

# Direct interaction, innovative thinking necessary to survive in AI environment: IISc director

People have lost their ability to interact with other humans. This is going to have a social impact because people are becoming lonely, even though they are connected, says Govindan Rangarajan

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MANGALURU

**D**irector of Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Govindan Rangarajan on Saturday expressed the need for young graduates to cherish interaction with people and also be innovative to survive in the world of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Delivering the postgraduate convocation address at the 22nd convocation of National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal, Mr. Rangarajan said there were some positive impacts of AI, namely development of a robot in Liverpool which can do experiments in the chemistry laboratory at a much faster pace than a doctorate student. "Though in one way it is nice, in another way it can be seen as a threat to the chemistry PHD student," he said.

Similarly, AI will have a



A student receiving her certificate from IISc director Govindan Rangarajan during the postgraduate convocation of the National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Surathkal, on Saturday.

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huge impact on coding. Especially, the entry level coding will be wiped out as AI will do it at a much cheaper and better way than human beings. With AI, chips are being designed at an unimaginable speed and with number of formulations, which is difficult for humans to comprehend.

On the social side im-

impact of AI, Mr. Rangarajan said people have lost their ability to interact with other humans. This is going to have a social impact because people are becoming lonely, even though they are connected.

While asking young graduates to develop higher order skills, the IISc director said it is important to cherish human rela-

tions. "I think it's very important to connect with your family directly, not through WhatsApp, but by talking to them, so that you cherish that relationship. This is what will set us aside from AI," he said. He also urged youth to be creative and develop their thinking skills in order to survive in the world of AI.

Earlier, former Director General of Naval Systems and Materials, DRDO, Bhujanga Rao Vepakomma called upon graduates to be adaptable for success in life. Asking them to cultivate a growth mindset, Mr. Vepakomma said youth should have passion to continue learning. He also asked them to nurture the skill of collaboration and asked them to be socially responsible.

As many as 1,076 postgraduates and PHD students received certificates in the ceremony held at the institute between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

## We need to be one among equals in the space sector: Former ISRO chief

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Space Commission member and former ISRO chairman A.S. Kiran Kumar called upon young technocrats to put in their heart and sweat to make India one among equals in the world in the space sector.

In his address during the undergraduate convocation of the 22nd convocation of National Institute of Technology Karnataka at Surathkal here, Mr. Kumar said: "We need to be competent and we also need to be one among the equals in the world (in the space sector). And that can happen only when all of you put in your heart and sweat together and then work for our country. I am sure everyone of you will do what is expected of you," he said.

Space, he said, is being looked as the fourth frontier and today the world is moving beyond the frontiers of land, ocean and air. There is lot of work that needs to be done in the space domain, which is now a multi dollar economy. "If India can capture a significant portion of this pie then it is going to be a huge economic advan-



Students at the convocation at NITK, Surathkal, in Mangaluru on Saturday. H.S. MANJUNATH

tage." The Central government has already made significant changes in the space policy and is inviting Indian entrepreneurs, academia and others to participate in this space growth programme.

The former ISRO chief said with 27 being the average age of the countrymen, India has the advantage of the demographic divide to take country to numero uno position in the world. The young graduates should work further on the knowledge gained in the institution and use it to find solution to the problems faced by the country. "You should be looking at not only your own growth but also of the country," he told B.Tech students.

As many as 1,002 students received certificates for completing B.Tech and other bachelor degree programmes in the undergraduate convocation ceremony held in the afternoon. Among these graduates N.A. Shreesh, R. Sudhanva, Vikash Keshavamurthy Bhat, S. Varun, Bhimaraddy B. Yarabandi, Swetha Mary Thomas, Varun Tiwari, Satvik R. Kashyap, and Sampathkumar Tarun received gold medals.

Postgraduates Kommineni Surya, Sagarika V. Shambhoni, Sindam Snikitha, S.S. Sujay, K. Navaneetha, N.G. Kala, S. Shafiq Ahmed, Yadav Pranit Prakash, K.R. Srikrishna Setty, and Jennifer James received gold medals.