

Be job providers, minister advises students

'Country needs more entrepreneurs, innovators to achieve goals'

MANGALURU, DHNS

Union Minister for Education, Skill and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan said that history provides a strong foundation for building a prosperous future.

"Our country needs more entrepreneurs and innovators to achieve our future ambitions," he said while delivering the 20th annual convocation address at the National Institute of Technology Karnataka-Surathkal (NITK) on Saturday.

The way towards India's strong future lies in the hands of students, he added.

Observing that students of NITK, Surathkal, have made their mark globally, he said they now have an aim in transforming into job-creators.

Expansion into fields beyond engineering, strengthening research and innovation climate is what is expected from an institute, he said and stressed on the need to give thrust on research for becoming a developed nation.

The priority areas, like Artificial Intel-



Union Minister for Education, Skill and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan hands over the gold medal and degree certificate to a graduate at the 20th annual convocation of NITK, Surathkal, on Saturday.

ligence, Machine Learning, Data Analytics, Electronics, Genome Editing and 3D Printing, are the way forward as the world stares at Industry 4.0, Pradhan said.

"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', he said.

The NEP 2020 is an attempt to assimilate the ancient with the modern to strive to produce well-rounded citizens of the world. "Our students should draw inspiration from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and work for changing India's destiny," the

minister said. Lauding the biogas plant set up in NITK, he said the plant will convert campus food waste into biogas. NITK is contributing to the national efforts of promoting waste to wealth.

The minister said, "I have suggested the NITK to establish a full-fledged sustainable energy department. In the times ahead, Surathkal will drive our green goals and emerge as a lighthouse of energy transition."

NITK Director (additional charge) Prof Prasad Krishna said that a BTech programme in computational and data science will begin during the academic year 2022-23. He said that during 2021-22, 405 reputable companies had enrolled for campus placements. About 93% of the UG students had been recruited and the maximum salary provided was Rs 45.03 lakh per annum.

A total of 1,787 candidates graduated during the convocation. This includes 126 PhD, 817 PG and 844 B Tech students. Nine B Tech students and 30 PG students received the Institute gold medals and medals sponsored by various agencies during the convocation for securing 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.