

तेरहवाँ दीक्षांत समारोह

गुरुवार, 11 दिसम्बर 2025

13th CONVOCATION

Thursday, 11 December 2025

Convocation Address 2025

by



Dr. Anil Kakodkar

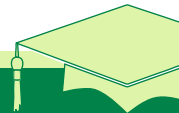
Chancellor, Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI)
Chairman, Rajeev Gandhi Science & Technology Commission
Former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission



पंडित द्वारका प्रसाद मिश्र भारतीय सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी,
अभिकल्पन एवं विनिर्माण संस्थान, जबलपुर

**PDPM Indian Institute of Information Technology,
Design and Manufacturing, Jabalpur**

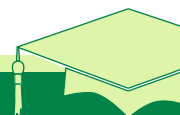
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Shri Deepak Ghaisas, Chairman, Board of Governors, Pandit Dwarka Prasad Mishra (PDPM) Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design, and Manufacturing, Jabalpur, Prof. Bhartendu K. Singh, Director of the institute, Members of Board of Governors, Members of Senate, Members of other academic and governance bodies of the institute, Deans, Heads of Departments, faculty, staff, dear students, their parents present here, distinguished invitees, ladies and gentlemen.

I am happy to be here to participate in this 13th Convocation of Pandit Dwarka Prasad Mishra (PDPM) Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design, and Manufacturing, Jabalpur. Let me at the outset, congratulate the graduating students, and teachers for their commitment to academic endeavours and successful outcomes. Dear students, as you go out of this auditorium today, you will join the global community of a wide variety of practicing professionals, entrepreneurs, and members of the broader work force of the country. In the contemporary knowledge

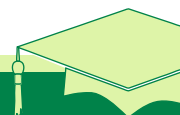


era there is no dearth of progressively higher and higher opportunities for the competent and knowledgeable people who keep themselves updated through lifelong learning. I extend my best wishes to you all for a successful career ahead. May all your dreams get fully realised.

I must emphasize that the excitement and happiness of taking the next steps in your lives also comes with responsibility and commitment. You are all graduating at a time of unprecedented global challenges that also bring with them unprecedented opportunities. Some of the challenges like the climate change threat, degradation of the environment and ecology around us, much accelerated pace of change primarily driven by rapidly evolving technology, and growing human disconnect and intolerance, are some of the very disturbing trends and appear to threaten our very existence. Amid all this, the humanity is forging ahead leveraging new technologies to fulfil human needs and aspirations as well as to further our attempts to make this world, hopefully, a better place. There are thus plenty of opportunities for each one of us to shape a better tomorrow. I do hope that based on your learning and training here, you would be in a better position to leverage the opportunities and address the important challenges in front of the humanity. My best wishes to you all in these endeavours.

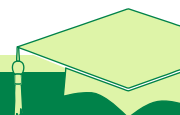
I wish to use this occasion to highlight a few points that I consider important as we define our path ahead:

The first one is the need to realise high excellence in whatever we do. In fact, the most leading countries of the world are what they are, because, they bring out and deploy new disruptive



technologies and solutions and impact the world well ahead of others. To be among the world leaders, in India too we should attain such capabilities. They enable first mover advantage in the global market place and a differentiating dominance enabling the global leadership status. The second one is the ability to recognise our key challenges in all their dimensions and be capable of addressing them with an autonomous mind set. In absence of such a capability, one gets carried away with foreign vendor driven propositions which primarily serve their own interests and often have hidden vulnerabilities. The third one is the minimisation of disparities in the society. As the economy grows, the wealth tends to concentrate near the top of socio-economic pyramid. One needs to realise a more equitable income across various levels. Luckily the modern knowledge era technologies do facilitate decentralisation and democratisation. More particularly, we need to bridge urban rural gaps by knowledge empowered entrepreneurship among the rural youth across all the three segments of economy e.g. agriculture, manufacturing, and services. In principle, in the new knowledge era, rural domain holds higher potential for wealth creation than urban domain, provided rural youth is equally empowered through education and training as compared to urban youth. Bridging the urban-rural gap would not only boost economy of the country but also greatly minimise disparities.

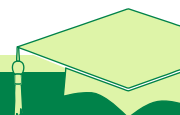
Our higher education, more particularly the higher technical education ecosystem, duly enriched with our time tested human values is the key to realise the three goals mentioned above. We must be able to shape our young colleagues to excel in these three verticals. Besides, there becoming good human beings, with critical thinking abilities, strong bonds with our roots, imbibing humane



values through sustained practices etc. is equally, if not more, important. In today's world, we must nurture a mind-set of creativity and contribution rather than just a transactional mind-set. This way one can hope to leverage the opportunities of the contemporary knowledge era to empower everyone without exploitation of anyone as Gandhiji often desired.

To prepare young people who can sustain and move forward in a rapidly changing society, it is necessary to create an environment in each educational institution that is devoted to leveraging science and technology for solving important problems before the society. Rarely, such problems can be resolved single-handedly or through a one-dimensional approach. Identifying significant problems and finding solutions to them requires people with knowledge and skills from various fields to come and work together. Educational institutions should enable students to experience such solution-oriented group working. Such mode of work should become a habit for them. That, I think will enable them to stay focused on important objectives and not drift with so many distractions that are around today.

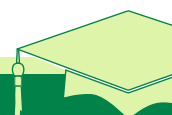
Higher education should facilitate students to recognise 'their calling' and support their capacity building in their chosen path. The higher education institutions and other stakeholders should create a conducive environment for ideation and innovation to enable shaping of our youth as job creators rather than job seekers. While the individual competencies are polished, the students should be sensitised to work towards the betterment of humanity and be mindful of the ecological and sustainability concerns.



Knowledge Institutions, while enriching their own ecosystem for the purpose, also need to develop an active and conducive network with civil society around and other stakeholder institutions to exploit the opportunities for empowered development of youth and promote development and growth in the neighbourhood. I have been promoting the concept of 'Cillage,' wherein the knowledge institutions work in tandem with the local community and institutions that can bring in complimentary capabilities such as new and relevant technologies, training and skilling, finance, and marketing, etc. to bring in new opportunities for livelihood in the cluster of villages in the vicinity. The recipe for all-inclusive learning is to interweave knowledge with socially useful productive work. This can be achieved by research in domains involving socially relevant problems. I know that some of our knowledge institutions have moved forward on a new paradigm of Design Your Own Degree (DYOD) framework to be in tune with inbuilt project-based learning pertaining to the needs of areas around. In this context, 'Cillage' constitutes an innovation ecosystem of relevance to rural development leveraging the new age opportunities.

Dear students, these are some thoughts on how our excellence oriented higher education system and young people like you who are the products of such a system, could become an engine of propelling India to global leadership level while ensuring best possible quality of life in the country with minimum disparities. Clearly, students have a key role to play in these processes.

I once again wish all of you well in your respective further pursuits. I am certain, you would rise progressively in your



respective careers. Your alma mater has equipped you with a value system and knowledge in your field of study. Inculcation of right values is critical to realising one's 'life purpose' and making advantageous use of acquired skills and knowledge for national development. As ambassadors of Pandit Dwarka Prasad Mishra (PDPM) Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design, and Manufacturing, Jabalpur, may you contribute substantially to your families, the institutions that brought you up, the society around and the nation at large. The act of such giving back can significantly contribute to valuable inputs and positive synergy in the progress forward. The desire to support others who may not be as fortunate or as successful as us, is the key to make this world a better place.

Once again, my best wishes to you all.

Thank you.

