

Biotech Pioneer Kiran Mazumdar Shaw graces the 3rd Annual Research Retreat of Jain University

Jain University organized the Annual Research Retreat on 21-22 May 2016, at the JGI Knowledge Campus.

The first leg of the two-day event began with the inaugural address by Dr. N Sundararajan, Vice Chancellor of Jain University and whose thought-provoking discourse rightly set the tone of the event. He said, "This is the third Annual Research Retreat and it is one of the unique initiatives of Jain University to provide researchers a unique platform where they can share their ideas and demonstrate progress in their research works." He also urged students and mentors to take full advantage of all modern facilities and advanced tech solutions for a comprehensive execution of their research works.

The key highlights of the event include plenary sessions on topics ranging from fourth industrial revolution, scope for interdisciplinary research in the country to emerging trends in branding, along with keynote addresses by professional experts and valedictory speech by Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, chairperson and managing director of Biocon.

The event offered an exclusive opportunity for researchers to learn about emerging opportunities and rising demands in different fields from the panel discussions addressed by notable dignitaries. There were an array of breakout sessions devised specifically for the scholars to enable them engage in discussions on topics of their interests and crowdsource ideas to improve their knowledge base and offer them a better perspective. Each of the sessions were participated by twenty scholar researchers and were hosted by heads of each departments.

During the plenary session held on the topic of 'Inter-Disciplinary Approach to Research', the guest speaker present at the session, Mr. K Gopa Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kerala, enlightened all the students with views and ideas routed to the importance of adopting inter-disciplinary approach in their research work. He said, "Research has no boundaries and it can be done on any discipline. It is the stage where the concept of inter-disciplinary comes to picture and diversity of ideas are encouraged." He further added, "Creativity is more possible only through inter-disciplinary orientation. Flexibility and inter-disciplinary approach will give you the diversity and the ability to think big."

The second and final leg of the event included plenary sessions on different subjects like science, engineering, social sciences and management and the topics ranged from 'Co-Evolutionary Arms Race between Bacteria and Their Viruses' to 'How Brand Help in Overturning Conventions in the Market Place'.

The event turned out to be a grand occasion not only because of its wide range of plenary sessions and engaging talks, but also for the keynote address by one of the leading entrepreneurs in India and a role model for many, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw. Her inspiring life story and indomitable spirit moved many and infused confidence in several aspiring entrepreneurs. Her contribution towards the evolution of biotech industry is unparalleled and her continuous effort to offer affordable innovation have set a precedent. Her inspiring talks and ideas enlightened researchers and motivated them to fulfil their aspirations.

She said, “India as a country ought to be very excited about science and technology. In fact whenever I speak on global platform I always say I bring you greetings from the land of science and engineers, because that’s what we are. The scientific talent pool that we have has done wonders for us over the years.” She added that more need to be done to unlock and encourage the potential that India is brimming with.

Appreciating for the high number of woman researchers who have participated at the event, she said, “Science and technology is one area where there is no gender divide. It is about knowledge and knowledge has no gender divide. And my sense of purpose was I want to create jobs for woman scientists. And today I am happy that in R&D 40% of scientists are women.”

The event was designed with an aim to provide a platform for the Ph.D. students to demonstrate progress in their research works and build a forum for exchange of ideas among researchers at Jain University. As many as 262 scholar researchers attended this event and participated in different breakout sessions. Besides, the Retreat also organized three special plenary lectures, four plenary sessions where domain specialists interacted with researchers, 23 concurrent sessions where Ph.D. students presented their works, and 16 concurrent workshops on diverse themes.