



**National Institute of Technology
Tiruchirappalli - 620 015**

CONVOCATION 2026

CHIEF GUEST'S ADDRESS



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Member, NITI Aayog**

**22nd Convocation Address
of
NIT, Tiruchirappalli**

By

**Prof. Abhay Karandikar
Member, NITI Aayog**

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Professor Aghila, Director of National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli, Members of the Governing Board, Senate Members, Faculty, Staff, Alumni, Distinguished Guests, and above all, my dear graduating students and their proud parents.

Let me begin by first congratulating all the graduating students who are about to receive their degrees. Heartiest congratulations to all of you and your proud parents. This is a moment of celebration not only for you and for your parents but also for the teachers, mentors, and the institute who have supported you in this remarkable journey. The graduation ceremony is not merely a formality. It is a celebration of dreams realized and a launching pad for future endeavours. Each of you has worked tirelessly to reach this juncture, overcoming challenges, seizing opportunities, and pushing beyond your limits. Today is a testament to your resilience and commitment, and I am indeed thrilled to share this proud moment with you.

The journey you have undertaken here has undoubtedly equipped you with the knowledge, skill sets, and, most importantly, the confidence to thrive in a world now increasingly becoming complex, and today we come together to recognize and celebrate the determination and dedication that have brought you to this junction.

NIT Tiruchirappalli has earned a place among the finest technical institutions in the country, and as was brought out by the Director in her annual report, the institute has done remarkably well in the NIRF ranking as well as getting its place in the QS World Ranking. At a time when India is placing unprecedented importance on research, innovation, and technology-led development initiatives, institutions such as NIT Tiruchirappalli have a vital role to play in nurturing talents, advancing the frontiers of technology, and developing solutions that help society and strengthen the nation.

What makes this institute truly distinctive is that over the years it has built a strong culture of research, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The institute has established several Centers of Excellence and has created a dynamic ecosystem that encourages students and researchers to translate research into impactful technologies and development. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Director and the entire faculty for their tireless efforts in improving the institute's entire ecosystem.

As you receive your degrees today, remember that you also become the ambassadors of this great institution. The values you uphold, the integrity with which you work, the innovations you create, and the impact you make on society will define not only your own journey but will also strengthen the legacy of your alma mater. The reputation of an institution grows with the achievements of its graduates, and I am confident that each one of you will carry forward the proud legacy of NIT Tiruchirappalli with distinction.

Dear students, you are graduating at an extraordinary time. Throughout history, each generation has witnessed technological change, but the pace and scale of transformation that is happening recently is redefining the way in which we work and live. The Artificial Intelligence progress in the last three years and quantum

technologies are all opening new possibilities in redefining the future. Semiconductor technologies are becoming the backbone of modern economies. Advances in biotechnology are transforming not only healthcare and medicine but also agriculture. Space technologies are expanding our scientific and commercial frontiers, while clean energy and advanced manufacturing are reshaping industries across the world. These technologies are not just evolving in isolation; they are converging to create new opportunities, new industries, and new ways of solving some of humanity's most pressing challenges.

The encouraging news is that India is not just participating in this technological transformation but indeed we are helping to shape it. Whether it is Digital Public Infrastructure or affordable digital services, whether it is space technology or renewable energy, whether it is biotechnology and bio-manufacturing, or whether it is one of the world's fastest-growing startup ecosystems, we have demonstrated that India can develop world-class solutions and deliver them at an unprecedented scale. Today the world increasingly looks towards India not just as a large market, but as a trusted innovation partner, a source of talent, and a nation capable of addressing global challenges through science, technology, and innovation.

As India advances on its remarkable journey, we have set for ourselves an ambitious national aspiration: the vision of a *Viksit Bharat* by 2047. This vision is not simply about becoming a large developed economy; it is about building a nation that is prosperous, technologically advanced, environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive, globally competitive, and committed to improving the quality of life of every citizen. Achieving this vision will require bold ideas, scientific excellence, technological leadership, and above all, the energy, enthusiasm, and inspiration of young people like you graduates.

As you step out of this campus today, carry with you the confidence that your education has prepared you well, but also the humility to continue learning throughout your life. The future belongs to those who remain curious, embrace change, and are willing to continuously reinvent themselves. I have no doubt that the education you have received at this institute has equipped you with a strong foundation to succeed in a rapidly changing world. More importantly, I hope that it has inspired you to use your knowledge not just to build your successful careers but to build a strong nation and a better future for humanity.

The journey towards a *Viksit Bharat* is not the responsibility of the government alone. It is a national mission that calls for the participation of every citizen, every institution, and every young mind. As graduates of one of India's premier technical institutions, you have been privileged to study and gain knowledge that a large number of our young population have not been able to access. You have a special role to play in the journey of making our country a strong nation. Your education has equipped you not only with the knowledge and skills but with the ability to solve the problems that face society and the nation. The India of 2047 will be shaped not just by the government or the institutions but by the ideas you pursue, the innovations you create, the values you

uphold, and the lives you touch. This is both the privilege and the responsibility that comes with the degree that you are going to receive today.

Friends, India's greatest strength lies in its young people. With one of the world's youngest populations, we have an extraordinary demographic advantage. But this advantage becomes meaningful only when young minds are educated, skilled, innovative, and committed to creating value for society. As you begin your professional journey, strive for excellence in your chosen field, but also ask yourself: How will my work improve the lives of others? How will my knowledge contribute to society? These questions distinguish successful professionals from transformational leaders. India needs not just job seekers but also job creators, innovators, researchers, and entrepreneurs who can develop solutions for the nation's challenges and contribute to global progress.

One of the enduring values of our civilization is the *Sevabhav*- the spirit of selfless service. Whatever profession you choose, let service remain at the core of your work. A scientist developing affordable healthcare technologies, an engineer designing resilient infrastructure, an entrepreneur creating employment opportunities, and a teacher shaping future generations all embody the *sevabhav*. Technology achieves its highest purpose when it improves lives. Innovation becomes truly meaningful when it benefits society. Let your knowledge always be guided by compassion, purpose, and a commitment to the greater good. Your education at NIT Trichy has prepared you not just to excel in your own personal careers but to contribute to a greater good. If you carry the spirit of service with you, your impact will go far beyond industries and institutions; you will transform communities, society, strengthen the nation, and inspire humanity.

You are graduating at a time when technology such as AI is transforming every sector of the economy. While AI will change the way we work, it cannot replace the qualities of human intelligence that are curiosity, creativity, critical thinking, ethical judgment, and compassion. In fact, the AI era makes strong engineering fundamentals even more important. Every breakthrough in AI rests on a strong foundation in science, mathematics, and engineering. So, embrace AI, learn AI, and innovate with AI, but never neglect the core science and engineering disciplines. The future belongs to those engineers and scientists who combine deep domain knowledge with the power of intelligent technologies.

No nation has achieved technological leadership without investing in research. Recognizing this, the Government of India has recently initiated many transformative initiatives like the Anusandhan National Research Foundation, the one lakh crore Research, Development, and Innovation Fund. These initiatives aim to accelerate cutting-edge technology development and foster deeper collaborations between academia, industry, startups, and government. I encourage you to consider research, innovation, and entrepreneurship as an exciting career path. Whatever your interest lies in, whether quantum, semiconductors, biotechnology, space, advanced

manufacturing, clean energy, materials science, etc., the opportunities before you are immense. Innovation is not measured just by commercial success; its true value lies in improving lives, protecting the environment, strengthening communities, and contributing to national development.

I urge all of you, my dear graduates, to embrace innovation, compassion, and dedication to make a lasting impact on our nation's wellbeing. Strive to be role models and committed allies of your alma mater. Work tirelessly to give back to the society, your family, and the nation that has raised and drove you to this junction. It is my wish that the spirit of collaboration that exists across many areas will continue to inspire forward movement and make a substantial contribution to future generations.

May this auspicious juncture mark the inception of a splendid new chapter in the annals of your lives. Your stories are just beginning, and I have full confidence that you will unfold stories of progress, innovation, and ingenuity. Swami Vivekananda's timeless words continue to inspire generations of young Indians: "Take up one idea, make that one idea your life. Think of it, dream of it, live on that idea." Whatever path you choose, pursue it with conviction, perseverance, and excellence. Dream boldly, work with dedication, and never lose faith in your ability to make a positive difference to society.

Once again, I congratulate each one of you for this significant achievement. I wish you success in your careers, fulfilment in your life, and the wisdom to use your knowledge for the benefit of society. May your achievements bring pride to your family, honour to your alma mater, and contribute meaningfully to the progress of our nation.

Heartiest Congratulations once again. My best wishes to all of you. Jai Hind.

