

THE  NEW  
**INDIAN EXPRESS**

Sunday, August 23, 2015



International Institute of Information Technology students celebrate at the 14th convocation ceremony at Global peace auditorium Gachibowli in Hyderabad on Saturday | A SURESH KUMAR **MORE: P3**

# 'Digital Revolution Sweeping the World'



NITI Aayog member Dr Vijay Kumar Saraswat presenting IIT gold medal to Manu Viswanadhan at the 14th convocation of IIT at Global peace auditorium, Gachibowli in Hyderabad on Saturday | A Suresh Kumar

HYDERABAD: There is a huge opportunity for the IT industry to innovate, produce, system engineer and contribute to the inclusive growth of the country through Digital India Mission, renowned defence scientist and member of NITI Ayog VK Saraswat has said.

Delivering the 14th convocation address at the International Institute of Information Technology ( IIT) here on Saturday, Saraswat said, “Digital revolution has been sweeping the world and there is already explosion of information on an unprecedented scale. People who are not able to cope up with the digital tools and remain digital illiterates are being pushed down the economic growth ladder. To bridge the digital divide and transform India to a ‘connected economy’, prime minister Narendra Modi had launched the Digital India Mission, he said and called upon the young graduates to help India become an ‘advanced digital economy’.

“By 2050 nearly half of India’s population will be in urban areas. Either we will have to create more cities or upgrade the villages to urban areas mainly because urban areas contribute a higher share of GDP. Today, the urban population (31 pc) contributes over 60 pc of India’s GDP. It is projected that the urban India will contribute 75 pc of national GDP in the next 15 years,” he said.

“The government wants to increase the pace of urbanisation. Hence the PM’s vision of developing one hundred smart cities as satellite towns of large cities by modernising the existing mid-sized cities,”Saraswat said.

Presenting the annual report, IIIT-H director PJ Narayanan said, “IIIT-Hyderabad has continued its journey towards academic excellence in the past year. We impart education that is comparable to the best in the world. Our research programmes enable our students to think beyond the text books when faced with unstructured problems. We lay strong emphasis on humanistic education and human values,” he said.

Referring to the progress of work on T-Hub that the Telangana government is building on the IIIT campus, he said, “The TS government is setting up the country’s biggest and best incubation centre and start-up ecosystem in Hyderabad using the institute’s expertise,” Narayanan said.

In all, 421 students were awarded degrees and ten medals were given away to to meritorious students.