

ONE SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITY BASED ON THE STRATEGIC PLAN IN THE LAST 5 YEARS (Aug'2016-Jul'2021)

TIFR is one of the premier centres of scientific research in India that works at the frontiers of world science, bringing visibility and international recognition to scientific efforts in India. To expand TIFR's education and research activities in an interdisciplinary dimension, an ambitious new campus was created in Hyderabad, and UGC recognition was applied for. In August 2017, UGC gave its approval to start an off campus centre at Hyderabad with prospective effect with TIFR Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences (TCIS) as a part of TIFR's Hyderabad campus (TIFR-H). TIFR-H lies adjacent to the University of Hyderabad, and the site's 200 acre area has been made available by the state government, to nurture research and higher education in the region.

The TIFR Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences is the first centre of TIFR Hyderabad. TCIS faculty are young, dynamic, enthusiastic and are drawn from all the three major branches of the natural sciences (physics, chemistry and biology) and engineering. There are about a hundred graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and scientific staff who work on research topics across the natural sciences and materials sciences. The Research interests of the faculty do not fall under the traditional subjects. Moreover, the department-less structure at TCIS allows scientists to engage in and contribute to each other's research in ways that may not be possible in other research institutes in the country.

Since TIFR-H is physically located close to the University of Hyderabad and the upcoming National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), conducting joint research and academic programmes will be possible and beneficial. Fruitful interactions are also underway with academic institutions in Hyderabad with overlapping interests like IICT, CCMB, CDFD, IIIT, IIT Hyderabad and BITS Pilani-Hyderabad.

The Integrated MSc-PhD (I-PhD) programmes in Physics and Chemistry were in place at the outset, but a new I-PhD programme in Biology was approved by the ACM on 1st September, 2017 and added in 2018. I-PhD is ideally a 6 year programme. The research scholar has to successfully complete 28 credits within a maximum 3 years. The coursework consists of at least 3 basic & 3 advanced courses along with 3 graded lab rotations. This will equip students with a sound grounding in the coursework and supersedes the needs set out by UGC and the Subject board of Biology (SBB) at TIFR. At the end of 3rd year, the student has to undergo a comprehensive examination which includes a presentation of an extensive literature search resulting in their thesis proposal and register for Ph.D. The M.Sc. degree is awarded together with the Ph.D. degree upon completion of the programme. From 2018, this programme has attracted a number of young students (~48% of total Biology research scholars at TIFR-H) whose excitement and infectious enthusiasm has greatly enhanced the academic environment at TIFR-H.