



# In a first in region, students of IIM-Vizag awarded MBA degrees instead of diplomas

A Quarter Of The Awardees Are Women

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**Visakhapatnam:** The Indian Institute of Management-Visakhapatnam (IIM-V), for the first time, awarded MBA degrees to its outgoing students instead of post-graduate diplomas in business management, thanks to the IIM Act of 2017 which came into force from January 31 this year.

The Act declared the IIMs as institutes of national importance (INI) for the purpose of conferring degree-granting powers and to provide complete autonomy to the institutions. A total of 45 students of the 2016-18 batch graduated at an elegant and grand convocation ceremony on Thursday in the presence of who's who of the state, and the students' their parents and relatives. While 43 students collected their degrees in person, two students were awarded their degrees in absentia.

Hari S Bhartia, chairperson of the board of governors, IIM-V, said 2018 will remain a special year for the IIMs as the new Act came into force this year. "The Act empowers the IIMs to attain global standards. The outgoing students were offered MBA degrees due to the same," said Bhartia.

He added that the permanent campus of IIM-V at Gambheeram would be a future-proof and best-in-class campus. "The selection of an architect is underway. We want to move to the state-of-the-art campus in less than three years. Its ambience and aesthetics would be of global standards while also maintaining the heritage and culture of the region," said Bhartia.



**MOMENT OF PRIDE:** Chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu presents medals and mementos to the toppers of 2016-18 batch of IIM-V in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

## IIM-V should be among top 2 in the country: CM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Visakhapatnam:** It is time when students can leverage information technology for their betterment as well as society, said chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu. He was the chief guest at the second convocation of Indian Institute of Management-Visakhapatnam on Thursday.

Congratulating the students, Naidu said, "Our success depends on the way we use opportunities for our benefit. IIM-V is a coveted higher educational institution for aspiring

management students across the country. The institute has made rapid strides in its three years' journey. I ask the IIM-V authorities to ensure the institute finds its place among the top two IIMs in the country," said Naidu. Naidu said that they want to make Visakhapatnam a one-stop destination for education, tourism, information technology and logistics. "We are witnessing the fourth industrial revolution. I strongly believe in knowledge and want to make Andhra Pradesh a knowledge hub.

He spoke about the transformation in management education in the country. "The current scenario calls for a new set of skills beyond the functional areas, perhaps beyond the inter-disciplinary areas. We can no longer be satisfied with domain-specific knowledge," he added.

Elaborating on the progress and achievements of

IIM-V in the last one year, the institute's director Prof M Chandrasekhar touched upon the IIM Act. "The Act stresses upon realisation of inclusive development goals at the national and regional level with a focus on social and gender equity. On this occasion, we are proud say that 25 per cent of our students receiving their degrees today are women," he said.