

# 'R&D should be able to address people's needs'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Indore:** A lot of research done in India goes nowhere due to lack of an ecosystem and failing to respond to technology demands required to cater to basic needs of people, said eminent nuclear scientist Dr Anil Kakodkar on Friday.

A Padma Vibhushan awardee and a former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission of India Kakodkar said, "Research and development should be made more productive so that it can address needs of people like clean drinking water."

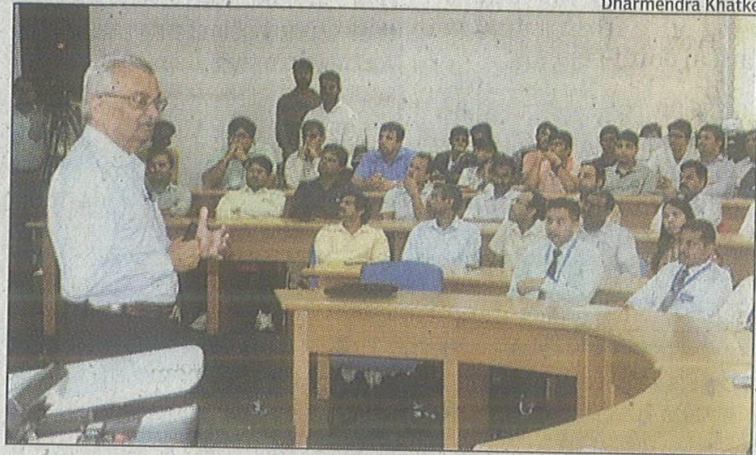
Kakodkar was in the city

## ROLE OF IITS IN BUILDING NATION

to address of students of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore on "Role of IITs in building nation".

He said, investments in research and development needs to grow commensurate with the size of the economy and should be more productive to yield results.

Kakodkar said that India's spending on research and development is higher than many countries like Sweden, Israel, Canada, Switzerland, Finland and the United Kingdom but despite that desired results are not achieved due to lack of conducive innovation



Dr Anil Kakodkar delivering lecture at IIT-Indore on Friday

ecosystem. Indian nuclear physicist stressed a lot on continuous participation of industries at all levels of research and development.

He also said that ecosystem for research should be created in villages that houses a large number of youths so that they can contribute in addressing rural problems and enhance opportunities for livelihoods.

Kakodkar, also a former director of Bhabha Atomic Research Center said, "India is in the transition period from industrial era to knowledge but concern is the relative competitiveness with other counterparts." He said current picture is not so good as imports are higher despite having the traditional strength to develop products. The nuclear scientist said technolo-

gy is the key to comprehensive national power as technology empowers nations, enables strategic autonomy and aids in decision making.

"Competitive technology is the key to success. In absence of this one loses a lot of autonomy and technological advanced countries are dictating the whole world," said Kakodkar. He said IIT's together with other institutes can make a big difference to the nation. Quoting a report from National Foundation for American Policy Brief, he said India ranks 4th in terms of producing founders of startups worth over billion dollars. He stressed on converting biomass to fuel to cut down on fuel imports and keep a lid on rising fuel prices that has adversely impacted all segments.