

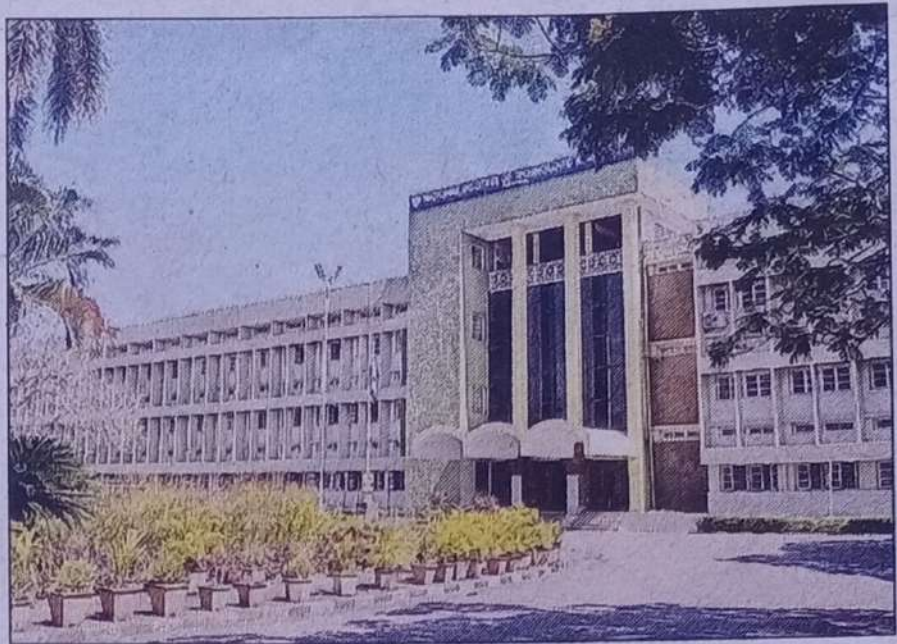
Graduates reflect on their hybrid edu journey at NITK

Kevin.Mendonsa
@timesofindia.com

Mangaluru: The 22nd annual convocation of NITK, Surathkal, held on Saturday witnessed numerous BTech students, who commenced their academic journey during the pandemic, graduating from the institution. They conveyed that whilst they spent approximately 1.5 years attending virtual classes without the physical presence on campus, their educational progress remained uninterrupted.

“When I joined the campus for the first time, it was silent, with frequent sightings of snakes around the place. I felt it was usual to see snakes here every day, only to learn that it was a side effect of the pandemic, as the campus was empty. However, the learning was never dull. The professors made sure that we received whatever was necessary and were available despite the threat of the virus. There were a lot of restrictions on the huge campus,” shared a mechanical engineering graduate, a resident of Bengaluru.

Priyanka Narayan, a graduate of the civil engineering department, said that when she first arrived at NITK, everything felt novel and intriguing. She was fascinated by all the aspects she had heard about and envisioned, particularly the beach, NCC, swimming pool, badminton court and the



PREMIERE INSTITUTE: National Institute of Technology, Surathkal

vast 300-acre verdant campus. Due to Covid-19, their initial 1.5 years consisted of online classes.

Although virtual learning progressed smoothly, she eagerly anticipated returning to physical classrooms. Eventually, the college resumed in-person operations, and they became the unique batch that experienced hybrid education. In the next 2.5 years, she made sure to thoroughly explore every corner of NITK and cherished her time on campus.

Another graduate, Azim Mohammed P, described his challenging experience during the transition to virtual learning. “Adapting to online was hard but eventually became comfortable,” he recalled while discussing how he navigated through the difficulties of online education.

2,078 received degree

During the annual convocation held on Saturday, the institution conferred academic credentials upon 2,078 students. The conferrals included 1,002 BTech degrees, 758 MTech and MTech (R) qualifications, and 179 degrees in various master’s programmes, including MBA, MCA, and MSc. Furthermore, 139 scholars earned their PhD degrees, whilst 195 students obtained BTech degrees with a minor, and five received BTech (honours) degrees. The institution recognised outstanding academic performance by awarding gold medals to 9 BTech students and 31 post-graduate students, with medals sponsored by various organisations for achieving the highest CGPA. The convocation ceremony was split into two sessions.