

ADDRESS BY CHIEF GUEST CUM ORATOR

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The Honourable Chancellor, the honourable Minister for Education, the Vice- Chancellor, Other Dignitaries on the Dais and off the Dais, Graduating Students, teaching and non-teaching staff and press & media! A very good morning to all of you.

I am delighted to be part of the Convocation function, an important milestone in the lives of the Graduating students. With India aspiring to become a Developed Nation by 2047, every citizen, in particular, you the Graduating students, have a very crucial role to play.

Personally, for me, in the year 1956 i.e., at the time of starting my Engineering Studies, Engineering Colleges at Anantapur and Kakinada were dream Institutions. They were the only two Engineering Colleges in Andhra Pradesh, with the exception of the College of Engineering, Andhra University which was started in 1955. While I did qualify for the admission to the two Government Colleges on the basis of merit, because of the minimum age requirement at that time, I was asked to wait. That led me to join the Andhra University College of Engineering, where fortunately for me the age requirement was relaxed.

Our goal of becoming AatmaNirbhar Bharat, after nearly 1000 years of slavery, is only possible when every citizen of the Country becomes AatmaNirbhar meaning Self Confident, Self-Reliant. In this journey, each one of you has a critical role: Firstly, yourself become AatmaNirbhar, secondly, facilitate everyone around you to become AatmaNirbhar.

As Engineers, you have an extremely crucial role to play in India's journey towards a Developed Country by 2047. Infrastructure such as Water, Power, Roads, Buildings, Railways, Ports, Communications, Manufacturing which includes Steel, Cement, Metals, Automobiles and so on, are the very basis for a developed country. Therefore, it is also very important to remember that "All Engineering Disciplines" are equally important. There is a misconception among most students and their parents that only Computer Science is the most preferred area. The developments in Computer Science have certainly led to enhance the power of other Engineering Disciplines and it will continue to do so. However, neglect of Core Engineering Disciplines such as Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics, Chemical, and Metallurgy will be a major setback to progress in Economic Development.

Whatever specialisation you have chosen, consider it as the right choice and excel in your area of specialisation. For that matter, all knowledge, scientific, social and spiritual are all equally important for progress. More importantly, treat everyone, irrespective of the type of the work they do and their official position, as equal. Swami Vivekananda, one of the greatest Spiritual and Philosophical leaders, exhorts to treat the King and the Commoner with equal respect". Each one needs to do his/her duty well.

Finally, for your personal and professional success, Positive Attitude, Focus, Ethics, National Outlook and Continuous Self Improvement are essential.

Positive Attitude includes the broader vision of common good, a spirit of service, human values, professional ethics, honesty and integrity. “Various studies have shown that attitude contributes to 85% of success; domain knowledge to only 15%” as stated by- *Shiv Khera*

Students need to focus on what is being done at the moment. They have to take care of the present and future will take care of them.

In the Constitution of India, Article 51 A, Part IV A: Fundamental Duties states to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavor and achievement. Those who strive for excellence would surely be loyal, thereby contributing to our national development.

PLEDGE at the time of graduation (Example: IIT Madras)

Shall in thought, word and deed ever endeavour to be scrupulously honest in the discharge of my duties. Shall uphold the dignity and integrity of my profession and the honour of Institute and the Nation. Shall devote all my energies to promote the unity and the secular ideal of our country and utilize my knowledge in the service of our Motherland and humanity.

There are many ways of achieving Continuous Self Improvement. **Seven Habits of Highly Effective People** by Stephen Covey provides a transformative guide for personal and professional success. The first habit Covey explains is, “Be Proactive”. That means one should take the responsibility for one’s own life and one’s own actions. The second habit is one should “Begin with the end in mind.” This means that one should look at life in its totality, this is one of the qualities of a Leader. The third habit he states is, “Put first things first”, that means we need to prioritize the things in order to achieve productivity. The fourth habit is, “Think Win – Win”. The aim is none should lose and all should gain. Effective people strive for outcomes that benefit all parties involved in it. So, they should act as service center and not a power center. The fifth habit is, “Seek first to understand and then to be understood”. Covey emphasizes the importance of good communication and active listening skills to build trust and good relationship. The sixth habit Covey discusses is, “Synergize” (Whole is greater than the parts; $1 + 1 > 2$). He stresses the importance of open-mindedness, creativity and teamwork that are very much essential for achieving success.

The Seventh and last habit is “Sharpen the Saw”. Covey emphasizes the individuals to invest their time in personal care, continuous learning and overall well-being. For a balanced self-renewal, 4 Dimensions are required. They are: i) Physical: Exercise, Nutrition, Stress Management, ii) Mental: Reading, Visualizing, Planning, Writing. iii) Social: Service, Empathy, Synergy, Intrinsic Security and iv) Spiritual: Value Clarification & Commitment, Study & Meditation.

Finally, my hearty congratulations to all the Graduating Students and very best wishes for a bright future.

**SARVE JANA SUKHINOBHAVANTU
MAY ALL BEINGS BE WELL AND HAPPY
JAI HIND... JAI BHARAT**

THANK YOU
