

Speech of His Excellency the Governor of Jharkhand and Chancellor of the Universities of Jharkhand Dr. Syed Ahmed on the occasion of XXII Convocation of B.I.T., Mesra, Ranchi.

Shri R. Gopalakrishnan, Executive Director, Tata Sons Ltd. and the Chief Guest of today's function, Dr. Ajay Chakrabarty, Vice Chancellor of the Institute, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen and my dear students.

I would like to congratulate all of you who are graduating today. After the years that you have spent here - for learning, and for experiencing intellectual discovery, it is plain hard work that you have put into to have arrived at this juncture. While this Degree that you have earned signifies a goal fulfilled, it would be worth to realize that this is but one in the long string of goals that one places for one's lifetime. I wish you all success in achieving all your worthy goals.

I would also like to congratulate the parents, the teachers, the mentors and all those, who, in their own way, have contributed to leading you towards this auspicious Day. BIT truly represents the best that the Indian Technical Education System has to offer.

Education is indeed the key to prosperity, to personal achievement and to societal well-being. However, education need not be seen in the narrow context of acquiring knowledge or skills alone, but in making one a more complete and worthier human being. In today's world that is so full of strife, it would be good to recall the words of the great humanist, Helen Keller, "The highest result of education is tolerance". True education makes us more understanding, compassionate and generous. In the words of H.G. Wells, the author of "The Time Machine" and a man who foresaw the future, "Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe". To my young graduating

friends, I would like to remind them that only one stage of your education has been concluded. The other stages remain to be achieved. Keep learning and try to give back to the society more than what you have received.

The State of Jharkhand is blessed with several institutes of national importance and the students of these Institutions are proving to be valuable resources in their respective work areas. One can say that the State has as much wealth in terms of human resources as it has in terms of nature's bounty. In such a scenario, the possibilities for economic and social growth of this State are truly unlimited. Young graduates from Engineering Institutes or from the field of Business Management should surely be motivated enough to initiate their own enterprises, thereby creating employment opportunities for others to move forward. There is immense potential for industrial growth in this region. The wonderful climatic conditions, simple and hard working people,

improving infrastructure and readily available technical and managerial manpower shall indeed ensure that.

The Graduates of BIT are contributing towards the growth of several enterprises, both within and beyond the national boundaries. It is truly said that the only thing that is constant is change. In the domain of engineering and technology, the pace of change is truly phenomenal. For all the Degree recipients, as well as to the present students of BIT, my advice would be NOT to resist change, but to embrace it. Go out expecting change and creating change. Commit yourself to life-long education, constantly upgrading your skills and broadening your knowledge base into other fields. Organizations worldwide are looking for versatile people, who can cope readily with new changes; who can work in teams and who can collaborate. The new generation is seen to move into new areas every five years or less, which places a premium on learning new skills.

So my sincere advice is - Challenge your intellect; Keep learning; Embrace change; Be innovative; and always look forward towards creating the future of the society. Remember that your challenge is to make the world a better place to live in. I am sure, with your resourcefulness and enterprise you shall make all the right decisions.

My best wishes go with you. The coming years are full of challenges, but they also promise to be stimulating and gratifying.

Good Luck.