

## **Prime Minister attends XLII Annual Convocation**

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2010

University graduation ceremonies have a special place in the life of graduates. These ceremonies mark the end of an enriching journey that leaves an indelible imprint on the minds of young students. Convocation ceremonies of premier institutes like IITs are big affairs, since eminent people from different walks of life are usually invited to be a part of these celebrations.

IIT Kanpur held its 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convocation on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2010 with the Honorable Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh as the chief guest of the program. This was the first time that a Prime Minister attended a convocation ceremony at IIT Kanpur. The Institute honored him with a doctoral degree in Science. Dr. Singh is the fifth person to receive an honorary degree from the Institute. Former President Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam and former Prime Minister Mr. Morarji Desai are some other eminent personalities who have been awarded with honorary degrees by the Institute.

The convocation ceremony was held in the afternoon in the campus auditorium. Several meritorious students received their awards from the Prime Minister. These students were Nerella Tejaswi Venu Madhav (President's Gold Medal), Paraj Titum (Director's Gold Medal), Aditya Verma (Ratan Swarup Memorial Prize 2010), Pankaj Akula (Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma's medal) and Somesh Chandrakant Joshi (National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council [NMCC] Gold Medal). The audience included the dignitaries, faculty members and the parents of the meritorious students. The others could view the ceremony on the large screens that were put up near the venue of the function. It was also broadcast live on IIT Kanpur's Community Radio at 90.4 MHz.

In his address the Prime Minister lauded the contributions made by the Institute in research and development. He emphasised that all IITs should collaborate more with each other in research and also with the corporate sector to come up with cost effective solutions for their socially relevant projects. The Institute used this opportunity to launch some of its major projects. The Solar Energy Research Experimental Station project and the Ganga Basin Project were inaugurated by the Prime Minister himself. The solar plant set up by the Institute is expected to generate 850 kW of electricity for the neighbouring villages like Nankari, Nara Mau, Baikunthpur, etc.

The Prime Minister's visit was just an hour-long event. But the convocation ceremony

and the celebrations continued throughout the day. 1195 students were awarded degrees this year, including 131 PhD degrees.