

## •First convocation ceremony

# IIT-I apologises to its first batch for '3-ring circus'

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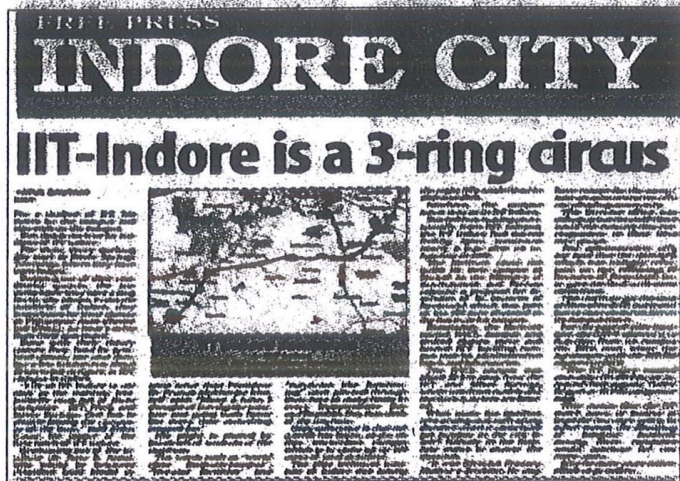
OUR STAFF REPORTER  
Indore

The Indian Institute of Technology, Indore on Saturday apologised to its first batch students, who graduated out of the institute for a "3-Ring Circus".

While addressing the convocation ceremony at Simrol, IIT Indore board of governors Chairman Ajay Piramal said: "We know that the first batch students had to face many a hardship because of the institute's campus problem. They had to shuttle among three temporary campuses viz IET, PACL and Sliver Springs Township. We are sorry for their inconvenience."

He, however, stated that those who graduated out in the maiden convocation would remain very special to the institute as they were of its maiden batch.

Director Pradeep Mathur was also sorry for students for their inconvenience and that they could not see their



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institute campus coming up. Piramal said that it was upsetting to see the institute authorities running from pillar to post to get possession of land for its campus. "Many a time, I found the institution in a limbo."

Lauding the institute, the chairman said that it has instruments one would not find anywhere in the country.

The director also stated that the institute has world class instruments and that the institute has provided access to the industries to their instruments.

Mathur stated the institute is focusing on inter-disciplinary teaching and research as it's the future.

"Our work in research could be gauged from the fact that we have a record 300 research publications in reputed journals."

The director said that the institute would continue to enhance research and focus more on innovation.

### First batch passes out

As many as 101 students of the first batch of the IIT Indore passed out on Saturday.

They were handed over the degrees during the convocation ceremony by Director Pradeep Mathur. Syed Sadaf Ail of Computer Science and Engineering department was the first to receive the degree of BTech. A total of 100 students followed him.

Topper of the institute, Ankit Goyal of electrical branch was awarded President of India Gold Medal by President Dr. Pranab Mukherjee himself. Mukherjee also gave away silver medals to Abhishek Chaudhari, Anamika Patel and Reema Sexena, who were toppers of their respective disciplines.

### No gown for Hardia, Pachauri

Along with the President, the institute chairman and the director, Governor Ram Naresh Yadav and minister of state for technical education Mahendra Hardia and senior Congress leader Suresh Pachauri were present on the dais.

Hardia and Pachauri were not given convocation gown. Reason? Mahendra Hardia was representative of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan and the gown was for the CM and not for his representative. Pachauri was not given the gown because he was not an invitee of the institute. He had accompanied the President.

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Abhishek Chaudhari, a topper of Computer Science and Engineering discipline and recipient of IIT Indore's silver medal, got a package of nearly Rs 18 lakh from Microsoft while the institute topper and President of India gold medal recipient Ankit Goyal got a job offer of merely Rs 10 lakh per annum. "Package does not matter to me as of now. I accepted the job through campus placements to gain work experience. After working with the organization that has picked up me, I will move to some reputed university for higher studies," said Ankit from New Delhi.

He had come to the convocation ceremony along with his grandmother, mother and sister. His father had passed away when he was mid-stream of his course.

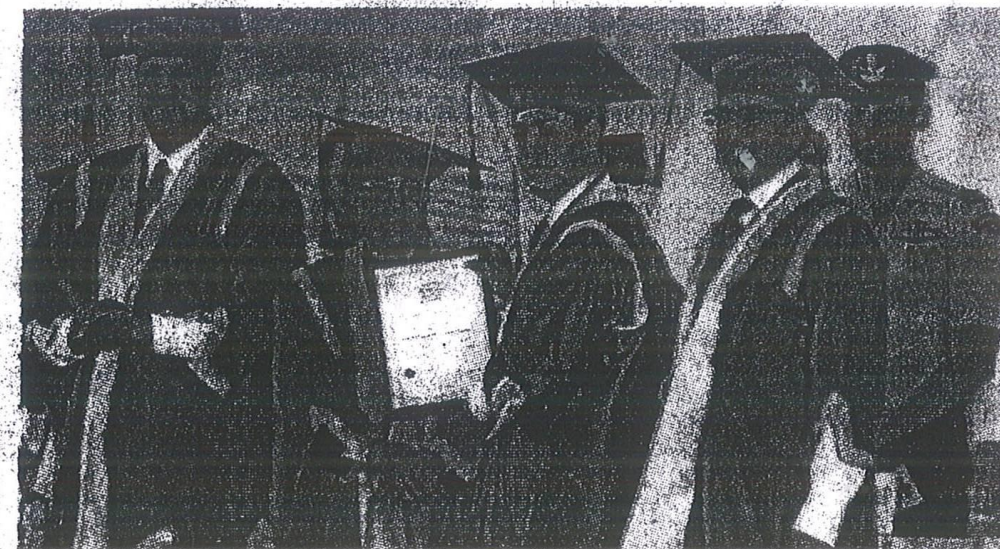
Ankit said that June 8 was the happiest day of his life as he received gold medal at the hands of the President.

Abhishek was happy that he was among the ones who are moving out of the institute with a job offer in hand.

"Sky is the limit," he said when told of students of other IITs established along with IIT-Indore got better packages. "I shouldn't envy them? Should I?" he asked and himself reply after a moment "No, I should not."

Abhishek too has a plan to pursue higher studies preferably in a university abroad.

Anamika Patel, a topper of electrical engineering department, burst into tears when some reporters asked her why her father did not



President Pranab Mukherjee handing over gold medal and certificate to Ankit Goyal, the IIT Indore topper, during convocation ceremony at Simrol, on Saturday. FP photo

come to the convocation ceremony.

"He had passed away a year after I took admission in IIT-Indore," she said recalling how her father encouraged her to study at the institute.

She was offered job by a

(DRDO). "I want to make a career in defence, so grabbed the DRDO offer," she said adding that her brother is in Indian Airlines.

Reema Saxena, the topper of mechanical engineering department, rejected job of

er during campus placements.

I accepted the offer but later dropped it listening to my heart. I wish to study masters' degree course from a university in the USA. After completion of PG programme, I may take up a



Abhishek



Anamika



Reema

multinational company but she rejected the offer and picked up a position in the Defence Research and Development Organisation

fer by a company as she wants to pursue higher studies in a university in the USA.

"I was offered job by Eich-

job," Reema said.

Anamika and Reema were awarded silver medal by the President for their academic performances.

# Sliver shines more than gold