

INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY

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When compared with a large number of engineering and technological institutes, which mushroomed during past 2-3 decades, the genesis of ICT, still popularly called UDCT/UICT by many, is beyond fathom and imagination. Its low profile in common man's vocabulary is both bane and benefit. Even our neighbours have never known what we do or what we stand for- for them it is a 'dagdi' (stone) college or a hospital, at the most; they are intrigued and bewildered whereas it is a benefit for us from the academic view point since we continue to work quietly, sans the typical college atmosphere, impart high class education, and conduct research par excellence, having a direct relevance to solving societal problems and adding to quality of life. Philanthropy, visionary leadership of the University of Bombay (now Mumbai), active participation of the industry to create endowments for faculty positions and laboratories, and the support of the then Governor of the Province of Bombay, which extended to almost 10% of India, led to the foundation of the University Department of Chemical Technology on October 1, 1933. The Vice Chancellor Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, an industrialist, educationist and proponent of textile industry, put all his valour behind the fledgling UDCT and assisted in creating a far-sighted roadmap. The Committee constituted by the University for establishing the UDCT was chaired by none other than the great civil engineer Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesaraya, and comprised of, among others, such stalwarts as Sir K.M. Munshi, the Founder of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, and Shri Kapilram Vakil, a doyen of inorganic chemical industry in India. Research was incorporated as an integral part of the UDCT right from inception, and the first batch of students for the B. Sc. (Tech.)- a two-year post-B Sc. Course, with Textile Chemistry and Chemical Engineering as the branches, was admitted on 4th August, 1934. With the growth in demands for chemicals, drugs, polymers and materials after World War II, other branches of chemical technology embracing Foods and Drugs, Oils, Plastics, Paints, Varnishes, Intermediates and Dyes, Pharmaceuticals and Fine Chemicals, were added and these courses were later reorganized to give a distinct flavour to all branches of Chemical Technology. Birth of several industries was a direct result of UDCTs' activities. In 1951, Chemical Engineering branched out as a post-Inter Science four-year degree programme, B. Chem. Eng., which has been the most sought after ever since. The B.Sc. (Tech.) courses were converted into post-B.Sc. three-year courses in 1966 and finally further converted into B. Tech. programmes, which are post-HSSC (12th Standard) in 1998.

The ICT is a vibrant and invigorating institute, a symbiosis of academic excellence, culture, ethos, value systems, and an architect of new and useful knowledge, standing tall among all institutes of national importance.