

Speech of His Excellency the Governor of Jharkhand Shri M.O.H. Farook on the occasion of 4th Convocation of National Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur on 22nd February, 2011.

Shri B. Muthuraman, Chairman, Board of Governors, Guest of honour Prof. R. Natrajan, other distinguished members of the Board of Governors, Prof. Rajnish Shrivastava, Director of the Institute, Members of Senate, Members of the faculty, graduating students and their proud parents, all members of the institute family, ladies and gentlemen.

It is for me a privilege to address you all on the momentous occasion of the 4th convocation of NIT, Jamshedpur. I accept this singular honour with humility.

Convocation is an important event in the lives of students as it is from here onwards that most students launch into the working phase of their lives, a journey full of challenges, surprises and excitements. The time spent in Universities & Institutes, is that precious time when young minds get myriads of opportunities to train themselves, acquire knowledge and become assets for the country.

Convocation is also an important milestone in the life of an institution. It gives the Institute family an opportunity to reflect from where they started, where they are today and where they aspire to be tomorrow.

I am happy to learn that this Institute has completed fifty years of its long journey towards excellence. I understand that it is now galloping on a new path, full of hopes and challenges.

I offer my heartiest congratulations to the students who are receiving their degrees today. I am confident that the knowledge, skills and attitude imbibed by each one of you during your stay at this institute will give you strength to face the world of work.

I also congratulate the parents of the graduating students; without their sacrifices and support, successful completion of studies by these young men and women, would not have been possible.

Traditionally, the address at the convocation is the last piece of advice to graduates. I recognize that this is an awesome responsibility and I propose to discharge it by offering some thoughts on “your role as Youth in making India of your dreams”.

We are a country of large and diverse population and what was once considered a liability is now turning out to be an important strength described as the demographic dividend. Increase in literacy rate and an increased opportunity of learning skills and techniques to all has opened new vistas of growth through knowledge power. Demographic composition of our population wherein 520 million is between 12 & 35 years provides an edge over other countries having population in higher age group. This energy of youth makes our country vibrant and ready to adjust with the demands of change globally.

It reminds me of what Swami Vivekananda had said and I quote “Give me 100 energetic young men and I shall transform India”, such is the

power of youth. It is the age when the flowers of intellectual curiosity, creativity and discovery bloom. This Indian talent has created great waves across the shores of India. The dominant position of Indian Diaspora in the global industry is legendary.

Our culture has had an almost unbroken continuity for the last 5,000 years. In the course of that eventful journey, much has been assimilated from outside, but in a synergetic way, without overwhelming the indigenous. Indian society has seen peaks of refinement, innovation and ingenuity that have few parallels anywhere else.

The talented pool of young and dynamic Indians is emerging as knowledge powerhouse. Japan became economic powerhouse because it excelled in technological innovations. Jack Welch, the CEO of GE said 'India is a developing country but it is a developed country as far as intellectual capital is concerned. We get the best intellectual capital per dollar here thanks to the amazing quality of Indian talent'.

India has to be a leader in innovation which gives a nation an ability to convert knowledge into wealth. The purpose of innovation is to create new value for all; individuals, organizations and societies. Innovation process chain in our case, must account for traditional knowledge and wisdom.

It is now recognized that India is a land of ideas. We should encourage the natural Indian innovative resilience to a new level where the output is not merely the result of ingenious improvisation but of original thinking that creates enduring excellence matching global standards. In a global world the Indian youth has a greater chance of success as he/she hails from a multi cultural, multi lingual society. Their rich cultural

heritage can be a great asset, a source of inspiration to them if they are given sufficient exposure to it. India's long and eventful history exemplifies the resilience of the spirit of the nation.

Given this background, youth must get involved in every facet of the nation building process as their innovative ideas, energetic enthusiasm and neutral background, will deepen and enrich both democracy & development in our country.

The professional qualification alone may not take you too far; one is required to be good team worker with helping attitude, compassion and sense of fairness, sincerity, dedication and honesty. I am tempted to again quote Swami Vivekananda here; "Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man".

Choosing the right career path is one of the most defining decisions you can make in life & while doing so you have to get clear about what it is that gives you fulfilment in life, what fascinates you, or what you are passionate about. Also you have to work on acquiring transferable skills, that is, personal skills and qualities that you can transfer to each occupation you enter. Take time to introspect. Analyze your thoughts, feeling, needs, wants and see if you are matched up to these.

I conclude by saying that the road ahead is long but the journey promises to be exciting. Have a positive attitude. You will find that a commitment to excellence, to justice and fair play, to hard work and team spirit will stand you in good stead.

I wish you well.

Jai Hind