



President Pranab Mukherjee presents the President of India gold medal to IIT student Ankit Goyal at the convocation ceremony in Indore on Saturday.

ARUN MONDHE/HT

IIT-I's first convocation ceremony held

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INDORE: Indian Institute of Technology, Indore held its maiden convocation ceremony on its Simrol campus in the presence of President Pranab Mukherjee.

Governor Ram Naresh Yadav, IIT-I board of governors chairman Ajay Piramal, institute director Prof Pradeep Mathur and hundreds of parents and educationists also graced the occasion. The President formally declared the convocation ceremony open following which the institute director Prof Mathur read out the institute's report.

Trouble for villagers

Though many were happy, the local villagers of Simrol and Nayata Mundla, which are situated near IIT Indore campus, had a tough time during the President's visit. Heavy security deployed near the IIT campus literally 'sealed' the two villages. The villagers were not allowed to move freely in their locality. Wherever the villagers went, they were followed by security guards. Many villagers complained that the police and security guards had threatened that they would be arrested if they ventured anywhere near the programme site.

Prof Mathur apologised to the students of the first batch for facing hardship and inconvenience during the last four years. He promised that state of the art

campus would soon be a reality. He said IIT-Indore began its journey in July 2009 with the first batch of 120 students selected through joint entrance exami-

nation (JEE). Today, we have a total of 600 students including nearly 150 PhD scholars. He said that besides teaching, the faculty was involved in frontline research work. He said that the institute has world class facilities and they had close interaction with the industry.

Board of governor's chairman Ajay Piramal also apologised to the students for the problems they faced at the institute. They had to shuttle between three campuses - Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET), Pithampur and Simrol. He said that the institute management had to run from pillar

to post for land acquisition but the dream of having a campus would be realised soon.

President Pranab Mukherjee presented President of India Gold Medal to electrical engineering student Ankit Goyal for his outstanding academic performance.

Besides Ankit, Abhishek Choudhary of computer science and engineering, Anamika Patel of electrical engineering and Reema Saxena of mechanical engineering got institute's silver medals. Institute topper Ankit Goyal administered oath to all the outgoing students to deliver their best in future.

Prez offers prayers at Mahakal temple

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UJJAIN: The President Pranab Mukherjee offered prayers at the Mahakal temple on Saturday amidst tight security on the temple premises and all over the city. The President stayed in the city for a little over three hours and then left for Indore.

The President landed at the Ujjain police line helipad at 1.23 pm and was greeted by state minister Paras Jain, mayor Rameshwar Akhand, MP Premchand Guddu, commissioner Arun Pandey, IG V Madhukumar, collector BM Sharma, SP Anurag among others. From here the President went to the circuit house and left for Mahakal temple at 1.50pm and reached the temple at 2.10pm. He offered prayers for around 35 minutes and then left for the circuit house. He had some food, took rest and left

the circuit house at 4.50 pm for Indore.

A BRIEF JOURNEY

Squadron leader SP Singh said it took the President 25 minutes to fly from Indore to Ujjain. There was a six member crew including the pilot and co-pilot in the helicopter. Former state Congress president Suresh Pachouri accompanied Pranab Mukherjee.

PRIESTS VIE WITH EACH OTHER FOR PHOTO WITH PREZ

After the formal Pooja, a group of 22 priests were supposed to perform a special 'swasti vachan'. However, as their names were being called the priests fell over each other to grab the space near the President and created a minor stampede as they wanted to be photographed with the President. However, things were brought under control. The main temple priest



President Pranab Mukherjee offers prayer at the Mahakaleshwar temple in Ujjain on the auspicious occasion of Shanicharya Jayanti on Saturday.

HT PHOTO

Ghanshyam Sharma and pandit Ashish Pujari performed the pooja. The President also offered prayers at the Shakshi Gopal temple.

PREZ OBSERVES FAST

President Pranab Mukherjee keeps a fast on every Saturday and therefore he only ate fruits and some porridge at the circuit house.

PRESIDENT GIVES ₹5,000 AT CIRCUIT HOUSE

The President appeared very pleased with the arrangements at the circuit house. In the visitors book he wrote that his brief stay was very comfortable and the service was excellent. He also praised the food that had been prepared and served to him and gave Rs 5000 to the circuit house.

CURFEW LIKE SITUATION

There was security blanket all over the city and it looked like a curfew had been imposed. The roads from where the President was supposed to pass had been sealed over an hour in advance. Traffic was stopped at the Dewas road for over four hours, and entry of public to the Mahakal temple was stopped for three hours.