



Director's Report (2024-25)

Introduction

National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal was established in 1960 as Karnataka Regional Engineering College (KREC), and upgraded as NIT with Deemed University status in 2002. It is an 'Institute of National Importance' as per NIT Act, 2007 and NITSER Act, 2012. It is ranked 17th in all India ranking for engineering, and 54th overall, as per NIRF (2025). In Southern Asia, NITK is ranked 113, as per QS (2025). This report highlights notable developments, achievements and new initiatives of NITK during 2024-25.

Infrastructure

The 295-acre residential campus of NITK has all basic amenities of a small town. New infrastructure projects completed in 2024-25 include 'Sky-Track' over NH-66, Olympic-sized swimming pool, and new Lecture Hall Complex-D, all of them now in regular use. In the last one year, we have installed underground optic fibre network, electrical cabling from 33KV substation, and piped natural gas supply. The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) section with about 100 books has been created the Main Library. Non-Formal Sanskrit Education Centre has been set up under the aegis of Central Sanskrit University. Several new projects have been recently approved, including Library Annexe, Healthcare Annexe, Central Computer Centre refurbishing, additional floors for two Guest Houses, reconstruction of campus roads, and flood-lighting of the sports grounds.

Faculty and Research

During 2024-25, we recruited 28 new faculty members, taking the total number to 296. Orientation program and seed grants were provided to kick-start their R&D activities. The Central Research Facility (CRF) along with more than 100 R&D Labs across departments facilitate basic as well as applied research at NITK. Total number of ongoing sponsored R&D projects is 160, valued at about ₹45 crores. These are focused on key areas of national interest and social impact including biomedical, energy materials, pollution management, sustainability and space. During 2024-25, faculty shared the relevant knowledge by publishing 1418 papers in SCI/Scopus indexed journals, averaging 5.33 indexed publications and 13.10 citations per faculty per year. They also presented 412 papers in national conferences and 56 in international conferences, which enabled establishing and strengthening collaborations with other institutes. The Center for Inter-Disciplinary Studies (CIDS) has been activated, to connect faculty across departments for research and innovation.

Staff and Administration

There are 166 regular and 245 temporary non-teaching staff. We recently recruited 18 Group-A Officers, including 2 Deputy Registrars, 4 Assistant Registrars, 3 Medical Officers, Sports Officer, Deputy Librarian and Executive Engineer. The organization structure has been improved. New policies have been evolved for finance and accounts management; campus infrastructure management; staff professional development; diversity and inclusivity; and safe, secure and serene campus. Various administrative and financial powers have been delegated to enhance efficiency, efficacy, transparency and accountability.

Academic Activities

NITK offers B.Tech programs in 11 disciplines and M.Tech programs in 28 specializations, as well as M.Tech (Research), MSc, MBA, MCA and PhD programs. New student admissions in AY 2024-25 included 1038 in B.Tech. program, 977 in various Masters programs, and 157 in PhD program. The total number of students is nearly 7000, of which more than 25% are female. There are two industry-supported M.Tech. programs: Construction Technology & Management (with L&T), and Power Electronics & Control for Electric Vehicles (with Bosch). During AY-2024-25, four M.Tech programs (Industrial Biotech, Materials Engg., Power & Energy

Systems, and VLSI Design) were accredited for 6 years each by the NBA. The NITK Academy for Defense, Adventure and Leadership (NADAL) has been established and will offer relevant courses and skills training.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship

A new policy for Innovation, Technology Licensing & Startup Incubation has been implemented at NITK. The Entrepreneurship Cell (E-Cell), Institute Innovation Cell (IIC), and S&T Entrepreneur's Park (STEP) organized several events to strengthen the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem. It included Innovation Week, Entrepreneurship Festival (INCUBATE), Startup Expo and other events. The Capacity Building in Design & Entrepreneurship (CBDE) workshops supported by MoE had 350 participants, and mentored 13 student startup teams. The Innovation, Design & Entrepreneurship (IDE) Bootcamp supported by MoE and AICTE had 350 participants. NITK also hosted the coding hackathon (Hackverse) and Smart India Hackathon, each with over 200 participants. During 2024-25, total 47 patents were filed, 61 patents were granted, and 4 patents were licensed. Till date, more than 150 startup companies have been incubated in S&T Entrepreneurs' Park, including success stories such as BHive, Chai Point, Delhivery, Practo and Robosoft, who are making NITK proud and inspiring many more students to explore entrepreneurship.

Collaborations with Other Organizations

During 2024-25, NITK entered into academic and research partnerships with several organizations including Agder University Norway, Oakland University Michigan, IIT Jodhpur, IIT Madras, IIT Guwahati, IIT Bhilai, Central Road Research Institute Delhi, C-DAC Pune, Central Manufacturing Technology Institute Bangalore, DRDO Delhi and Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. Delhi. Several industry partnerships were also established or renewed, including 5C Network Bengaluru, BEL Bengaluru, HP Software Bengaluru, Robosoft Technologies Udupi, and Moovita Singapore. All these are enhancing the career opportunities for the students, industry-supported research projects for the faculty, and visibility and perception for the Institute.

Conferences and Training Programs

During 2024-25, NITK organized about 20 national and international conferences/ symposia/ workshops. Most of these were inter-disciplinary in nature and involved partners from other institutes and industry. The 11th IEEE International Conference on Power Electronics, Drives & Energy Systems had 400 participants, including 80 from overseas. The Institute organized four training programs for BM Visvesvaraya National Training Facility for Skills for All, for polytechnic teachers and government employees. The "Indian Knowledge Systems and Heritage Awareness" workshop focused on IKS contents and pedagogy for engineering. The NITKconnect event in Bangalore brought together nearly 1000 alumni, faculty and students.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The technical festival ENGINEER, cultural festival INCIDENT and entrepreneurship festival INCUBATE attracted hundreds of students from other colleges. In the Inter-NIT Tournaments held at various institutes during 2024-25, the NITK team won Best Women Athlete, Best Basketball Player (Men), Best Volleyball Player (Women), Best Kho-Kho Defender (both Men and Women), Best Table Tennis Player (Men), Chess Champion, Mr. NIT in Body Building, Best Power Lifter, Best Swimmer (Women), and Team Runner-Up in Swimming (both Men and Women). The NCC students of NITK participated in the regional get-together and Republic Day events in Delhi. The rural activities of NSS students in Pilikula were appreciated by the local authorities.

Internships and Placements

The Career Development Centre invited nearly 500 companies to NITK. More than 78% of eligible UG students and 70% of eligible PG students got placed, with average CTC of about ₹18 lakhs. Major Indian companies included Ather, Bajaj Auto, BEL, Biocon, BPCL, C-DOT, Delhivery, Exide, EIL, GAIL, HRRL, HLL, HCL, Hero, HPCL, JSW, L&T, ICICI, IDBI, MNGL, MRPL, NSE, Petronet, Reliance, Shree Cement, Tata Electronics, TCE, UIDAI, Vedanta and others. Global MNCs included Accenture, Adobe, AMD, Arista Networks, ARM, Barclays, Caterpillar, Citi India, Collins Aerospace, Dell, Deloitte, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, Google, Honda, Hyundai, Honeywell, Intel, Intuit, Microsoft, Nutanix, Oracle, Palo Alto, PwC, Qualcomm, Salesforce, SAP

Labs, Samsung, Siemens, Texas Instruments, Uber, VISA, Western Digital, Wells Fargo, ZS Associates and others. Many companies provided internships, of which more than 70% led to full-time job offers. Other students secured admissions in prestigious universities in India and abroad, or pursued family business, public service and other career paths of their interest.

Alumni in News

During 2024-25, Shri Ashwin Shenvi (2004 batch) was appointed as Joint Director of CBI, New Delhi. Shri Suhas Lalinakere Yathiraj (2004 batch) won a silver medal in the SL4 category in Badminton at the Paris 2024 Paralympics. Rekha Kudligi (1987 batch) was awarded the Best Supporting Actress by Chandanavana Film Critics Academy. Tirumani Sri Pooja (2019 batch) secured 62nd rank in UPSC Exam, and Himanshu Thapliyal (M.Tech 2023 batch) secured 1st rank in UPSC Engineering Services Exam. Sub Lieutenant Anannya Rao (2024 batch) was commissioned into the Indian Navy.

Major Events

The Institute celebrated various annual events with great enthusiasm and all-round participation. It includes the Institute Foundation Day, Ring Ceremony, Convocation, Independence Day, Republic Day, Space Day, Teachers Day, Yoga Day, Ganesh Utsav, Saraswati Pooja, Nagabrahmasthan Pooja and other events. The institute community regularly participated in ShramDaan under Swachh Bharath Abhiyan program, Swachhta Diwas, and Swachh Surathkal City program in association with local NGOs. To empower faculty, staff and students belonging to the under-privileged categories, the SC/ST Cell organized training programs coinciding with Dr. Ambedkar Jayanthi and Jan Jatiya Gaurav Divas. The Institute Staff Day, re-introduced after many years, brought more than 500 faculty, staff and their family members together on the same platform.

Financial Support

NITK received revenue and capital grants amounting to ₹244 crores from the Ministry of Education, Government of India, during FY 2024-25. Internal revenue generation from student fees, consulting, testing, investments and other sources totaled about ₹110 crores. NITK had coordinated the Central Seat Allocation Board (CSAB-2024), and successfully allotted over 42,000 seats in 98 institutes including NITs, IITs, SPAs and GFTIs, which generated additional revenue for the Institute Corpus. About ₹2.8 crores of CSR grants were received from 14 corporates for various R&D projects. The alumni donated ₹ 56 lakh to their alma mater, in addition to the infrastructure projects (build and transfer) mentioned earlier. The 1974 and 1999 batch of alumni, along with Alumni Association and Hostel Trust provided ₹ 94 lakh for creating NITKere (rainwater harvesting reservoir), to end the water shortage problem during summer months.

Conclusion

The Institute is grateful to the Ministry of Education, the Board of Governors, and Senate members for their guidance and support. The faculty and staff are to be appreciated for their dedication to duty, and whole-hearted participation in various initiatives. NITK is fortunate to be the 'second home' for excellent students who come from all over the country, and after graduation continue to excel in various professions. The Institute is committed to the vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047', and is striving to achieve global excellence coupled with local relevance, by working closely with all internal stakeholders (faculty, staff, students and residents), as well as external stakeholders (Government, industry, alumni and other institutes).

Date: 11-11-2025

Place: Surathkal

(PROF. B. RAVI)

DIRECTOR

N.I.T.K., Surathkal