Take stand against graft, Premji tells students

CHENNAI: Wipro founder Azim Premji has urged young Indians to pledge to uphold integrity and take a stand against corruption by making personal starts. He also said that the very system of corruption we fight could be used to clear the malaise.

“Corruption is wise enough to make exception where its returns do not outweigh the results,” said Premji.
“I urge you to take advantage of this nature of corruption in your fight against it. Refuse to pay bribes or lobby and corrupt officials will eventually give in,” said Premji, at the convocation of the Great Lakes Institute of Management.

“You see, when you stand your ground against corruption, the one who asks for a bribe, it becomes worthless for him or her to persist.”

Premji also appealed to the students to maintain social ideals. “Values and ideals are crucial to India as a nation today more than at any time in our past. And this can be done only by the youth of this country,” he said.

Minister of State for Human Resource Development (Higher Education), D Purandeswari, urged students to consciously work towards closing the widening gap between urban and rural Indias.

“Education can be an important leveller in the creation of an egalitarian society. Only that can take us closer to justifying the growing role for India at the global level,” she told the students.

She also built a strong case for innovation in all fields. “Right now we have islands of excellence and development in a sea of underdevelopment. We need to devote lot more emphasis on the creation of leaders at all levels,” she said. Both Premji and Purandeswari appealed to the management graduates to not be bothered about their personal growth and earning alone.

“There must be a sense of responsibility towards society. Even phenomenal personal growth will not amount to much if the country’s growth remains uneven. You must consciously and personally take every step to ensure equality,” said Premji.