

# 'We're able to produce barely 8,000 PhDs'

**HURDLES** Bharat Ratna awardee CNR Rao says absence of proper funding main reason

HT Correspondent

✉ editorbhopal@hindustantimes.com

**INDORE:** Do the unconventional. Think out of the box. This was the advice that Bharat Ratna CNR Rao had for students of IIT-Indore where he had come to deliver a keynote lecture on chemistry organised under the aegis of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Science and Research (JNCASR) on Thursday.

Emphasising the need for having an independent approach while on the path of research, Rao said, "Layering knowledge after knowledge on the same topic will not do us any good. We need somebody who can strike a new course with a completely different idea."



■ Bharat Ratna awardee CNR Rao delivers a lecture in Indore.

ARUN MONDHE/HT

Comparing the educational figures of the country with China, Rao said, "Even after 40 years of Raman's death, we are barely able to produce 8,000 Phds. This figure is a huge contrast with China which has

around 22,000 research papers and Phds."

When asked about the reason for this huge difference, he cited absence of proper funding, grooming to think differently and lack of proper work environment. "Private industries make a lot of money due to breakthroughs in research but they do not share it with the researchers or fund new research. I did not get even a ₹5 note from private industrialists; whatever I got was from the government," he said.

Rao said, "There is a lot of talent in the society but no one to trap it. Our students do exceedingly well when they step outside the country but they hardly show any extraordinary traits here. The reason is we value and

promote everything except a new discovery or innovation."

Quoting Vivekanand and Gandhi, Rao said, "Great people have said there can be progress only when there is a collective approach. We need to embark on a healthy competition in society. The day this happens, India will have mass progress."

Echoing similar sentiments during his lecture titled 'Graphene and Inorganic Graphene Analogues' he expressed concern on the over-exposure to technology amongst youngsters. He said, "It surprises me how glued people are too technology. One should understand that technology is good but using the brain is also important."

CONTINUED ON P9

## 'We are able to...

Today, we don't find students doing mental maths because they have calculators to do the job. These are not healthy signs of a progressive society."

Besides the director of IIT-Indore, Pradeep Mathur, around 10 scientists, students and researchers attended his lecture. TK Sharma, professor, department of chemistry IIT-Indore said, "He is a very well-known figure in the field of science. His mere presence is a source of enlightenment for the students and faculty members."