

## FLASHY MALLYA COMES DOWN TO EARTH AT EDI CONVOCATION

### Liquor baron's advice to passouts: Be enterprising, fly high on confidence

#### AHMEDABAD MIRROR BUREAU

Liquor baron Vijay Mallya, famous for his flashy and flamboyant lifestyle, became a “boy next door” at the 11th convocation of Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI) on Friday. Mingling with passouts before the formal function on the institute's campus, he went back to his youth.

Though sporting flashy accessories perhaps worth billions — rings on two right hand fingers and one on a left hand finger, a wristlet on right hand and a costly watch on left, he interacted with the passouts becoming one of them. He told them to be high on confidence and be enterprising.

#### ALL FOR STUDENTS

SPORTING WHITE robes he led the graduates' brigade to the venue of the convocation. When mediapersons enquired barging into the procession if Bangalore Royal Challengers will lift IPL or what would be the fate of his F1 team Force India, he just had a smile to offer. “Let this be an event of students. Please let it be a procession of faculty members,” he politely said.

After IDBI chairman and EDI president Yogesh Agarwal awarded diploma to 74 passouts, the convocation turned into a Mallya show. He gave away medals to a few passouts for extraordinary performance and walked up to the podium to address the gathering.

“Being young, being in charge was a sure shot ticket to failure in 80s. I was not considered impressive at all. I was written off by the media because I was young. But I have bounced back. I have learnt a lot in the process. I am happy to be standing in front of such young people today — I am seeing the future of India,” he started.

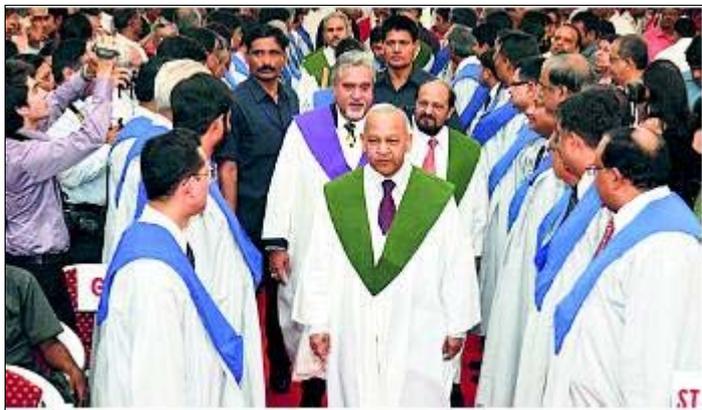
#### SMALL IS BIG

LAYING STRESS on promoting small scale industries, Mallya termed it the spinal cord of India's prosperity and growth. “Entrepreneurship will take India a long way,” he said. “Education is important, but it is not the only ticket to success. Several leading companies like Apple were started by college dropouts. I think they all succeeded because they had the spirit of entrepreneurship. Opportunities lie in abundance,” he said.

#### BE CONFIDENT

INSPIRING THE students, Mallya said: “Have self-confidence. The country's future is in your hands; and also that of those underprivileged. To the NGO management students I would say that they can contribute a lot to the development of the nation by setting up NGOs.”

Wishing students of both Postgraduate Diploma in Management-Business Entrepreneurship and Postgraduate Diploma in Management of NGOs, Mallya, the Kingfisher Airline and UB Group boss, left for Delhi. EDI Director Dinesh Awasthi also addressed students.



Mallya awarded medals to passouts for extraordinary performance