

'Play critical role in driving innovation for sustainable devpt'

MANGALURU, DHNS: Kamal Bali, President and MD, Volvo Group India, urged graduates to play a critical role in driving innovation for sustainable development.

Delivering the convocation address at the 23rd annual convocation ceremony of the National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal, on Saturday, he said graduates should contribute meaningfully to building a prosperous, equitable and sustainable nation.

While outlining a vision for the Viksit Bharat 2047, Bali listed six foundational pillars – a robust economy, transparency in public life, social and gender equity, excellence in quality, holistic sustainable development, and a strong sense of national pride.

He encouraged graduates to



A student receives the degree certificate at the 23rd annual convocation ceremony of NITK, Surathkal, on Saturday.

adopt collaboration over competition, stressing that trust and transparency were essential for collective progress.

Stating that graduates were stepping into rapid and unprecedented change, Bali said

five major global shifts shaping the future -- intensifying geopolitical power struggles, transition from globalisation to regionalisation, use of artificial intelligence, complexities surrounding global energy transi-

tion, and growing emphasis on holistic sustainability.

These shifts, he said, should be viewed not as barriers but as opportunities for innovation and problem-solving and leadership.

He urged students to turn challenges into opportunities and use their skills to help raise India's per capita income while lifting millions out of poverty.

Bali called upon the graduates to become entrepreneurs and innovate to increase the per capita income of the country and build a strong economy. "The current per capita income of individual Indians is 3,000 to 4,000 dollars, which needs to go up to 15,000 to 20,000 dollars by 2047. This will bring millions out of poverty, which is possible through entrepre-

neurship and innovation."

In his address, NITK Director Prof B Ravi said, "Several new projects have been recently approved, including Library Annexe, Healthcare Annexe, Central Computer Centre refurbishing, additional floors for two guest houses, reconstruction of campus roads, and flood-lighting of sports grounds at the NITK campus."

He said during 2024-25, a total of 47 patents were filed, 61 patents were granted, and 4 patents were licensed. "Till date, more than 150 startup companies have been incubated in S&T Entrepreneurs' Park."

A total of 1,995 degrees, comprising 935 BTech, 641 MTech, 23 MTech (research), 66 MCA, 69 MBA, 68 MSc, and 193 PhD, were awarded.