EXECUTIVE RECORD / 2007 - 2026

Institution-building at IIST.

Prof. Kuruvilla Joseph

Distinguished Professor & Pro-Vice Chancellor
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology
Department of Space, Government of India

FOUNDING YEAR	PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR	DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR
2007	July 2025 - present	September 2025 - present

A pivotal contribution to the academic, research and residential foundations of IIST, followed by senior responsibility for institutional governance, academic quality, student development and integration with India's space programme.

01 / FOUNDATIONS AND CAMPUS

Academic and research foundations

Joined IIST in its founding year, 2007, as Professor and founding Head of Chemistry. Helped frame the first curriculum with ISRO scientists and academics; supported early recruitment, research review, laboratory partnerships and student support at the temporary ATF campus.

The permanent campus

As a core relocation-committee member, coordinated asset cataloguing and the move from ATF to Valiyamala. Contributed to academic, administrative and residential facilities, including accommodation across eight hostels, and played a key role in establishing the atmospheric laboratory at Ponmudi.

02 / GOVERNANCE AND GROWTH

First Pro-Vice Chancellor

Appointed in July 2025. Supports the Vice Chancellor across academic and administrative functions, institutional strategy, faculty development, collaboration and infrastructure. The professional record places the Registrar under the Pro-Vice Chancellor and provides for delegated Vice Chancellor responsibilities during specified absences.

Governance and administration

As Registrar, coordinated statutory meetings, promotion reviews, institutional regulations, recruitment and policy implementation. Coordinated appointment of heads across seven departments; supported administrative continuity and people-centred improvements, including payment processes for outsourced personnel.

03 / ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

Academic reform

As Dean (Academics), led institute-wide NEP implementation through departmental consultation, expert workshops and review. Oversaw academic audits and curriculum revision, supported learning flexibility and used examination-result analysis to identify students needing additional support.

Institutional quality and NAAC A++

Led IQAC coordination, evidence systems, accreditation documentation, external reviews, mock visits and peer-team arrangements. Led the appeal team and contributed decisively to the upgrade from A+ to A++, working with departments, administration and institutional leadership.

ISRO-IIST research integration

As Co-Chair of the Research Enhancement Committee, co-led consultation and policy recommendations to broaden research and collaborative supervision. Recognition of ISRO/Department of Space centres as off-campus centres was a committee recommendation. Also chaired MoU coordination with institutions in India and abroad.

APPOINTMENTS IN CONTEXT

Registrar: 2023 - 30 September 2026.
Dean (Academics): February 2024 - February 2026.
Dean (Student Activities): 2015 - 2024.

Earlier Registrar-in-charge appointments: November 2021 - January 2022 and August - October 2022.

People. Systems. Responsibility.

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04 / PEOPLE AND OUTREACH

Student development and welfare

Led student activities, welfare and outreach as Dean during 2015-2024. Strengthened faculty mentoring, Buddy Mentoring, induction, counselling, residential governance, inclusion and fair disciplinary processes. Supported student clubs, scientific and cultural festivals, and sports.

Schools, communities and industry

Chaired IIST@Schools and the student-led NIRMAAN outreach programme. Led EPISTEME 2022 and the 2019, 2020 and 2021 IIST-Industry Interface editions, connecting scientific learning with community needs, industry interaction, internships and applied research.

05 / NATIONAL SYSTEMS AND SERVICE

National admissions systems

Led ISAT centre identification in 2010, confidential question-paper generation in 2011 and student admissions in 2012. Chaired counselling during 2008-2016 across multiple cities, supporting eligibility checks, seat allocation and the transition into institute life.

Finance, procurement and the library

Chaired purchase, budget review, furniture procurement and indent review committees; initiated e-procurement aligned with Department of Space norms. Supported capital-equipment review and library development, including research databases, digital access, subscriptions and resource planning.

Academic traditions

Chaired convocation planning during 2011-2025. Contributed to the first convocation dress and degree certificates, arranged venues and coordinated dignitaries, protocol, academic scheduling and faculty-staff committees. Reviewed successive ceremonies to improve institutional practice.

02 / GOVERNANCE AND GROWTH / CONTINUED

Capacity for the next phase

Coordinated Department of Space approvals and oversight for laboratories, cafeterias, workshop and transport facilities, the Gate Complex, STIIC offices, medical and counselling facilities, and sports infrastructure. At September 2026, additional hostels and alternate-campus planning remained in progress.

06 / RESILIENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Continuity, ethics and responsibility

Chaired pandemic implementation and coordinated safety, preparedness and return-to-campus arrangements. Led Swachh Bharat initiatives and community environmental outreach. Contributed to research ethics, student medical support, foreign-deputation review and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav programmes.

SCIENTIFIC STANDING AND SERVICE

In September 2025, he became the first IIST faculty member elevated to Distinguished Professor through promotion by the Department of Space, Government of India. The appointment is at Higher Administrative Grade+ (HAG+), Pay Level 16 of the 7th CPC.

READING THIS RECORD

This is a selected executive summary of fourteen areas of responsibility. It preserves the distinction between completed facilities, work in progress and committee recommendations. Institutional achievements reflect collaboration with IIST leadership, faculty, staff, students and ISRO colleagues.

SOURCES AND DETAILED ACCOUNT

The September 2026 professional record, with subsequent appointment corrections, is the principal source. The online account retains the detailed responsibilities and institutional references.

Read the full institution-building account

IIST: Pro-Vice Chancellor profile

IIST: NAAC A++ announcement

Professional correspondence: pro-vc@iist.ac.in