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Graduation Day

CASH IN PLACE OF MEDAL DISAPPOINTS RANKERS; GOVERNOR TELLS VARSITY OFFICIALS TO 'NOT PLAY POLITICS'

We want medals not money, say toppers

Express News Service
Bangalore, April 30

BANGALORE University toppers were a disappointed lot on Friday after the annual convocation of their university.

The cash prize given away by the university to its toppers instead of medals did not hold as much charm for them.

Smitha H N, who got seven 'gold medals' in M Sc Physics said she did not expect seven medals. She said she was aware she had secured the first rank, but was disappointed at not getting the medals.

"I secured one medal in BSc, but they did not give me one. If not a gold medal, at least gold-plated medals could have been given," she said, adding that the certificates issued by the university for winning medals was also of low quality.

"The university could have at least given some respect to the medals," she said.

Harish N S, who secured seven medals in Bachelor of Engineering, was excited.

"I am happy to have won seven medals, but disappointed at not getting even one in hand," he said.

Priyanka J from Sri Bhagawan Mahaveer Jain College also secured seven medals. She is pursuing CA and said that medals were forever.

"Cash can be spent in a minute, but medals can be kept forever. I am disappointed," she said.

Jagadishbabu N, who secured eight medals in MSc Chemistry, said the university had issued certificates that looked like ordinary certificates.

"Getting gold medals in front of a huge audience is a special moment. I was disappointed," he said.

Amrutha Venkatesh, who won nine medals in BSc, is from MES College. She said she will enroll for MSc in Mathematics at Madhurai Kamaraj University through correspondence course.

"The government could have given more funds so that gold medalists could be rewarded with medals," she said.

TIME CONFUSION

Amrutha said they were not intimidated about the time.

The intimation said the convocation will start at 2 pm. Later, they set it for 11 am. "I came to know when I read today's newspaper at 9 am. I had to rush for the venue," she said.

Deepa B N from MES College, who won six medals in BA, could not make it to the venue.

"She was also not aware of the new timings. She missed it," Amrutha said.

Cash can be spent in a minute, but medals can be kept forever. I am dissappointed. - Priyanka J
I am happy to have won seven medals, but dissappointed at not getting even one in hand. - Harish N S
If not a gold medal, at least gold-plated medals could have been given. - Smitha H N



NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Students of the Bangalore University show their degrees on the occasion of the university's 45th annual convocation in Bangalore on Tuesday

'DON'T TREAT UNIVERSITIES LIKE POLITICAL AKHAADA'

Bangalore: Governor H R Bharadwaj on Friday warned university officials in the state against playing politics on campus.

Speaking at the sidelines of Bangalore University's annual convocation on Friday, the governor said one should not treat universities as political akhaada.

There is a need for internal harmony. He said the universities were not meant to play politics, but to impart knowledge.

"I am investigating every state university in Karnataka and its drawbacks. I have discussed the same with the government," he

said. "I will not tolerate any indiscipline inside universities."

On not conferring any honorary doctorate this time during the BU convocation, Bharadwaj said he had not received any list of honorary doctorates approved by university.

"So, there is no question of me rejecting any name. After the syndicate approves the list of honorary doctorates, I can only endorse, unless the person's name is controversial," he said.

A press release by BU after its syndicate meeting said they had sent a few names for honorary doctorates to the governor for approval.

'SCIENTISTS NEED TO TAKE UP TEACHING'

Express News Service
Bangalore, April 30

THE present concerns on the state of science education are best addressed if scientists begin to fulfil their responsibilities as teachers, said Prof P Balaram, director, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) at the 45th annual convocation of Bangalore University (BU) on Friday.

He said there are a large number of national laboratories in India which do research, but do not take up teaching. Similarly, a large number of colleges and universities include considerable teaching but little research. The IITs, however, make an attempt to promote undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in an environment encouraging research. "In many ways, research can be addictive and an early introduction to research may be a device that makes science more attractive," he added.