

# Turn to nature for innovation: Isro chief

**AKTU CONVOCATION** Union home minister Rajnath Singh tells students about the need of character building

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**LUCKNOW:** Nature had all the resources required for inspiring an innovation and there were many lessons to be learnt from it, Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) chief Padma Shri AS Kiran Kumar said here on Saturday.

Addressing the gathering of graduating students at the 13th convocation of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU) at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in the city, Kumar said, "It won't be wrong to say that almost all innovations in science and technology are inspired by something in the nature."

Explaining further, the scientist said, "Nature is full of viable ideas for doing things. All we need is to simply observe the nature and understand it. Some international business houses have already gone ahead with developing machines inspired by nature designs."

"Engineers in various industries around the world are turning to nature for inspiration as they try to design products with better performance and low energy consumption," he added.

AKTU conferred honorary D Sc degree on the eminent scientist during the convocation.

Talking about Isro, Kumar said, the research organisation was moving forward with the development of technology for low cost access to space and use of composite materials for space applications.

"Isro's successful missions are a result of innovative use of limited resources to achieve defined goals," he said.

According to Kumar, developments in satellite remote sensing, global navigation satellite systems and geographic information systems have made it

## GOVERNOR PRAISES CONVOCATION GOWN

■ Governor Ram Naik heaped praise on AKTU administration for doing away with age-old academic regalia of British period and adopting something that is more indigenous and rooted to Indian culture.

■ Other dignitaries also praised university's new academic regalia that is light and comfortable.

easier to integrate ecological, environmental and other information for developing predictive models that can be used in the surveillance and control of diseases such as malaria and dengue fever.

"Earth observation from space complimented with other applications is a cost effective method for effective monitoring of environment and management of land, ocean and fresh water resources and providing essential data to decision makers that can be used to formulate policy and implement programmes at the national, regional and international levels," he said.

"The scientist was all praise for India's space infrastructure which now affects several aspects of social life in the country. "India has established a well knit space infrastructure with adequate ground system to support multitude of applications addressing the social, economic and cultural aspects of Indian society at large," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Union home minister Rajnath Singh urged the youths to tread in the right path and stressed on the importance of character building in present times. To support his point, Singh compared Ram and Ravan of the epic Ramayan. "Ravan was more powerful and knowledgeable than Ram. But Ram triumphed over Ravan because he stood for his character," he said.

Singh also talked about comparisons between Al Qaeda and Infosys made by Thomas Friedman, who had said that both Infosys and Al Qaeda had global networking, talented and committed youth working for them, but both were not good.



■ (From right) Union home minister Rajnath Singh, UP governor Ram Naik, Isro chief AS Kiran Kumar and other dignitaries during the AKTU convocation on Saturday.

ASHOK DUTTA/HT PHOTO

## SRM STUDENTS STEAL THE SHOW

**LUCKNOW:** It was a proud moment for Shri Ramswaroop Memorial Group of Professional Colleges as many of their merit holders found place in the coveted medal list of AKTU.

Tahaseeb Zahra (B Tech, Civil, Final Year), Priyansha Tiwari (B Tech, IT, Final Year) and Priyanka Awasthi (MBA, Final Year) were the proud recipients of university gold medal whereas Sama Parveen (B Tech, Electrical and Electronics) was awarded silver medal followed closely by Rupali Tewari (B Tech, Electronics & Instrumentation) and Namita (MBA) who received bronze.

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# Pvt engineering colleges sweep medals

**LUCKNOW:** Students of private engineering colleges received most number of medals while it remained a poor show for government institutions at the 13th convocation of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU) here on Saturday.

No student from Harcourt Butler Technological Institute (HBTI), Kanpur and Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET), Lucknow could make it to the coveted list of medal recipients. These are the colleges where toppers of state entrance examination (SEE) seek admission every year.

Out of the 47 medals awarded to toppers of various disciplines this year, only four went to students of government colleges. The decline in the number of toppers from government colleges points towards the poor teaching standards and lack of interest of teachers engaged in these institutions. When asked to explain the reason for poor performance of government engineering colleges, AKTU vice-chancellor Vinay Pathak said, "Top four government engineering colleges have now become autonomous where examination pattern is different than other institutions. These are autonomous colleges and maybe they are strict in awarding marks.

## WHAT AILS GOVERNMENT ENGG COLLEGES?

Government engineering colleges in the state are hit by shortage of permanent faculty, lack of teachers' accountability and poor infrastructure. Poor state of laboratories and worn out books in libraries of these colleges are open secret. The state technical department is not much interested in addressing the problems, according to a university official. "The growing lack of will of technical education department is to be held responsible for the poor performance of government engineering colleges," the official said. This is in sharp contrast to some of the new private colleges in Ghazliabad who have made extra efforts to improve their teaching standard by recruiting subject experts and ensure regular attendance of students.



■ Medal winners at AKTU convocation on Saturday.

ASHOK DUTTA/HT

Year	Total medals	Govt colleges	Pvt colleges
2014-15	47	4	43
2013-14	48	3	45
2012-13	30	3	27
2011-12	30	4	27
2010-11	30	5	25
2009-10	30	5	25

So there cannot be any comparison," Pathak said, adding it was because of this disparity toppers of autonomous colleges were awarded medals in a different section this year. Another varsity official said, "We have observed that government college students are more interested in cracking competitions and take less interest in regular academics." HTC

*Handwritten signature: Sheel*

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