

# IITs have monopolised academic excellence: Anandkrishnan

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The sharp criticism from political quarters reflects that IITs are in the limelight and are being noticed across the globe. However, complacency should not set in as the future of the IITs is in keeping itself abreast of the latest and remaining at par with the best. There is certainly no doubt that the IITs are a brand in themselves and a few incidents can in no way tarnish their image. To say IITs have monopolised academic excellence will certainly not be any exaggeration.

This was stated by Chairman of IIT-Kanpur's Board of Governors, Prof Anandkrishnan, while talking to *The Pioneer* and reacting to the statement of Union minister Jairam Ramesh. He was in the city to take part in the 43rd convocation of the IIT-K.

IIT-K, Director Prof SG Dhande said if Jairam Ramesh had some specific parameters of a 'world class institution' then he should spell them out and the then IIT would be willing

to pick up the gauntlet. He said for comparison with 'world class institution' one also needed world class resources. He said with the available resources, many factors affecting the excellence of both students and faculty excellence, had been taken care of.

Prof Dhande said R&D was an area which could not be confined in a frame of time and funds and keeping this in mind the research work done in IITs, specially IIT-K, spoke volumes about academic excellence and its list was endless. While admitting that it was true that IITs had not been able to attract foreign students and faculties mainly because of infrastructure and the Indian pattern of existence, he said that there was always room for improvement and IITs would strive to prove their mettle.

Delivering the 43rd convocation address of the IIT-K on Saturday, Director of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Prof P Balram, said the winds of change has swept over the frontiers of science and engi-

## IIT-K's 43rd convocation held



Prof P Balram, IIT-K BoD Chairman Prof Anandkrishnan and Director Prof SG Dhande handing over the Presidents Gold Medal to Mohit Mittal at the convocation of IIT-K in Kanpur on Saturday  
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neering, destroying walls and eliminating boundaries. He said in the new world of research, success required a facility to easily bridge the gaps between disciplines.

He said it may indeed be

critical to think of new experiments in undergraduate education, where science and engineering merge seamlessly to build a new generation of professionals and researchers.

He said in science the chal-

lenges of modern day research posed formidable problems for educators and this demanded interdisciplinary skills for solving all the major scientific and technological issues that confront the nation.

Delivering the directors report, IIT-K, Director Prof SG Dhande said that the next green revolution was sure to be driven by knowledge especially with the challenge of climate change looking ahead. He said the IIT-K had been working on ICT in agriculture with special emphasis on agriculture knowledge management.

He added that some of the major innovations that had come up included use of semantic web and social networking technologies in agriculture knowledge creation and dissemination, automatic tagging for meta-data population, reusable learning objects management in agriculture and extension content delivery. He said these were supported by National Agricultural Innovations Projects funded by ICAR.