

Call to create world class universities

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"India needs to drastically ramp up the number of Higher Educational Institutions (HEI) and also create world-class universities" said



Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India while delivering his address at the 13th convocation of Amrita University here. Calling upon the students to be agents of change in an increasingly strife-torn world Prof. Sharma said: "By 2030, India is likely to be the youngest nation in the world, with 140 million youngsters ready to enter the portals of a HEI. Higher education with an innovative mindset is the key to leveraging this demographic dividend. The Indian higher education system needs to elevate itself in the knowledge economy by striking a balance between quality and quantity. In addition to institutions that focus on skilling and teaching, there is a need to promote many more world-class universities which would be hubs of innovation and research excellence. They will transform India into a knowledge superpower." Sharing with the students a few things that he learned in his own life, Prof. Ashutosh Sharma said: "Now you are plunging into a new phase of personal and professional life and need to make all your decisions on your own. While your decisions will be your own, never make the cardinal mistake to think of your successes to be your own! Now, you will have to be a serious and committed team player. Never forget to bring positivity in interacting with your team." In his benedictory address, Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri, President of Amrita University, said: "Instead of being result-oriented, be action-oriented, because action is more important than the result. When focus on action becomes 100 percent, when dedication in action arises, productivity increases automatically. Today's youth blindly believe in a fast pace. Velocity has become more important than the goal. We should make sure that there is love and dedication in work, that it is not just mechanical. Nature has given you students certain qualities, skills, and talents. Only by understanding this will you be able to elevate yourself. Use your knowledge and skills to serve the society with a loving and compassionate attitude. Create a beautiful blend of science and spirituality in the service of mankind." Dr. Venkat Rangan, Vice-Chancellor, Amrita University, presented the university's annual report, while Dr. Prem Nair, Medical Director, Amrita University welcomed the gathering. Also present were Brahmachari Abhayamrita Chaitanya, Pro-Chancellor; Prof. C. Parameswaran, Director-Corporate & Industry Relations; Dr. K. Sankaran, Registrar; Dr. Sasangan Ramanathan, Dean-Engineering; and Dr. Shanti Nair, Dean-Research, Amrita University. Degrees were awarded to a total of 4,477 students, including 2,212 girls, at its 13th convocation. Ph.D degrees were bagged by 36 students who included 19 girls. In addition, 100 students across all the five university campuses received gold and silver medals for academic excellence.