

IIT date with Kalam that will never happen

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Bhubaneswar: IIT Bhubaneswar (IITBBS) will miss APJ Abdul Kalam during its forthcoming convocation in September.

The institute had contacted him to grace the event. "Though the date was not finalized, Kalam had expressed willingness when our chairman (S K Roongta) approached him," institute director RV Rajakumar said.

Rajakumar said Kalam along with some Nobel laureates were expected to attend the event. "We were working out a date suitable for him," the director said.

"Kalam's passion to ignite the young minds and bring the best in them is unparalleled. That is why we were looking forward to his presence at the convocation, where he would have interacted with our students on the new cam-



pus," Rajakumar said.

The state government postponed the inauguration of sound and

light show at Dhauli here scheduled for Tuesday in view of the former President's death. Chief minister Naveen Patnaik was to inaugurate it, said deputy director, tourism, Utpal Pati.

Governor S C Jamir, the chief minister, several politicians and educationists across the state expressed grief over his demise.

Both Jamir and Naveen described Kalam's death as a "profound" loss for the country. "Kalam was a visionary and an immensely popular President," Naveen said.

Oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan, in a statement, said Kalam will continue to inspire generations. "Undoubtedly, we lost one of the great-

est sons of India," he said.

"Very sad to hear Farewell, people's President, you made us proud to be Indian. R.I.P.," industrialist and MP Baijayant Panda tweeted.

Stating that Kalam enthused and instilled scientific temper among Indian youth, leader of opposition Narasingha Mishra described him as an embodiment of peace, brotherhood and fraternity. State BJP president K V Singhdeo, senior Congress leader Niranjan Patnaik, among several others, mourned his death.

Utkal University vice-chancellor Ashok Das said the humility and simplicity of the missile man, one of the greatest Indians, would be remembered forever.

KIIT and KISS founder Achutya Samant recalled how Kalam had visited KIIT and KISS four times, including once when he was the President.