

HOME-GROWN TECHNOLOGY

IIT-I students unveil radio telescope made on campus

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INDORE: Indian Institute of Technology Indore (IIT-I) has added one more feather to its cap. On Friday, the institute unveiled a state-of-the-art radio telescope developed on campus. Union minister of state for human resource development (HRD) Shashi Tharoor inaugurated the unique telescope, first by any of the 16 IITs in the country, at the PACL campus.

"We built the telescope in less than six months. The two main aspects of the telescope are that the entire design and support system of the telescope was built right here at IIT-Indore," said Siddharth Malu, head of the Physics department and also the principal researcher of the project.

Radio telescopes are typically large parabolic antennas used singly or in an array. The institute would use the device, for detecting diffuse emission from the largest structures in the universe. The instrument, is said to be the third biggest radio telescope in the country.

"It is impressive that the stu-



■ Shashi Tharoor inspects the radio telescope. AMIT K JAISWAL/HT PHOTO

dents have come up with something so commendable in such a short span of time. Not only does it show the talent which the students possess, but also the great potentials our country has," said Tharoor while praising the achievement of IIT-I.

Assuring the students that the sector of research and development will see a better output in years to come as the government plans to increase its percentage in GDP, from 0.98% to 2%, Tharoor

said, "People often ask why no Indian university gets featured in the top-250 universities of the world, the lack of emphasis on R&D is definitely one of the chief reasons."

Explaining the nuances of the radio telescope, Malu said, "We aim to make another dish in the coming six months and some 8-10 dishes in the coming year. The coming months will see an enhanced version of the device with better performance."

■ MAKE USE OF JUGAAD, P3

Tharoor asks students to make use of 'jugaad'

PROGRAMME AT IIT-I Underscores the need to channelise India's intellectual energy in the right direction

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INDORE: "It is good to watch 21st century cutting-edge technology coming through a young channel of the country," said Union minister of state for human resource development (HRD) Shashi Tharoor while praising the scientific acumen of IIT-Indore (IIT-I) students. Tharoor was invited to inaugurate a radio telescope developed by the institute on Friday.

Tharoor's address to the students was a fusion of literature, technology and culture. In a bid to familiarise students with India's rich heritage, Tharoor quoted the Rigveda and said, "We had the concept of 360 days in a year; long back the Gregorian calendar came into being."

The minister devoted much time to talk about two concepts, of Indian origin, that have created much buzz worldwide - Indo-vasion and Jugaad. "Indians are supposed to have amazing intelligence, especially in the field of mathematics; physics, science and innovation. Also, the popular principal of Jugaad, in the sense of innovation, is something on whose lines we should divert our energies to," Tharoor said.

Pointing at the importance of channelising India's intellectual energy in the right direction

with the right infrastructure, Tharoor said, "If one watches American sitcoms, one will often find Indians acting in them as doctors, engineers, software professionals. You cannot imagine an American university which does not have Indian students in it. On one side it shows the vast reach we have, on the other hand it showcases the issue of brain-drain."

On being asked about the future of space technology in our country, Tharoor said,

"The country definitely has a wide scope ahead. The biggest advantage we have is the blood of our country harbours. Soon, countries like China will try and emulate us in most areas."

Tharoor interacted with students from various departments. Extending a keen interest in the subjects being taught at the campus, the union minister and avid writer appreciated and congratulated the heads of various departments on the commendable work being done by them.



■ Union minister of state for HRD Shashi Tharoor addressing the students of IIT-Indore on the launch of radio telescope on Friday. (Below) Tharoor autographs the books written by him, to be kept in the library of IIT-Indore.

AMIT K JAISWAL/HT PHOTOS

