

IIM Trichy Inaugurates the Centre for Applied Research and Data Sciences (CARDS) and International Research Workshop on e-Government and Public Service Delivery

The Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli on 21st August, 2019 emphatically made its mark on Data Sciences field as its Centre for Applied Research and Data Sciences (CARDS) was inaugurated in presence of various dignitaries from Tamil Nadu Government and scholars from across the globe. The inaugural function was followed by International Research Workshop on e-Government and Public Service Delivery - Challenges, Opportunities and Recommendations.

The occasion was graced by the **Chief Guest Thiru. R.B. Udhayakumar**, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management and Information Technology, Government of Tamil Nadu, Honoured guest **Thiru. Vellamandi N. Natarajan**, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Government of Tamil Nadu, Honoured guest **Tmt. S. Valarmathi**, Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu, Guest of Honour, **Dr. Santhosh Babu**, IAS Principal Secretary, Department of Information Technology, Government of Tamil Nadu and the Special Guest **Thiru. Santosh K Misra**, IAS Commissioner, e-Governance, Government of Tamil Nadu. **Thiru S. Sivarasu**, IAS, District Collector of Trichy and **Thiru M. Selvarasu**, MLA Musiri also graced the occasion.

The event began with the lighting of the lamp. **Dr. Sujeet K. Sharma**, Chairperson, Center for Applied Research in Data Science (CARDS) and a faculty member of Management Information Systems Area, IIM Tiruchirappalli, welcomed the distinguished gathering and quoted "Data is the New Oil", highlighting the significance of data and the importance of implementing CARDS.

This was followed by welcome address by **Dr. Bhimaraya Metri**, Director, IIM Tiruchirappalli where he mentioned that it was a historical day for IIM Trichy as it marked the origin of CARDS. He also mentioned that CARDS is the joint collaboration between Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) and IIM Trichy.

In his address **Thiru. Santosh K Misra**, IAS cited that they have forged alliances and partnership with academic institutes and prominent researchers to deliver best values to the common man and with this objective a partnership with IIM Trichy has been established. He also mentioned that this collaboration would help in building solutions in innovative ways and provide benefits to the people of Tamil Nadu.

This was followed by the address delivered by **Dr. Santosh Babu, IAS**, where he expressed his pleasure for being a part of the cross-sectional society at this inauguration function. He stressed the importance of IT and the essentiality of data in day to day life. With the implementation of CARDS, he said that the challenges encountered in the availability of online services to the public will be resolved. The tie-up between e-Governance department and IIM Trichy will benefit and empower citizens of TN.

Hon. Tmt. S. Valarmathi delivered the address, in which she expressed IIMs are the best management schools across India. These institutes also research on economic problems and try providing real-time solutions. The provision of IT would help in reducing the hassle faced by the backward community in accessing the welfare schemes. She stressed that CARDS and the workshop on e-Government and Public Service Delivery will aid in achieving the objectives of the National e-Governance program.

In his address as the Chief Guest, **Hon. Thiru R.B. Udhayakumar** spoke about the strong relationship between IIM Trichy and the Government of Tamil Nadu. He spoke about the constantly improving e-Governance services of the government that have been implemented for the overall development of the State and its people. The Minister further mentioned that by integrating Data Science into governance, it will improve the well-being of the people, and data generated by CARDS will also provide information regarding the challenges, opportunities and possible recommendations to implement. He also highlighted difficulties in achieving a single IT solution in integrating and supporting various TN Government departments and therefore the necessity of CARDS and the workshop on e-Government and Public Service Delivery would help in mitigating the challenges faced. He was also impressed with the facilities, academic quality and the Director's acumen in building the IIM Trichy brand in such a short span.

Hon. Thiru. Vellamandi N. Natarajan highlighted the progress made by IIM Trichy and further spoke about the collaboration among the two organizations which would bear fruits in the coming years.

The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Vimal Kumar M, a Doctoral Scholar and workshop co-ordinator. The event concluded with National Anthem.