

Pradhan: India needs more entrepreneurs, innovators

'India's future lies in the hands of students and they have to become job-creators'

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"INDIA needs more entrepreneurs and innovators to achieve its future ambitions," said Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Education, Skill and Entrepreneurship.

Delivering the 20th convocation address at the National Institute of Technology Karnataka-Surathkal (NITK) on Saturday, he said, "India's future lies in the hands of students and they have the aim to become job-creators instead of job-seekers. Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Data Analytics, Electronics, Genome Editing and 3DPrinting are the way forward as the world stares at Industry 4.0. The world is looking towards India to play a key role in the future development of humanity and regain its glory as a Vishwa-Guru."

Hailing the rich legacy of NITK, he added, "Expansion into fields beyond

engineering, strengthening research and innovation climate is what is expected from an institute and stressed the need to give more thrust on research for becoming a developed nation."

NITK director (addl charge) Prof Prasad Krishna said that to maintain a pace with rising national and worldwide demand, a BTech programme in Computational and Data Science will begin during the academic year 2022-23. He added, "During 2021-22, 405 reputable companies had enrolled for campus placements. About 93 per cent of the UG students have been recruited and the maximum salary provided was Rs 45.03 lakh per annum."

A total of 1,787 candidates received degrees during the convocation which included 126 PhD, 817 PG and 844 B Tech students. Nine B Tech students and 30 PG students received the Institute Gold medals and medals spon-

sored by various agencies during the convocation for securing the highest CGPA. Earlier, the Union Minister inaugurated the newly constructed central research facility (CRF) and school of interdisciplinary studies building and laid the foundation stone for the construction of the lecture hall complex.

Managing Director of Sona Group of Industries K Yajnanarayana and Maire Tecnimont India Region Vice President Milind Baride were guests of honour.

No imposition of Hindi

Pradhan on Saturday maintained that the National Education Policy (NEP) will give importance to all national languages and it will not try to impose Hindi. Speaking in a press meeting, Pradhan said, "Hindi is one of the languages used by a sizable population in the country. There are various other languages spoken by the people. NEP has given emphasis to mother tongue/regional languages."

Further, the Minister said that AI-CTE has developed study materials in eight languages including Kannada. In Madhya Pradesh, the medical course material has been developed in Hindi. Efforts are on to teach law, medical, and engineering courses in different local languages.

Reiterating that at least 10 foreign countries are approaching the Indian government for setting up IIT campuses in their countries at their own cost, the minister refused to divulge the names of those countries.



Union Minister
Dharmendra Pradhan at
the convocation of NITK in
Mangaluru