

At IIT convocation, Kalam stresses on plugging gaps in research



IIT students during their convocation ceremony in Indore on Thursday

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Mhow: The multi-disciplinary problem-solving approach of IITs is commendable and promotion of research is very important for society, said former president Dr APJ Abdul Kalam while addressing IIT-Indore students and their parents during the convocation ceremony of the institute.

Reminiscing about his convocation in 1957, he said that it is the most important day in any student's life and asked students to pledge to give their best to society.

Kalam talked about knowledge and problem sharing that takes place between countries in today's world by citing the example of the missing MH-370 plane of Malaysia, in which thirty countries have been working together in search of the plane. On the divide between rural and urban classes, he said that a system is to be put in place so that rural areas could be turned into learning centres. Through this, they will play a greater role in nation building.

It was the second convocation ceremony of B Tech students while the first of the PhD students of IIT-I which was held on the new campus in Simrol on Thursday. Dr Kalam was the chief guest while institute's board of governor chairman Ajay Piramal presided.



Gold medalist Samitha Reddy along with her parents at Simrol campus

Director Prof Pradeep Mathur delivered the inaugural address and presented the annual report of the institute, in which he said

Dr Kalam handed over a bunch of books to IIT-I director Dr Pradeep Mathur for the institute's library

that there are 476 students of B Tech, about 200 of PhD and 82 faculty members in IIT-I. He talked about Dr Rajnish Mishra who has been chosen for young scientist award this year and

about the radio telescope developed by IIT-I.

In his address, Ajay Piramal said computer science and engineering along with humanities' subjects makes learning holistic at IIT. He said for the betterment and practical applicability of studies, internship has been made mandatory for students while they are in 7th semester. Piramal told students that they are entering the corporate world when the Indian as well as the world economies are undergoing a deep transition.

Thereafter, degrees were conferred on six PhD students and 111 B Tech students. Kotha Samitha Reddy of B Tech (Electrical



Former President APJ Abdul Kalam at 2nd convocation ceremony



Happy students

Engineering) was given the President's gold medal for best performance. Silver medals were given to Harshit Agrawal (Computer Science), N Swathi (Electrical Engineering) and Jeet Ashok Peswani (Mechanical Engineering).

In almost all convocation ceremonies held at the Military College of Telecommunications Engineering (MCTE), IIT director Dr Pradeep Mathur or his representatives have been seen in the MCTE auditorium. Dr Mathur has also been the chief guest of the ceremonies in MCTE. In the same way, MCTE's Faculty of Combat Communications commander Brig Abhay

Bhat and Brig Bhaskar were also the guests at IIT-I ceremony. Interestingly, Dr Kalam, after finishing his lecture at the convocation ceremony, handed over a bunch of books to IIT-I director Dr Pradeep Mathur for the institute's library. He also gave his email ID and details of his website to students and asked them to write to him if they had any query or any innovative ideas for the nation.

The pipe band of 4/1 Gorkha regiment was a major show stealer at the ceremony. After the programme concluded, the Gorkha band played melodious tunes when national anthem was sung.