

Message from the Vice-Chancellor:

OUR STUDENTS HAVE THE CAPACITY TO DO GREAT THINGS

A College can build its brand value only through the good work of its students and its Faculty Members. Hence every College, which proposes to prosper, even when hundreds of Colleges have closed down all over the country, will have to redouble its efforts for developing the capacity of its Faculty Members and the students.

One reason for technology students being under-employed is that during their studies, they do not learn the ways of solving problems by developing new products and processes. The Faculty Members are supposed to involve their students in both study as well as in research & development (R&D) work. Good R&D work can be done by under-graduate students as it can be done by Master's or Doctoral students or by post-Doctoral fellows. For example the only research work, due to which the servers of an IIT crashed, had been done by two Bachelors students along with their faculty guide – using only the library, a minimum computer facility, (available at every college) and their hard work.¹ In the first issue of GTU Plexus, I asked every Department of every College to take up an area for an intensive study. When this is done, it will build the capacity of the College and it will create an environment for study and for R&D work.

On 1st and 2nd August 2014, GTU organized the Virtual BAJA SAEINDIA2015 competition at its Chandkheda cam-pus. A few hundred teams from engineering Colleges in India participated in the competition. Today City Bhaskar has reported that a team of students advised by Prof Ankit Ahuja, from U V College of Engineering, Ganpat University has been selected as one of the 13 entries for the competition for electrical cars (e-Car) at BAJA 2015 to be held at Indore. Last week, a newspaper in Australia² reported that Chris Malloy had developed a flying motor cycle costing \$1,000. This had been done by Malloy at his workshop at his home. I think the facilities at **each one of our engineering institutions should be good enough to be able to do the kind of work done by the two students at IIT or by the students, who developed an e-Car at UV College of Engg or by Chris Malloy.** It only requires hard work and it requires our Faculty Members/ students to learn to enjoy the excitement of innovation. The study from text books to learn mathematics, science and technologies, used by engineers of yesterday to design the products, we use today, is important. But a text-book would contain material, which may have been developed at least 6 years earlier. To train engineers on the basis of **only** such material is not going to bring a great deal of credit to the Colleges. Let us create an environment of learning and innovation so that our Colleges can claim with pride the work done by their students and Faculty Members.

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