

A Report on Research Retreat

Jain University organized a Research Retreat for its Doctoral Students and Supervisors on 31 January & 1 February 2015. The Retreat provided a platform for doctoral researchers at the University to discuss and review the progress of their research work among peers and experts. The Research Retreat had three Plenary Sessions, four concurrent Faculty Plenary Sessions and over twenty concurrent subject based sessions, besides an Inaugural and valedictory programme. Close to 290 doctoral students and over a 100 Guides participated in the event.

The Research Retreat was inaugurated by the President of the Jain University, Dr. Chenraj Roychand. The President, complimented the doctoral students on the research efforts they were pursuing and appealed to them to aim at quality and excellence. Research, he said, should be a passion which one pursues for the love of knowledge and learning. Chairing the event was the Chancellor of Jain University, Dr. C G Krishnadas Nair. The Chancellor complimented the researchers for the range of subjects on which they were working and the inter-disciplinary focus of their work. He spoke of the need for `socially relevant` research and the need to uphold the highest standards of ethical norms. Also present on the occasion was the Vice Chancellor of Jain University, Dr. N Sundararajan. The Pro Vice Chancellor, Dr. Sandeep Shastri welcomed the Guests and the participants to the Retreat. The Doctoral Supervisors of the first 25 students to be awarded their Ph.D. degrees were honoured at the Inaugural Programme. Dr. Mythili Rao, Dean of Languages proposed the Vote of Thanks.

The Three Plenary Speakers were distinguished researchers and eminent citizens and spoke on themes that provided the right intellectual ambience for the Retreat. Dr B.N.Suresh, the President of the Indian National Academy of Engineers (INAE) spoke on Interdisciplinary Research for the Benefit of Society. He provided several examples of his work while at ISRO on the inter-connectedness of Research. His lecture was followed by a lively interactive session moderated by the Dean of Research at Jain University, Dr. Krishna Venkatesh. The Second Plenary Session, was addressed by Dr. R Natarajan, former Chairman of AICTE and former Director of IIT, Chennai. He spoke on the Nature and Scope of Research and Development and Innovation. In his scholarly address, he provided practical insights on the research process and his advice to researchers to focus on innovation drew a range of questions from the interactive audience. Dr. N G R Iyengar, Mentor, IIAEM chaired the session. The Third plenary Speaker was Mr. T V Mohandas Pai, Chairman of Manipal Global Education. The session began with the audience applauding his presence and congratulating him on receiving the Padma Shri, with a standing ovation. In a scintillating talk on Role of Research in Building a Great Society, Mr. Pai, stressed at length the need for `connecting all the dots` and ensuring that no dimension of life and learning was left out. He strongly advocated a need to re-assert the role of the social sciences and humanities to strengthen the humane and moral fabric of society. His presentation was followed by a lively interactive session which was moderated by Dr. Sandeep Shastri, Pro Vice Chancellor.

The Research Retreat also saw the participants breaking up into Faculty Related Plenary Sessions. The Engineering and Technology Plenary was addressed by Dr. Shyam Chetty, Director NAL. He focused on the Emerging research methods in Engineering. The Science Plenary was addressed by Dr. Mahadevan, Professor at the Indian Institute of Science. He dwelt on ethical issues in science research and also drew attention to the interdisciplinary nature and focus of research. The Management Plenary was addressed by Dr. Selvan D., Senior Vice President of CapGemini. Dr. Selvan drew the attention of the researchers in management to the current business and talent scenario. The Social Science and Language Plenary was addressed by Dr. G K Karanth, National Fellow ICSSR. Dr. Karanth traced his own research journey and the lessons he had learnt along the way.

The highlight of the Retreat was the 20 Concurrent Panels which met for over four hours. At these sessions, Doctoral students presented their work in the presence of experts and peers. Over 250 scholars made presentations on the progress of their work and received valuable inputs.

The Retreat also saw a unique Cultural Programme in which Doctoral Students of the University in the field of Music and Dance presented an evening of Music and Dance. These artists who are pursuing research are accomplished professionals who have earned a name in their chosen field of work.

At the Valedictory programme, participants expressed their joy at the successful conduct of the Retreat. They also benefitted from the Valedictory Address of Dr R S Deshpande, former Director of ISEC. Dr. Deshpande emphasized on the need for every researcher to pursue their goal with steadfast dedication and devotion. At the Valedictory programme, the 25 doctoral students who have received their degrees were also honoured. Doctoral Students who received the Best Paper award in the different Panels were also honoured.

At the conclusion of the Retreat the doctoral scholars and guides felt a renewed energy and enthusiasm to pursue their work with even greater commitment and to strive for excellence.



President of Jain University lighting the lamp at the Inauguration with other dignitaries including Guides and Doctoral Students



A section of the audience at the Research Retreat



Dr. B N Suresh making his presentation



Mr. Mohandas Pai speaking at the Retreat



A section of the audience at the Valedictory programme