

Doctoral Students Delve into the world of research at Jain University

Jain University organized a Research Retreat for their doctoral students and supervisors, which provided a platform for them 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. Over 290 doctoral students and 100 guides participated in the event. 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 in the form of presentations and received valuable inputs and feedback.

Dr. Chenraj Roychand, President, Jain University, who inaugurated the Research Retreat, opined, “Research is the field one must pursue with unadulterated love for knowledge and learning. It is a field where we will be challenged to venture beyond our comfort zone, and to explore limitless possibilities.”

Dr. B.N.Suresh, President of the Indian National Academy of Engineers (INAE) who dealt with the topic of “**Inter-disciplinary Research for the benefit of society**”, shared his views. He spoke on the true drive behind any research. “The purpose of any research is to create a basis of value addition of knowledge. It should improve the quality of life, and must create tangible change.”

He explained that schools must foster curiosity, and nurture scientific temper in students. He felt that only such students would be able to carry innovation, and bring about change in our country. “It is a false belief, that only a specialist in a particular field can solve problems related to that particular field. I believe it is intermingling of various disciplines that creates a broad view, which results in effective solutions.”

He urged researches to take up problems of our day-to-day lives, which are constantly overlooked. From waste management to environmental concerns, he wanted researchers would take up issues that would directly influence public life.

The session had many prominent speakers, which included Dr. R Natarajan, former Chairman of AICTE and former Director of IIT, Chennai, Mr.T.V. Mohandas Pai, Chairman, Manipal Global Education. Mr. Pai in his talk on “**Role of Research in Building a Great Society**” strongly stressed a need to re-assert the role of the social sciences and humanities to strengthen the humane and moral fabric of society. He also expressed his solidarity with the ancient scientific wisdom in terms of mathematics, art, physics, chemistry and metallurgy. He showed the gathering the science behind astronomy, without the mapping of stars, moon and the sun, the epic Ramayana, would never have a timeline.

“I have succeeded in my professional life, largely because of the fact that I consider myself a “positive rebel”. I have never accepted anything at face value; I have constantly challenged myself to question accepted norms.”

The Retreat also saw a unique cultural programme in which doctoral students of the university in the field of music and dance thrilled the audience with their beautiful melodies and graceful dance. This brought a dash of entertainment to the academic atmosphere. The retreat rejuvenated the spirits of the scholars, and gave them valuable insights on the scope and importance of their research.