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# 'Aspirations build civilizations'

## Narayana Murthy Exhorts Students At First Convocation Of IIT-Gandhinagar

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Hopes ran high and optimism was in the air as Indian Institute of Technology-Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) held its first convocation on Sunday at the campus of Vishwakarma Government Engineering College, Chandkheda, where the institute is functioning since 2008. The new campus for the institute is on anvil.



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Narayana Murthy, chairman emeritus of Infosys Technologies, was the chief guest who presided over the convocation of 86 students of chemical, electrical and mechanical engineering.

In his address, Murthy called the attention of the students that they were



Students celebrate after the convocation ceremony on Sunday

graduating at a time when India is the cynosure of all eyes. "The world expects India to be one of the leaders to solve global problems of politics and economics. India sits at the high table in most multilateral deliberations. What India says is heard with attention and seriousness," he said.

He exhorted the students to develop high aspirations in matters of public good and pointed out that aspirations build civilizations. He wished the IIT-Gn to become number one among all the IITs within a decade.

The graduating batch comprised of 20 students from Chemical Engineering, 41 from Electrical Engineering, and 25 from Mechanical Engineering.

Sudhir Jain, director of the institute, gave an overview of the journey from its inception and future plans. He hoped to get the new campus ready for the students in near future and stated that despite all odds, the institute has made name for itself in a very short span with research and development, collaboration with top universities and insti-

tutes in India and abroad and innovative activities for students.

"I am often asked, what is the biggest challenge in front of IIT-Gandhinagar, and my answer is always the same - how to convince different stake-holders that the institute has the potential to be a great university that the country and the world will look up to," he said. He also remembered R A Mashelkar, first director of the institute, on the occasion.

While the institute has a very less number of Gujarati students in the first batch, a few Gujaratis were happy to have an IIT at their doorstep.

"I was a bit skeptical about the institute when I was asked to give my preference after IIT-JEE in 2008. I gave Gandhinagar as one of the choices as given the fact that Vadodara is my hometown, the institute would be only two hours away from there. I had a great time in the IIT as being the first batch, we had a lot to contribute to the ongoing process, be it course or subjects or organizing events," said Amit Asher, an electronic engineering student.