

Kakodkar seeks more emphasis on research

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Pune: It is imperative to link rural and urban areas via education and more emphasis must be laid on research, said Anil Kakodkar, former chairman of Indian Atomic Energy Commission, at the 109th convocation ceremony at the Savitribai Phule Pune Univeristy (SPPU) on Tuesday.

The convocation was held in a decentralized manner for the first time with postgraduate and other degrees been given at the function while the undergraduate degrees distributed at the respective colleges.

In his convocation address, Kakodkar said two-third of the country's population still lives in the villages. "A Cillage (city in a village) can be such a knowledge centre within a rural domain with modern research and living facilities to attract capable researchers. Such a Cillage could be a standalone rural university, a rural campus of an existing university or a higher education institution in a rural area," he said.

Kakodkar said, "It is important that our research is driven by problems rather than just pursuing what can be done or what is fashionable. Handling important problems would need a multidisciplinary approach, involving a large number of researchers or teams working together. In either case, there should be the translation of new research findings into new technology products." tnn

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