

'Digital India project to create 1.5 cr jobs'

The Digital India project would provide direct employment to 1.5 crore individuals and indirect employment to 8.5 lakh employees in the information technology sector, V K Saraswat, member of NITI Aayog, said at the 14th convocation of the International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad (IIIT-H) on Saturday.

As many as 421 students graduated from IIIT-H, of which 183 were conferred a degree in BTech, 139 MTech, 55 MSc by research, 14 PhD and 62 MSc in IT. As many as 121 companies visited the institute for placements this academic year.

Addressing the gathering, Saraswat invited entrepreneurs and graduates to actively engage in making products that will benefit the Digital India project. He also spoke about the importance of IT to uplift the poor and the downtrodden in the country.

“Those who are not able to cope with digital tools and remain digitally illiterate are being pushed down the economic growth ladder,” said Saraswat, adding, “The programme will help delineate sectors that need special attention in order to speed up the process of transformation of the techno-economic environment and socioinstitutional operations.”

The programme aims at connecting 2.5 lakh villages with broadband access along with universal phone connectivity.

A total of 400 research papers were submitted by faculty members, research students, research staff and undergraduate students of IIIT-H in top conferences and journals throughout the academic year. In all, 38 PhD students received external competitive fellowships from Tata Consultancy Services, Google, Microsoft Research, IBM, etc. and 13 scholars received Vivesvaraya fellowships from DietY.



THREE CHEERS! IIT students throw shawls into the air after graduating during the 14th Convocation Day held at Gachibowli in the city on Saturday

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- **V K Saraswat**, MEMBER OF NITI AAYOG
