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**NEP to turn India into knowledge superpower: Pokhriyal at IIT Bhubaneswar convocation**

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Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ said on Friday that the National Education Policy-2020 (NEP) will transform India into a “ knowledge superpower ” and a world leader in learning by relating the past to the future.

The NEP, unveiled by the Center amid the COVID-19 crisis in July, will pave the way for holistic and multidisciplinary education, Pokhriyal said at the 9th IIT Bhubaneswar convocation via video conference.

Academics from all over the world have already traveled to India to study at the learning headquarters in Nalanda and Takshila due to the excellence of the country’s education system, he said.

“Armed with the new education policy, India will once again emerge as a world leader in learning and a knowledge superpower, as it connects our past with the future. Our diversity and our ability to blend ancient and modern systems will take us to the top again, ”said the Minister.

Pokhriyal said the new policy will allow Indian students to grow and excel in all walks of life, and the country will emerge as a job provider and no longer stay looking for work.

The Minister also stressed the need to focus on the link between India’s talents and patents, as they will play an important role in the country’s economic development.

The National Research Fund and the National Technology Forum, which are being launched, will also bring about major changes in the research and development environment, which will become more inclusive, he said.

Welcoming the NEP as a comprehensive framework for elementary education to higher education as well as vocational training in rural and urban areas, he said he aims to showcase India's diversity in terms of regional languages with the advantage of offering primary education in the mother tongue.

Pokhriyal congratulated the graduate students of the institute and called on them to strive to cherish their dreams despite the challenges ahead.

Referring to Make in India, Digital India and Startup India, he said that these government campaigns aim to provide support to young and talented people to build a self-reliant and self-reliant India and achieve the " Atmanirbhar Bharat " mission.

The Minister also commended the authorities of IIT Bhubaneswar for the exceptional well-being, teaching excellence and research aura that the institute has created.

Pokhriyal inaugurated the Student Activity Center, Playgrounds and School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Management at IIT Bhubaneswar.

Speaking on this occasion, the Union Minister of State for Education, Sanjay Dhotre, praised the work done by the professors, students and researchers of the institute to innovate in different techniques in various fields. during the current pandemic.

Dr Rajendra Prasad Singh, chairman of the institute's board of governors, expressed confidence that his students will be the torchbearers in nation-building and paving the way for a modern and decisive India.

During the convocation, the institute awarded degrees to 446 students – 35 doctoral students, 141 MTech, 70 MSc and 200 BTech.

It was a live call made during the period of the mixed-mode pandemic, the first of its kind across the world, said IIT Bhubaneswar.

Graduate students participated in the program physically or virtually and the institute developed the mechanism in-house.

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