

# Digitalisation boosting GDP growth: Saraswat

Member of NITI Aayog delivers the 14<sup>th</sup> convocation address at IIT Hyderabad

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**Hyderabad:** The country's net imports in the IT sector would be brought down to zero by 2020 under Digital India Programme, said Vijay Kumar Saraswat, Member of NITI Aayog.

About 1.7 crore would be directly employed in IT sector and at least 8.5 lakh would be indirectly employed through the programme, Saraswat said while delivering the 14th convocation address of International Institute of Information Technology-Hyderabad at Global Peace Auditorium here on Saturday.

"By 2019, 2.5 lakh villages will have broadband access along with universal phone connectivity, four lakh public internet access points, Wi-Fi hotspots for schools, colleges and citizenry's through Digital India Programme," he stated.

Saraswat said India's decision to go for intensive digitalisation was supported by the fact that an in-



Students of IIT-H celebrating at the convocation ceremony held on the campus in Hyderabad on Saturday

crease of digitalisation of 10 per cent points triggered 0.50 per cent to 0.62 per cent gain in the per capita GDP, which was significantly higher than the impact created by broadband penetration. Besides, digitalisation had a significant impact on creation of jobs as well as improving the innovation index of the country, he added.

Participating virtually through Skype video from Pittsburgh, US, IIT-H Chairman Prof Raj Reddy said exponential improvement in the information technology over the past 60 years had transformed the way we lived, learnt and worked.

"Many new advances are likely to happen in the next 20 years. We are on the verge of autonomous self driving cars. Prototypes of self driving cars, sensors, GPS and radars are already operational," he said. As many as 421 students - 183 UG, 139 M Tech, 55 MS (by Research), 14 PhD and 62 MSIT - graduated on Saturday.