

# Modi praise for VSSUT's young 'rocket scientists'

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**Bhubaneswar:** It was a moment under the sun for around 50 students of the Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT), Burla, who earned praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for their role in sending research rockets to space during the January 24 KalamSat launch. Modi, during Sunday's Mann Ki Baat radio programme, highlighted the work done by these young achievers. "On January 24, KalamSat fashioned by our students had been launched. The Sounding Rockets made by Odisha university students have also created many records," Modi said.

Sounding Rockets, also known as research rockets, carry scientific instruments into space. There are some regions in space which are too low for satellites to carry out research and these rockets are used for such work in low altitude. Its scientific payload can be positioned for a period ranging five to 20 minutes in space.

Idea Club, a group of students from different departments of VSSUT, worked on the rocket along with the launching vehicle. The university claimed it is India's first indigenously built multi-purpose rocket developed and launched by a student club.



A tableau with a rocket on display at the Republic Day parade in Bhubaneswar on Saturday

Atal Chaudhuri, vice-chancellor of VSSUT, said credit for this goes to the students of the university.

"Though the Prime Minister has not taken our university's name, but it is a clear indication of our work," Chaudhuri said.

He added that a team of Indian Space Research Organi-

sation (ISRO) scientists had visited the university on December 19 and showed interest to set up an incubation centre here. "We are so happy that ISRO has taken interest in our students' work. Even the state government has helped us a lot in this endeavour," he said.

Harish Kumar Sahoo, an associate professor and vice-chairman of Technical Societies of the university, said some students had been working on building a small rocket in their hostel room some four years back. "They took it to the next level with the help of the university's alumni. Later, the university also helped them. Now around 50 students are part of the club and working on this project," Sahoo said.

Apurwa Masook, a member of Idea Club, said he and 10 other members of the club had attended a two-month summer internship and project work at ISRO's Space Applications Centre in Ahmedabad, and learnt many things regarding the rocket's make and launch.