Hon’ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Anantapur (JNTUA), Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan; Hon’ble HRD Minister and Special Guest of Honour Sri Ganta Srinivasa Rao, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. S. Srinivas Kumar; Prof. D. Subba Rao Rector; Prof S. Krishnaiah, Registrar; Members of the Executive Council, Directors, Faculty members, invited dignitaries, all my dear students who are being rewarded for their dedicated efforts, staff of the University, ladies and gentlemen, **It is a matter of great privilege and honour to be here amongst you and to be given this opportunity to address the gathering on the occasion of the 9th convocation of the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Anantapur.**

I am extremely happy to stand before you here, today, to receive this prestigious honour from a University that stands out in academic excellence, vision and mission. It is a matter of great joy in being a part of this esteemed University which is committed in providing high quality technical education and thereby producing highly qualified and skilled professionals who are an asset to the nation. Over the years, JNTUA, through its variety of UG and PG courses, has proved that it lives up to expectations by training promising professionals who have upheld its name and fame. JNTUA continues to be a tagline to thousands who pass-out every year. **I am delighted to be part of JNTU Anantapur.**

I share this happiness with all those who are graduating today where years of sincere dedication to academics is getting fructified.

I was a student of this college during 1955-59, the 4th batch of graduating students. Those days were glorious days when we were proud to be the engineering students of one of the 6 or 7 great engineering institutions of the whole of south India. We had wonderful education from highly devoted teachers. All the students and staff were staying in the campus as one united family. It is difficult to describe how nice, homely, and enjoyable, the social and the student life was in those days.

After graduation with First class honours from this Institution, I was very fortunate to join the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore for my master’s program and to continue there for more than 45 years in different capacities. My basic training in Civil Engineering at this Institute was responsible for my future Academic life.

I am indeed privileged to be invited as the Chief Guest for this ninth graduation day.

**Let me offer my heartfelt Congratulations and Best Wishes to all the successful graduates of the year.**

It is indeed very heartening to learn about the steady progress made by JNTU Anantapur since its inception in August, 2008 and it has already made its mark in the Rayalaseema region to which I belong to. The University is making its mark through quality of its academic programs, innovative schemes to assure quality education to the students, career development of faculty members and through its campus placement programs is enabling career opportunities in reputed organizations across the globe for its students.

I am also glad to note that a large number of colleges affiliated to JNTUA are offering undergraduate and post-graduate courses in most branches of engineering and pharmacy. It is also important that you are pursuing various types of research programmes which forms the backbone of development in Science and Technology, your commitment towards academic excellence is also highly commendable.

The University is seen working dedicatedly towards the vision of producing quality technical graduates, competent teachers, scientists and leaders in the academics, research, industry arena under the guidance and dynamic leadership of Prof. S. Srinivas Kumar.

Dear students! You are all at a very interesting point in your life and a **significant milestone in your life’s journey**. After spending your time within the confines of a protected environment of school and college, you will now be exposed to the realities of the world. Life outside the walls of a college or university is very different. How well you perform in this real world depends on many aspects. It depends on your ability to use the knowledge you have acquired, the skills you have learnt and the ability to adapt to a work environment as it would be necessary to survive in the real world. You are stepping out into a world which is on the threshold of seeing INDIA play a very significant and pivotal role in the world.

Entering into this institution facing intense competition, you pursued your academic work with great dedication. It is a moment of pride for you as much as it is for your teachers, parents and those who had any part in shaping your life so far. Your mission for learning began here with great passion, but it will not end here. Learning is a continuous process and it is not just getting a degree. **Ultimate proof of learning is in the application of our knowledge for the upliftment and betterment of society.**

I would like to briefly share a few words about what I have learnt from my own experiences in over six decades of active adult life and experience, summarised in 25 points.

* Identify your interests whether academics, teaching, research, business management, IT, own start-up etc., and work towards that. If you work on your interests and what you are passionate about, you will be more successful.
* Identify your strengths and weaknesses and plan accordingly. Nobody is perfect.

There is an old saying **“God grant me the courage to change the things I can, the strength to handle and face what I cannot, and wisdom to know the difference”.**

* Be consistent, regular, systematic and organised. This is more important than being brilliant. Always remember the story of the hare and the tortoise.
* Work towards being at least in the top 20% of your field of choice. You will then be always sought after regardless of economic variations.
* While having good knowledge about related fields, be very thorough in your own area of expertise and specialisation. Like the old saying -A jack of all trades is often master of none.
* Technology today is changing very fast. You must adapt quickly, learn fast and stay nimble on your feet. Be prepared to learn new skills all the time, otherwise you will stagnate.
* The future belongs to thinkers and innovators. Routine jobs will be taken over by smart machines. Learn to think out of the box.
* Don’t waste time worrying about past or future. Learn from past mistakes you or others have committed. Wasting time worrying about future is also no use. Work steadily in the present. That will automatically take care of your future.
* Learn to work with others. In future you will be with some organisation or the other. Team work is more useful for the organisation than individual brilliance.
* Learn to cooperate, adjust and be respectful and considerate of others, both seniors and your juniors and be willing to learn from others also. This will go a long way in your own success.
* Like all concerned parents, I would like to say, stay away from bad habits and bad company it is easy to cultivate bad habits, difficult to cultivate good habits.
* Vice versa, it is easy to lose good habits but very difficult to lose bad habits. Be very careful in this regard. Ultimately if you are not cautious, you will be the biggest loser.
* Have gratitude for your parents, teachers, friends, relatives, educational institutions and society, whosoever have helped you. Having gratitude will always help you in the long run in unexpected ways.
* Give back to society. Once you have stabilised in your career, give back at least 5% of your income to carefully identified good causes. Participate in some volunteer work.
* Do not abuse your society, culture, community or nation in public or private, whatever the shortcomings. Every society has its shortcomings. Try to help the society you grew up in, whenever you can, regardless of where you live in future.
* Maintain high ethical and moral standards in your life, even if you think many others are going the other way. This will benefit you in the long run.
* Always follow the law and be a good citizen. Stay away from corruption and do not endorse, encourage or participate in it.
* While being good in your subject, make sure you are not a frog in the well. Have good general knowledge and be aware of the world around you.
* Cultivate 1 or 2 good hobbies or interests apart from work. Time spent with family is also important, balance it with work life. Too many interests are also not good, it may affect your main career goals.
* Plan your finances carefully. Save and invest regularly and avoid wasteful expenditure. Take medical insurance for self and family including your parents.
* Take care of your health. Exercise daily for 30 min. Follow the principle of early to bed and early to rise. Do not over eat. Good healthy habits will keep you fit and active.
* The planet is facing an environmental crisis due to global warming. Do your bit to help. Try to pursue a career that is environmentally friendly, or at least keep your carbon footprint to the minimum by avoiding excessive consumption and wastage.
* The Upanishads, the Bhagvad Gita, and our ancient teaching of Yoga and Meditation constitute the primary source of ancient Indian wisdom and is our strength. Learn and practise this teaching.
* **Successes do not happen all of a sudden. It comes through months and years of hard work and perseverance**.
* Last but not the least, if you believe in a **Higher Power** at work, take some time to pray or meditate. This will help to face any challenge, life throws at you.

**I am sure, in the years to come, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Anantapur would reach even greater heights in imparting high quality education in all disciplines it is engaged in.**

This Convocation is a point that marks both an ending and a beginning. For this Institute, the Convocation marks a passage for you, from students to alumni. But you are forever members of our community. While reaching great heights, do not forget to enjoy your life, be happy in everything you do.

The various positions I have held, the various responsibilities I have shouldered and the various challenges I have faced, all have added to my knowledge. So I believe, today I am being recognised by JNTUA for the education I have had these 45 years.

Let me conclude my words by thanking the honourable Governor of AP and Chancellor of JNTUA, the HRD Minister, the Vice Chancellor of JNTUA, the faculty members and all of you who have given me this platform to receive this honour and also to address you today. Thank you.

**I wish all the Best of luck to all the graduating students in all their future endeavours.**

**God bless all present here today with Good Health, Happiness and Success**

Thank you one and all.