

**SPEECH OF HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR –CUM-
CHANCELLOR OF UNIVERSITIES OF JHARKHAND ON THE
OCCASION OF 20TH CONVOCATION OF BIT MESRA ON
23RD MARCH, 2010 .**

Shri Salman Khurshid, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Corporate Affairs & Minority Affairs, the Chief Guest of today's function, Members of the General Council and Board of Governors, Dr. P K Barhai, Vice Chancellor of the Institute, distinguished guests, Ladies & Gentlemen and My Dear Students.

At the very outset, I convey my heartiest congratulations to the young men and women on the successful completion of your academic programmes in Engineering, Technology, Architecture, Pharmaceutical Sciences and Management. The years of toil and labour in pursuit of intellectual excellence has brought you today to the gateway of all your future dreams & achievements.

I also congratulate all the Parents, all the faculty members, staff members and other employees of the Institute, who are directly or indirectly involved in this process. Graduating students must always remember that Parents, Teachers, other guides and mentors have a critical contribution towards their achievement.

This Institute founded by the Industrialist-Philanthropist Late B M Birla in the year 1955 has, on one hand, has been fulfilling the national vision of investment in development of nation's technical capabilities and, on other hand, serving as the social ladder for students from all backgrounds. The academic edifice that had

been created at Mesra has found its replicas in several other extended arms of the Institute.

The vision and mission of the founder was successfully carried out by his successor Late G P Birla who continued nurturing the Institute with the deep sense of devotion for the past 4 decades till his death on 5th of this month. As a tribute to this great visionary, the Institute should ensure that the pace of development and constant innovation continues with increased strength and pace.

An Institution like BIT, has to constantly view, review and rework its developmental strategies, range and goals in the light of the changing market needs. The challenges of today are different as compared to that half a century ago. The challenge today is to transform India into an economically developed and technologically advanced nation by 2020. The effort should be to imbibe the best practices across the globe, increase industry linkages and make learning more meaningful to produce enlightened graduates. Excellence is never a safe harbour; it's an unremitting endeavour, borne out of deep passion, increasing capabilities and self-trust.

My dear young graduates, I call on you to seek inspiration from the leaders in the domain of science and technology across the world. Passing out of the hallowed precincts of an Institute with a rich legacy like BIT, Mesra, imposes on you a larger responsibility, that of living up to the higher expectations that the society has from you. There are advances taking place in various fields of science, engineering and technology that hold out tremendous promise for the development of our country. You need to pursue your career plans actively while also having the larger objective of

addressing the problem that humankind faces today. As young technocrats you have to work out innovative ways whereby the issues can be addressed through the use of technology.

The developed world is just limping out of recession. India, as one of the fastest growing economies is expected to be on an even faster trajectory and you shall indeed be the ones who would be driving the new agenda for global growth. Today the whole world is looking for the young, energetic and superior quality engineers and other professionals from India.

My dear young graduates, with the training and the knowledge that you have obtained here you are entering a new and challenging phase of your life. Some of you may opt for higher studies while some of you may take up profession of your choice.

While the profession that you choose may offer you unlimited opportunities to show your talents and skills acquired by you during your stay in the institute, you will also be competing with many others from different colleges and universities. To excel in your chosen profession or career it is essential that you constantly strive for acquiring more knowledge as well as update and equip yourselves with the latest in the field apart from developing your soft skills and being a good human being.

I would like to close my address with the immortal words spoken by Sir Isaac Newton. . . .

"I don't know what I may appear to the world; but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore, and

diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me."

Sir Isaac Newton died in 1727. He was one of the foremost thinkers and scholars of his day with an influence that spans the intervening centuries. What is interesting in his choice of words is the delight they reveal in his attitude to learning and to the unknown – his "*great ocean of truth*". In this regard, not much has changed since Newton spoke those words. For all that we have discovered, for all that we have explained, there are still endless opportunities for individuals to explore, contribute and understand.

I wish you success in all your future endeavours. Make full use of your potential.

Thank you.