



**ADDRESS
OF
LT GENERAL NIRBHAY SHARMA,
PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (RETD),
HON'BLE GOVERNOR,
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ON THE OCCASION OF
FIRST CONVOCATION
OF
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY,
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
AT
YUPIA
ON
21ST NOVEMBER 2014**

At the very outset, I deem it my proud privilege to participate in the first convocation of National Institute of Technology, Arunachal Pradesh, which is being graced by the President of India. It is a moment of great pride and joy for this institute and the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

Hon'ble President, your benign presence here means a lot to the people of Arunachal Pradesh, and of course is a boost to the scientific community of the State. We look forward to your continued patronage to land of the Rising Sun and its people.

Let me begin by congratulating the students who have completed their education from this institution and stand at the threshold of a new innings in life. This day is meant to recognize your efforts, your hard work, and your achievements. You must all be looking forward to a successful working career ahead.

Convocation is a very important day in the life of a student or a learner. The occasion indicates that you have improved your capability and imbibed the values and skills needed to deal with the world outside.

Today you are transiting into a new life where you would be engaged in your chosen professions or in the pursuit of further academic work. It is perhaps time to contemplate the opportunities now opening before you and the aspirations that you have nurtured all these years. We have high expectations from you, not only as professionals, but also as intelligent and wise voices in the community. I have no doubt that you will be exemplary in whatever you choose to do and indeed successful in meeting the challenges that await you.

I am impressed and happy that 90% of the graduates of this batch have already got placement. 20 (Twenty) students have qualified in Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE), while 3 (Three) students are Graduate Record Examination (GRE) qualified.

I also felicitate learned teachers who have laid the strongest foundations for these students. I am sure that you all will be ever revered by your brilliant students. As American Historian Henry B Adams said, I quote, 'A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.' Unquote.

Now I would like to share some of my personal views with the esteemed faculty members. Well, you will agree that one of the biggest challenges we face is creating human resource qualified to meet the needs of today's dynamic world. The crying need of the day is to harness the youth dividend, which we possess in abundance. You have the responsibility to be part of this endeavour by shaping the pupil of this Institute. They have all that it takes to be amongst the best.

Today in India, around 40% engineering graduates are either jobless or employed in underpaid jobs. There is a need to produce engineers, who will create jobs rather than running after jobs. We must make our students ready for avenues for not only employment, but also entrepreneurship development by making our research and design of courses relevant to the present and future requirements. So far, we have basically progressed in the IT sector. The entrepreneurship in other Service Sectors and Manufacturing Sectors will make us a power to reckon with and has to be our main focus. I am happy that in this institute, it is compulsory to attend industrial training. The decision by the NIT to introduce MTech programme on Appropriate Technology and Entrepreneurship Practice is also a step in the right direction.

The delivery of higher education in our institutes cannot be allowed to continue in a routine fashion any longer. The administrators and academicians must introduce innovative changes in the institutions. The challenges have to be addressed expeditiously. At the same time, you have to maintain congenial environment for academic excellence of this institution. Always remember that the institute owes its existence for academic excellence of the student community. Academic excellence and good administration including welfare of students is the prime focus and should be kept foremost in mind.

One of the youngest amongst the 30 (Thirty) NITs in the country, this institute may lack experience and not be able to do many different things, but is young enough to be innovative to do things differently, so to say. It has already taken quite a few firm initiatives. For example, to make itself noise and pollution free, it has installed systems for conservation of energy and waste disposal. Installation of captive solar power plant of 100 KW serving all purposes of energy requirement, which is reported to be first of its kind in entire North East region, reflects its strive towards 'Greenovations'. The plan has been sanctioned to make permanent campus at Jote, 44 km from this place, fully solar powered and earthquake sustainable, which will have water disposal inbuilt with possible bio-gas plant and water recycling plant. Such creativity is expected from this institute for further disbursement to the society as well.

Knowledge and innovation strengthen progress and prosperity. As you all know, whole of north eastern region is on a path of rapid development. We need to prepare our human resource keeping in view the future requirement of our region and the country. With an estimated capacity of 55,000 MW of hydel power, Arunachal Pradesh in particular will become the power house of the Nation in next decade or so. A number of infrastructural projects are also lined up. These are big projects and would require pool of adequately trained technically qualified resource personnel in the next ten years. The aspects of ecology and organic farming also need due attention. NIT and such like institutions have to also apply their scientific temperament to take their innovations in these areas from labs to the field for practical application. Relevant studies in these fields must be pursued vigorously. I envisage this institute to become the efficient consultant in rapid progress and development of the region. The State Government too has a stake in it and has to play an active role in supporting these initiatives.

Standing on four pillars, i.e. Education, Research, Service to society and ethics, National Institute of Technology, Arunachal Pradesh has made remarkable strides in just four years. I compliment you all, particularly, your dynamic Director and members of Faculty for providing leadership in technological innovation. The steps taken by this institute to establish itself as a centre for excellence are indeed very impressive. Remember, the mandate for you is to be innovative. I am confident that NIT Arunachal Pradesh will make the transition towards being known not only for their quality graduates, but as new knowledge creators and technology developers in the manner of the great research universities around the world. International and trans-national cross fertilisation of talent is also necessary and exchange programme of faculty and students must be encouraged.

In the overall context, higher education sector has witnessed a tremendous increase in the number of Universities/ University level Institutions and Colleges. The number of Universities in India has increased 34 times from 20 in 1950 to 677 in 2014. My State boasted of 3 Primary Schools and 30 Students in 1947. Now it has 10 Universities, 22 Colleges and nearly 4000 Schools. It is a phenomenal progress and we have to be proud of it. But quantity has to be complimented by quality, an aspect, which the Hon'ble President of India has emphatically pointed out on many occasions. Ladies and gentlemen, the challenge before us is the pursuit of excellence. In this regard, the spurt of growth of private institutes/universities in India around 1990s has resulted in creating certain imbalances in the technical education. In many cases, it is essentially driven by a policy of low investment and high return clubbed with profit-only motive. It is a cause of concern and must be corrected.

Let me now conclude by expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble President of India for gracing this very special occasion. Hon'ble President, under your able guidance as the Visitor, this National Institute of Technology hopes to touch new height of excellence in every field.

Once again I wish the graduates a bright and rewarding future. May the Almighty bless you all with success and fulfilment of your cherished ambitions.

My dear students, let me leave you with the famous words of Swami Vivekananda. He said and I quote, 'Arise! Awake! And stop not till the goal is reached!' Unquote. For you remember, even sky is not the limit. God speed and good luck.

Thank you very much.

Jai Hind.