup> of August 1960 marks a very important day in the calendar for the National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal. Foundation day creates an opportunity to reckon the reminiscences of past glories, and to plan for a steady growth in future. The pandemic has placed the humanity in an unimaginable crisis today with internet impinging on all kinds of activities. There is no definite time line of when will life resume to normalcy. The rough weather conditions created by the COVID should not let us turn backward, but we need to relentlessly move forward because there is a greater possibility beyond this time. It is when faced with daunting challenges, the need to take some tough decisions to grow become indispensable.

On taking a closer look into the previous year's statistical charts of NITK, a visible growth is seen through bar charts of our active part in Research, Industrial Consultancy and Societal outreach activities maintaining its lead position as an Engineering educator in India. NIRF ranking of 2020 placed NITK at the 13<sup>th</sup> position in India among all Engineering institutions steadily growing in size and strength from 21 in 2019 to 13 in 2020. The enlightened leadership provided by the Chairperson and members of the Board of Governors (BoG) along with the dedicated efforts all the stakeholders together has resulted in this accomplishment.

Coming to the present, it is evident that NITK is standing at the cross roads of time. The road ahead is full of challenges. In recent years, Government policy has veered towards cajoling institutions towards increased generation of Internal financial resources (IRG). The government has created the Higher Education Funding Authority (HEFA) to provide financing (by way of an interest free loan) for infrastructure creation. This means that plan grants which were being used for developmental work will soon become scarce. The institution will have to depend more and more on its Internally generated funds and HEFA loans to meet its requirements for facility creation and management. This will pose a number of new challenges to all stake holders of the institute in the coming years which will have to be surmounted successfully. With confidence we can say that the faculty members, staff and the administration of NITK are equal poised to take the task and the institution will come out stronger after surmounting these challenges.

In order to enable NITK to stand shoulder to shoulder with the top research centres of the world, it has embarked on an ambitious program to set up a Central Research Facility (CRF) with funding from HEFA with an initial financial outlay of Rs. 8000 Lakhs. The CRF has been set up to encourage Faculty members/ UG/PG/Research

students to undertake high end experimental research/ innovation which can measure up to the international standards. Further, researchers at NITK will augment the facilities of CRF through funded projects from government/public/private funding from both national and international agencies. When fully operational, the CRF @ NITK will provide opportunities for cutting edge research, consultancy, skill development, quality publications, patent filing and IP generation, right holding, etc. The Hon'ble HRD minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated the CRF facility on Tuesday, 25 February 2020.

NITK has celebrated its Diamond Jubilee during the period from 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019 to 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020. This period has been marked by the conduction of number of academic and technical events planned to showcase the domain strengths of faculty/staff, the talent of budding students and state-of-the-art infrastructure of the Institute. All these events were successful and received good response from academicians, research scholars, students and participants from industries and R&D centers. The 2019 convocation was presided over by **Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, The Hon'ble Vice-President of India**. He delivered the Convocation Address and presented Gold Medals/Awards to the graduates.

NITK has taken up several activities as part of its social responsibilities during the Covid -19 pandemic. The Centre for System Design (CSD) at National Institute of Technology Karnataka, (NITK) Surathkal in consultation with the State and National Team is producing 3D printed components for Circuit splitter and flow regulator to double the capacity of Ventilators for Multiple patient lung ventilation. It has also designed and is in the process of fabricating ten thousand (10000) face shields for use by health care workers of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts by using 3-D printing technology. This project is undertaken with funding support from ONGC Mangalore Petrochemicals Limited (OMPL). It has taken the lead in the development and synthesis of hand sanitizer based on WHO norms. This sanitizer has been distributed free of cost to front-line workers fighting against Covid-19 (Health care staff, police personnel, doctors and nurses working in Quarantine zones, post office staff, local public sector industries, local auto rickshaw drivers and vegetable vendors in Surathkal market.

I am glad to emphasize that on its 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, NITK is sixty years young and going very strong. Its vital parameters, comprising of young and committed faculty members, bright, sincere and committed students, talented and skilful staff and a committed administration are all working in synergy with the common aim of lifting the institute to the ranks of one of the best institutions in India and the world. Going forward, I would like to emphasize that on its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, NITK would still be

going strong and would be placed in a better position than it is today. All of this will require huge levels of commitment and hard work from all stake holders. I am confident that they are more than equal to the task.

NITK has been striving to truly live up to its motto ``**Work is Worship**``. With this attitude towards its duties and responsibilities, it can only advance towards greater excellence in all domains. Let us hope and pray that this great institution would be able to live up to all of its responsibilities towards students, industry, local administration, police force and society in a still more emphatic manner than it has been doing in the past.

Thank you

Prof. K. Umamaheshwar Rao

(Director)