**DA-IICT Celebrates 18th Convocation with Global Social Entrepreneur Professor Brij Kothari as Chief Guest**

The Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology (DA-IICT) marked a significant milestone today with its 18th Convocation ceremony, held at the picturesque campus in Gandhinagar. The distinguished Chief Guest for the evening was Professor Brij Kothari, a renowned social entrepreneur globally acclaimed for his frugal innovation, 'Same Language Subtitling (SLS),' aimed at enhancing mass literacy.

**Ambassador T. S. Tirumurti, a respected member of the DA-IICT Board, presided over the ceremony,** joined by other board members, Professor Tathagata Bandyopadhyay (Director, DA-IICT), Deans, faculty members, staff, students, alumni, and esteemed guests.

The event commenced with a captivating procession led by Professor Tathagata Bandyopadhyay, accompanied by dignitaries, faculty members, and graduating students from nine programs, donned in Convocation regalia. The Open-Air Theatre resonated with cheers and applause as the procession entered, setting the tone for the momentous occasion.

After the invocation by a group of students, Ambassador T. S. Tirumurti declared open the 18th Convocation. Professor Tathagata Bandyopadhyay welcomed the gathering and presented the institute's report for the academic year 2023-24, highlighting the remarkable achievements of faculty, students, and alumni. He also shared insights into DA-IICT's progress, emphasizing its role in shaping future leaders and contributing to technological advancements.

The convocation address by Professor Brij Kothari centered on 'Education, Serendipity, and Purpose,' with a focus on his transformative initiative, SLS, and its impact on mass literacy. Addressing the graduating class, Professor Kothari urged them to create innovations that transcend personal boundaries, leaving a positive impact on humanity. He emphasized the intersection of education and values, predicting that their time at DA-IICT would profoundly shape their lives.

The evening included the presentation of the President’s Gold Medal to academic toppers from each program, recognizing their outstanding achievements. **A total of 610 students from nine Programs were conferred degrees, and 13 students received awards for exceptional contributions to research. List of students who receive gold medal**

| **Student Name** | **Program** |
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| RATHOD SIDDHARTH VANRAJSINH | B Tech (ICT) |
| KEDAR BHAVYA HASMUKHLAL | B Tech (Honours) ICT with minor CS |
| VINAY SHETH | M Tech (ICT) |
| SRI SAI ADITYA PUSULURI | M Tech (CS&ML) |
| VIVEK JAYESH DOSHI | M Sc (IT) |
| LAKHANI DHAIRYA PURSHOTTAM | M Sc (DS) |
| RAVAL RUSHI DEVENDRABHAI | M Des (CD) |

As the Convocation ceremony concluded, the jubilant graduates celebrated with families and friends, capturing moments of joy and promise for the future. The Class of 2024 adds 610 new members to the DA-IICT alumni network, now a robust community of 7500 professionals from diverse sectors worldwide.

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