

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BENGALURU  
CONVOCATION – 2017

Hon'ble Chief Minister's Speech

05-07-2017 / 1-30 P M / J. N. Tata Auditorium,  
Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru

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Shri Pranab Mukherjee Ji,  
Hon'ble President of India

Shri Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala Ji,  
Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka,

Shri Anurag Kumar,  
Director,  
Indian Institute of Science

Distinguished Invitees,

Faculty Members and Students of the  
Indian Institute of Science,

Media Friends,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is my pleasure and privilege to be a part of this Convocation and I would like to use this opportunity to talk about a couple of things that are dear to my heart.
2. The first has to do with teaching and teachers. One of the biggest challenges that our education system is facing today is the paucity of good teachers !
3. But, we must first ask: Who is a good teacher ? Is he or she the one who passes on every conceivable bit of information and ideas to the students ?

4. Surely not, for then there would be no difference between a teacher and a computer !
5. A good teacher is one who realizes the enormous responsibility of shaping the lives of students, and not merely intellectually. The teacher is one who will help his or her students learn how to think and also shape their belief system.
6. After all, beliefs lead to action. Only this can bring about a radical change in society that we so badly need.
7. But, being a good teacher is not easy. Students, being impressionable, need to be nurtured with care and affection, and a good teacher is one who has enormous patience, courage and integrity.
8. Teaching, I believe, is a most important profession, but it does not attract the kind of respect it deserves.
9. My plea to the Institute and the academic community is to think of ways to make the student-teacher relationship more meaningful and more sacred in these times.
10. And also find ways of making the profession more attractive to ensure that we do not lose good teachers to other professions. This is surely a challenge worthy of serious thought and reflection.

11. I would now like to say a few words to the students who are graduating today. You have spent the last few years in this temple of knowledge, learning complex concepts and skills in science and engineering, and have come out with flying colours.
12. I wish to congratulate you on this remarkable achievement. You should be proud of yourselves.
13. But, today is also the day when you make your way into the real world. And as you do, I request you to take a pledge: *whatever you do in life, in your own small way, I urge you to work towards making the world a better place.*
14. We confront many challenges today – both global and local: poverty, climate change, disease, to name a few.
15. It is up to you, my young friends, to be soldiers on the frontlines of these battles. These are battles that we cannot afford to lose.
16. I believe that the tools of science will be crucial as we combat these threats. However, science alone cannot address these problems.
17. You will need to be more than just scientists and engineers. You will also need to be humanitarians. So how do you become one ?

18. As you step out of the hallowed walls of this Institute and embark on the journey of life, you will have to make several decisions.
19. You will find yourself on a road that will fork, time and again. And when it does, choose wisely.
20. Choose the path paved with values, values like compassion and co-operation. Choose the path of humanity. You will soon discover that this path will not be an easy one to tread on because, as Robert Frost reminded us, this is the road less travelled.
21. But if you do chart this course, I assure you that your life will have become richer and more meaningful, and the world, a better place.

Thank you one and all !  
Jai Hind ! Jai Karnataka !

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