

# 14<sup>TH</sup> CONVOCATION

Date : 28<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
Time : 10.30 am  
Venue : Golden Jubilee Convention Hall

**CHIEF GUEST ADDRESS**

**Prof. Anil D Sahasrabudhe**  
**Chairman, AICTE**



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**  
**TIRUCHIRAPPALLI**

## **14<sup>th</sup> Convocation Address @ NIT Tiruchirappalli: 28<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

**Prof. Anil Sahasrabudhe**

Professor Mini Shaji Thomas, Director, NIT Tiruchirappalli, eminent members of the Board of Governors, and Senate, Deans, Registrar, distinguished faculty members, guests, persons from the media and most important of all – graduating students and their parents,

It's a great pleasure and honor to be amongst you on the momentous occasion of 14<sup>th</sup> convocation of National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli. I am thankful to the Director and administration of NIT Tiruchirappalli for inviting me on this coveted occasion. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the dynamic leadership of Prof. Mini Shaji Thomas, ably supported by the Board members, faculty, students and support staff which has made this institution to get ranked first amongst all NITs and 11<sup>th</sup> top technical institute in India this year.

Tiruchirappalli and the surrounding region is known for several historical places like rock fort temple, Ranganathaswamy temple, Jambukeshwar temple and several other ancient temples dating back to 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, St. Joseph's Church, remnants from empires of Cholas, Pallavas and Pandyas, Kallanai dam, world's oldest known dam on the river Cauvery, Agaya Gangai waterfalls to mention a few.

Is also a place around which there are several key industries like BHEL, the ordnance factory, heavy alloy penetrator project, Trichy distilleries and chemicals, huge number of MSMEs in the area of materials and manufacturing, textile, leather and food.

It is in the fitness of things that a temple of learning, Regional Engineering College was established in Tiruchirappalli by the Government of India in 1964. After getting the status of a NIT after 4 decades of existence in 2003, it has grown in stature year after year in the last 15 years. It is certainly a journey of hard work and dedication of faculty, staff and students. Throughout its existence, the institute has distinguished itself in high quality education ranked amongst the top NITs and catered to the needs of the industry and society.

Recent awards from CII-AICTE for best industry institute interaction, research publications, patents filed, innovative approach to solving social problems, engagement with rural India under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan shows the commitment of the institute.

My dear young graduates,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate all those receiving their degrees and medals on this momentous occasion, from this great engineering institution. Today marks an important day in your lives and a significant milestone in your life's journey. Entering into this institution facing intense competition, you pursued your academic work with great dedication. By your hard work and by dedication to maintain high standards, you earned your degrees and awards. It is a moment of pride and celebration for you as much as it is for your teachers, parents and all those who had contributed in shaping your life so far.

Now you are entering into a new phase of life. Some of you may pursue higher studies, do your Masters and PhD and become a faculty or a researcher, some may write UPSC examination and aspire to be a civil servant, some may take up a job in an industry and some others may choose the path of startup and entrepreneurship. No matter, where you go, few things will not change. Your parents, their love and affection, your teachers who will look forward to your achievements and feel proud of you, your friends who were your companions in hostel, classes, sports and debates, music and drama, late night canteen discussions. However, life outside is not as easy and cozy as it was in your academic environment. Hence, be prepared to face challenges, convert each challenge into an opportunity, bank on your parents, teachers and friends in times of difficulty. Keep in contact with all of them, its much easier today, thanks to the technology through emails, whatsapp, facebook, linkedin etc.. Few learnings from the campus such as effective communication, team work, time management, discipline, ethical practice, professionalism, among others which were nurtured and transformed your personality while in the institute will go a long way to provide you succor in dealing with challenges.

A few important initiatives which institutes need to undertake to excel include:

1. Industry linkages: Setting up an industry institute interaction cell, an industrial advisory committee for each department to help in curriculum revision, evolving vision, mission, goals and creating a road map for the department, internship, sabbaticals, adjunct faculty, setting up of labs with industry support, soft skills training, scholarships for deserving students, engaging in consultancy etc.

2. Research and innovation: Providing impetus to research and innovation in educational eco-system and carrying out interdisciplinary industry relevant projects. Institutes can explore various avenues available including experiential learning for students, participation in Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, conducting Research Academies and Innovation workshops.

3. Establishing national and international networks: MOUs with IITs, international universities for faculty and student exchange. Inviting faculty from abroad for a semester to offer state of the art courses.

4. Enhanced involvement of alumni: Alumni can be roped in to give back in different forms, connect with present students, special lectures, courses, adjunct faculty, donations, scholarships, mentoring etc.

5. Making institute facilities available to students round the clock. Institutes cannot function like a Govt office from 10 am to 5 pm. Make students responsible for safety of equipment, and have faith in them.

6. Establish as many clubs and student activities such as sports, music, dance, drama, painting, photography, aeromodelling, automotive, astronomy, history, philosophy etc. so that there is an activity of interest for every student. This will help in all rounded development and create interest in other academic pursuits as well. It is in this context that AICTE's student induction program is vital to create strong communication and bondage between students and faculty.

I am confident that NIT Tiruchirappalli has been constantly engaged in such activities which has made it successful.

The technology is changing rapidly. What is taught in colleges becomes irrelevant by the time one graduates. The interdependence of one discipline of engineering with the other is more relevant today than at any other time. Hence interdisciplinary research is gaining importance. There is a space for even biology in engineering curriculum. It is often said that students are to be prepared for solving problems which are not even known today using technologies yet to be invented. Hence strong foundations in basic sciences and engineering become important. Another aspect which all of you should remember is life long learning. Learning never stops. Today, through MOOCs and internet, knowledge is available on your laptops and mobile devices. You must be aware of an indigenous MOOCs platform SWAYAM developed by AICTE with the support from MHRD. There are more than 1500 courses from the best faculty in India in all domains and these are available free of cost. Make best use of this revolution. Never ever stop learning. Keep yourself up-to-date with the latest in the field. Few more digital initiatives of the government include national digital library, national academic depository, e-shodh Sindhu, digital transactions, global initiative of academic networks, HEFA funding, each of these initiatives have been supporting the cause of empowerment of all citizens. Make best use of each of these solutions throughout your life.

For engineering education to evolve we need to devise a strategy for enhancing quality. Most importantly we need to build strong and world-class graduate schools in engineering leading to research, masters and PhDs. I am pleased to know that NIT Tiruchirappalli has been focusing on research work and has several programs running in the institute, providing incentives to students and faculty for research work. We also need to concentrate on the faculty development programs. They need to be trained right from the time of their induction and during their service.

My dear students, you are among a few fortunate persons who have had access to an educational experience at this renowned institution. This

experience will reward you throughout your life. Knowledge is the supreme power. But mere accumulation of basic knowledge is of limited practical use, unless it is translated into innovations, providing economic or social value. It is transfer of knowledge for economic growth that has revolutionized this world.

Engineering education leaves a permanent impression on one's life. The learning curve of an engineer keeps on rising, keeping him/her interested in getting things done and making things work. The life of an engineer is that of a student with an undying zeal to learn and improve the things around him. I am sure that each one of you has different dreams and undoubtedly, you should never give up on your dreams and aspirations. From the bottom of my heart, I wish each one of you success in your future endeavors.

Everyone has all the capabilities to move forward, but not everyone strives to achieve ones' goals with passion and commitment. And your task is to find your own path that will lead you to the life that you want. To succeed, the first thing you need is to be in good health and a full capacity to work. If your body and spirit is in harmony and perfect condition, you will be able to go after your dreams while having fun; you will have enough stamina for action in this world. Hard work is one of the basic pre-requisites of success. There is no substitute to hard work. It alone can take one to the pinnacle of success. Don't ever attempt at short cuts and unethical means to achieve success. Such success would be temporary and lead to disaster. Every success has a ratio of five per cent inspiration and ninety-five per cent perspiration. It is the patience, persistence and perseverance, leading to perfection, which plays a decisive role in success. Sometimes, we come across failures in our lives. Failures are the pillars of success. One should not worry too much because of failures, but learn lessons from the failures and not repeat the actions that led to the failures. How else did Thomas Alva Edison could invent an electric bulb with hundreds of failures before succeeding.

Here I would like to quote a phrase by Swami Vivekanand:

“Take up one idea. Make that one idea, your life – think of it, dream of it, live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, and every part of your body, be

full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success”

If you are prepared to think big and act in time with conviction, you will be rewarded. You should hold on to your goals even if you stumble here and there, and learn your lessons.

One of the hurdles which often work as a speed breaker is our mental block-to think and consider higher targets and goals to be impossible. Our beloved former Honourable President Dr. A. P. J. Kalam said I quote “All technological advancements we have today are the outcome of scientific exploration of scientists of earlier centuries. At no time, man was beaten by problems. He strives continuously to subjugate impossibility and then succeeds”

All of you here today have a long journey ahead. The years and decades to come will offer you incredible opportunities to reshape the world in which you will live, whether as the head of an establishment or a group or a team or as an individual, who helps make things happen. You have a great opportunity and responsibility. Whether Make in India, Digital India, Smart Cities or Unnat Bharat Abhiyan engineers have a role to play. *Leaders are not just the people in charge; they are the ones, who step forward to make a difference.*

The young men and women graduating today are privileged to be part of this historic journey of India to emerge as a world power. The youth will be shaping the future of India. I urge upon you to be the catalyst for change and I am confident that each one of you has the capability to contribute towards the country’s growth. I once again congratulate all of you and wish you all the best and remind you that the India story has to be well scripted by you.

Thank you.

Jai Hind.