

NIFTEM-K Celebrates Sixth Convocation and 13th Foundation Day, Nurturing the Next Generation of Food Industry Leaders

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National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM-K), Kundli — an **Institute of National Importance** under the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)** — celebrated its **6th Convocation Ceremony** and **13th Foundation Day** with grandeur, academic pride, and a spirit of innovation.

The Convocation ceremony was graced by **Professor Ajay Kumar Sood**, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, as the **Chief Guest**. **Shri Devesh Deval**, Joint Secretary, MoFPI; and **Shri Shyam Sunder Agarwal**, Managing Director, Bikanervala, attended the ceremony as **Guests of Honour**. **Professor V. Ramgopal Rao**, Chairperson, Board of Governors (BoG), NIFTEM-K presided over the function.

A total of **262 students** were awarded degrees — 126 B.Tech, 92 M.Tech, 27 MBA, and 17 Ph.D. — while seven meritorious students received gold medals for their outstanding academic achievements.

In his address, **Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood** praised NIFTEM-K's role in shaping the nation's food processing ecosystem. He highlighted that even in the age of Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Computing, "food remains the most fundamental human need." Citing that 2.6 billion people globally cannot afford a healthy diet, he urged young technologists to combine *science, technology, and compassion* to develop innovative, nutritious, and affordable food solutions for all. He further remarked that NIFTEM needs to play a pivotal role in driving the food sector in the country through innovations and deep tech research. He also suggested some of the upcoming areas for research for the Institute.

Shri Devesh Deval congratulated the graduates, noting that convocation marks one of the most defining milestones in their lives. He reiterated MoFPI's strong support for the institute's continued growth. He encouraged students to leverage government initiatives such as the **PMFME Scheme** to emerge as *job creators* in the food sector.

Professor V. Ramgopal Rao, Chairperson, BoG, expressed confidence that NIFTEM-K is on its way to becoming the **"IIT of Food Technology"**, setting new benchmarks in education, research, and innovation, but also remarked that it has to attain the status of **"IIM of Management"** too. Professor Rao emphasised that NIFTEM was conceived as a place where **science meets the farmer and innovation meets industry** and it was **thought that NIFTEM will be a Global reference point in Food Science**. **Shri Shyam Sunder Agarwal**, Managing Director, Bikanervala, inspired students to take Indian food to the global market through a *"Local for Global"* vision, emphasizing alignment with evolving industry trends.

Presenting the annual report, **Dr. H.S. Oberoi**, Director, NIFTEM-K, outlined key institutional achievements—**17 patents filed, 1 granted, 18 technologies transferred, and 16 new technologies developed, 115 research papers published in Scopus indexed journals**. The institute signed **15 MoUs** with industries and government agencies, and supported **15 startups**, including *Repeat Good Pvt. Ltd.* and *The Naturik Company*, both of which gained national recognition on *Shark Tank India*. NIFTEM-K also initiated **23 new projects** across food technology domains and contributed to **rural empowerment** through the establishment of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) under central schemes in Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Puducherry.

In the evening, NIFTEM-K celebrated its **13th Foundation Day** with distinguished guests, including **Dr. V.K. Paul**, Hon'ble Member, NITI Aayog, as **Chief Guest**. He underscored that institutions like **NIFTEM-K**

must be powered by science and innovation, fostering laboratories that “never sleep” — places of curiosity and creativity. Citing AIIMS’s pioneering salt iodization initiative, he illustrated how impactful scientific research can transform society. Dr. Paul reminded everyone that the students are the true assets of any Institute and teachers are their role models. He also remarked that NIFTEM in a very short time has become a brand of its own and all its stakeholders should work cohesively to further ameliorate the brand image of NIFTEM-K.

As Guests of Honour, Prof. V. RamgopalRao, BoG Chair, NIFTEM-K, and Dr. Aswani Pareek, Executive Director, NABI, Mohali, congratulated the NIFTEM-K fraternity on its remarkable journey and commitment to research, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Shri Aditya Bagri, Director, Bagrry’s and Guest of Honour lauded the strong foundation of talent established by NIFTEM-K and its role in nurturing exceptional professionals for the food industry. He narrated his company’s persistent efforts in developing new food products and gave a strong message that “We must learn to Fail”.

Following the formal celebration, students of NIFTEM-K took over the stage with vibrant performances of dance, music, and cultural expressions, adding color, creativity, and youthful energy to the grand occasion.

The twin celebrations stood as a testament to NIFTEM-K’s unwavering dedication to fostering education, research, and entrepreneurship — empowering the next generation of leaders driving India’s food processing revolution.







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