



**Speech
Of
His Excellency
SHRI KUMMANAM RAJASEKHARAN**

**GOVERNOR,
MIZORAM**

On the occasion of

**2nd Convocation of National Institute of Technology
Mizoram**

**At
Mizoram University Auditorium**

**On
23rd June, 2018**

- Chairman Board of Governors, National Institute of Technology Mizoram Prof.Rajat Gupta
- Guests of Honour, Prof. D. P. Agarwal and Prof. U. B. Desai
- Members of the Board of Governors
- Members of the Senate
- Registrar in-charge
- Invitees
- Faculty members of NIT Mizoram
- My beloved students
- Friends from the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

– I am delighted to be here on this occasion of 2nd Convocation of **National Institute of Technology Mizoram**. I congratulate the graduating students who are receiving degrees and awards today and the faculty members who have worked tirelessly on the singular objective of providing quality education to shape brilliant minds, who are a valuable asset to the nation.

– Graduation is a time of celebration and triumph and marks the end of one phase and beginning of the next phase. You are entering a new stage of your life after having worked very hard. So far you were in a protective environment, but now you will be on your own. It is a very proud moment for the graduates, parents and teachers who have all played their part in the end result. Teachers have done their utmost to help you by encouraging and motivating you to perform at

the optimum and achieve success. Your parents have made many sacrifices in the last few years and provided you with the enabling environment at home, financial and moral support, to help you through thick and thin. Try and keep out of trouble; however, if you are faced with a challenge, remember—parents love you unconditionally and will help you through the ups and downs, and the sooner you share the issues with them, remedial measures are less expensive, less painful and solutions come faster. To the parents, trust your child; quite often we underestimate their ability to deal with issues. Create a relationship and an environment of dialogue regardless of the issue.

– The students have worked hard with focus, determination and discipline. Your perseverance and hard work withstood the challenge to reach this far, and

today you are graduating in your chosen profession. Not only have you made your parents and teachers proud, I think it is a great fulfillment of your dreams and perseverance. I must congratulate every single one of you for having reached this very important milestone in your life. You are fortunate that you are graduating from an institution that has prepared you exceptionally well. Here I would like to quote Seth Godin who outlines in his book *Stop Stealing Dreams* and I quote: "***You are entering a new chapter in your life in an exciting world, full of challenges, opportunities amplified by the Web and the connection revolution, human beings are no longer rewarded most for being compliant cogs. Instead, our chaotic world is open to the work of passionate individuals, intent on carving their own paths. That is the new job of school. Not to hand a map to those willing to follow it, but to inculcate***

leadership and restlessness into a new generation.”(Unquote)

– The Institution has prepared you not just on the academic front, but to play your part in helping communities to improve their quality of life. This is a quality that you must build on—the developing world is littered with major environmental, ecological disasters, security issues due to increasing number of the population living below the poverty line, the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer! This country needs your input and you must at every stage of your life play your part in turning this unacceptable situation for the sake of coming generation. It is not enough to simply try and get by in life—that does not move the world forward—you must strive to excel in everything you do—excellence in every task, large or small. The

decisions you make starting today will determine what you become tomorrow. You will face many challenges but this is what the “real world” is all about and the next phase of your life is a great training ground for your future success.

– Dear graduates, you will have amazing networking opportunities in your next phase—you will meet new people with different cultures, values, attitudes and knowledge. Take full advantage of this opportunity. But always remember that it is easy to remain in the comfort zone, but the best lessons in life are learned through reaching out. Do not be afraid and be fearless. We all must have goals and we will have fears about achieving them. But it is how we handle those fears that determine whether or not and how quickly we get there.

Not every project or task we undertake can be successful—when it is not successful, learn from the mistakes made, and take the necessary remedial measures on the next project.

– Dear students, today India needs a good educational model to develop the nation. How can graduates like you contribute to the development of the society? Being from the premier Institute of the Nation it is your duty to help the underprivileged section of the society who are deprived of opportunities in many ways. The students who have had the privilege of being in NIT must remember that, in many ways, they are fortunate. So many from your own schools have failed to pass the hurdles and have had to be satisfied with an education at a variety of other Institutions at regional or state

level. It has been your privilege to be in country's best Institution. So you must remember the responsibility you have for those who could not reach to this level. The principle of social responsibility must be deeply ingrained in the conscience and action of each one of us. Here, I find it relevant to quote the great thinker and educationist **Dr. SarvepalliRadhakrishnan**, who once said in his message to the nation, and I quote, "***Science and technology will help us to solve the problems of hunger and poverty, of disease and illiteracy, of superstition and dealing custom, of vast resources running to waste of a rich country inhabited by a poor people.***" (Unquote)

– We have to utilize the power of education, the strength of science and technology in the right direction

effectively to bring positive changes in the society. You, as graduates of this Institute, have the responsibility to transform the society using the knowledge of science and technology which you have acquired. In today's world, technology is disruptive. It brings in fast-paced changes making it difficult, many times, to keep pace with the evolving technological environment. The pace of change in technology makes the continuous learning process even more challenging. Today, after passing out from the hallowed portals of this Institute, I would urge all of you to continuously keep updating your knowledge and skills to deliver substantive outcomes for your organization, society and country. I am sure the faculty members of this Institute have empowered you to overcome myriad challenges and become successful technocrats in whatever field of work you may decide to work in.

– Technologists are professional practitioners of engineering with special emphasis on applying scientific knowledge, mathematics and ingenuity to develop solutions for technological problems. They are problem solvers who search for quicker, better and economical ways to meet tough challenges. Thus, technology graduates like you will play a vital role in understanding the relationship between science, technology and society for a better tomorrow. On this significant day when you set out on your journey into the real world, I call upon each one of you to take a pledge to make the full use of technology for the benefit of mankind.

– Dear graduates, the Government of India has initiated the "**Start-up India, Stand-up India**" campaign to promote financing for start-ups and offer

incentives to boost entrepreneurship and job creation. The success of this initiative will rely on how innovatively we can use the technology as well as human resources available in our country. I call upon you, the young technocrats, that instead of looking for job opportunities out of the country, you may aim to become entrepreneurs, who create job opportunities for the deprived section of our society. Through such initiatives, you can create enterprises, which will create wealth for the nation and the people. It will also generate employment for the people, which may help in reducing the poverty level in the country. It will also equip people in maintaining their lifestyle in the society. This will be your biggest contribution to the inclusive and sustainable development of our country.

– I am familiar with the fact that your institute is currently functioning in temporarily hired buildings and the permanent campus is coming up near Lengpui. Yet, the institute steered by the Director and his team has managed to run several specialized courses in engineering and has overcome these constraints. I appreciate the effort of the team NIT Mizoram. I am hopeful that NIT Mizoram will get a world-class campus soon. I would strongly urge the Director and his team to work towards creating a verdant and vibrant Campus. We should see a 'Green NIT' campus come up in the near future, a campus that everyone would be proud of since all of us are stakeholders in the success of NIT Mizoram and its alumni. The focus should be on creating a campus that blends in with the rich flora and fauna of the region and also incorporates water-harvesting structures since the region is blessed with more than adequate rainfall. This is also an area where you could

benefit from in-house innovation. You must strive to make your campus eco-friendly by using innovative solutions for harnessing rainwater, managing solid-waste, solar power and so on. It would behove an institution of your stature to not only look at day to day issues of running and maintaining a campus, but also to contribute to the society in Mizoram. You can do this by working on strategies for disaster mitigation, deploying of technology in law and order including traffic management, etc., in our state capital. This should be seen as a part of the institute's social responsibility and I am sure NIT Mizoram will come forward to collaborate with the state government on some of such issues.

– It is indeed a matter of pride and satisfaction that despite constraints of infrastructure and geographical remoteness, students of this institution have excelled.

We must continue to excel, set higher standards, and create new benchmarks in performance, innovation and excellence. Here I am reminded of what the great scientist and our beloved former President late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam said; he said, I quote –

"Educationists should build the capacities of the spirit of inquiry, creativity, entrepreneurial and moral leadership among students and become their role model." (Unquote).

– So, I would urge team NIT Mizoram and its faculty members to remember this. You must fulfill your duty as educationists to the best of your abilities. The aim should be to develop a scientific temperament and apply it to the issues of development at hand. Creating a

healthy competitive spirit and generating the curiosity of pupils is necessary. We should always remember that knowledge and innovation are the keystones of progress. We must also work at building strong linkages with industry so that our talented human resource can get appropriate opportunities. For this we need to introspect and take stock of what we have already achieved and what we can do to groom our students further. Together, your experience and the enthusiastic minds of the young students will enable us to carve a better future for upcoming young minds. Also, for a greater bond and continuity, you must maintain a link with the Alma mater.

– Let me now conclude by wishing the graduates once again a bright and rewarding future. I would urge everyone of you to uphold the ethical values and make use of the knowledge you have acquired from this

Institute. I am sure you will make all of us proud of your achievements in the years to come. I wish you well in all your future endeavours.

– Thank you very much.

– Jai Hind