



**ADDRESS
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY
LT GENERAL NIRBHAY SHARMA,
PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (RETD),
GOVERNOR,
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
TO THE
FACULTY MEMBERS AND STUDENTS
OF
RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY
AT
RONO HILLS, DOIMUKH
ON
03 OCTOBER 2013**

- Vice Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University, Prof. Tamo Mibang,
- Registrar and Officers of the University,
- Members of the Executive Council and Academic Council,
- Deans of Faculty, Heads of Departments and other members of Rajiv Gandhi University fraternity,
- Ladies and gentlemen and
- My beloved students.

Since coming to Arunachal Pradesh, I have been looking forward to this visit and very happy to meet you all today. Before coming here, I had interaction with learned Vice Chancellor, Deans of faculty and Statutory Officers of this University. Power Point Presentation on the activities of this institute was exhaustive and inspiring. I have gone around the clean and green University campus, departments and various centres, especially the Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies and Centre for Excellence in Biodiversity and find them impressive indeed. I am confident that in coming days, it will be one of the major centres for research activities covering multidisciplinary and emerging areas of knowledge in the north eastern region.

As Chief Rector of this premier institute of higher studies in the State, like each one of you, I too have many hopes for the University. Despite its limitation in terms of location and infrastructure, wish to see Rajiv Gandhi University touch new height of academic excellence and rises to be a scholastic centre of North East, and the Nation.

Let me start by speaking to my beloved students. You are the future of our Nation and the nation's progress solely depends on you. Amongst you I see our future leaders, scientists, lawyers, business persons, soldiers, entrepreneurs, sportspersons and artists of the country. I have now spent nearly 50 years in public service and I and my generation is now in the process of handing over the baton into the hands of young men and women like you. The responsibility of restoring India's glory and making it reach its full potential is on you. As the "handing over" notes, let me share my thoughts on realising our dream.

Please remember that for you even sky is not the limit and no dream is too big. However do remember what Gandhi ji said. Be true to yourself. *'There is always the fear of self-righteousness possessing us, the fear of arrogating to ourselves a superiority that we do not possess.'*

I will elaborate on few issues in detail.

First, discipline yourself. As Lord Buddha said, I quote, *'To enjoy good health, to bring true happiness to one's family, to bring peace to all, one must first discipline and control one's own mind. If a man can control his mind he can find the way to Enlightenment, and all wisdom and virtue will naturally come to him'*. Unquote.

Discipline leads to respect for each other, which in turn creates peace and harmony in the campus and in the society. Discipline since early life helps to grow as a responsible and responsive citizen. You should continue to maintain utmost discipline. That will not only help in inculcating a quest for knowledge, a spirit of tolerance, a positive mind and respect for fellow human beings, but also in bringing out the best in you.

Secondly, quest for knowledge, you have to be inquisitive and curious only then can you grow and education imparts that knowledge. “The function of education is to teach, one to think intensively and critically. Intelligence plus character- that is the goal of true education.” -**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

There was a time, when India was noted all over the world as a glorious centre of education and culture, where students from all parts of the globe used to pour in. The educational and cultural centres of Nalanda, Taxila and Prayag attracted students from places, as far as Egypt, Greece, China, Ceylon and Indonesia. It was an ideal system of education, which apart from disseminating sweetness and light, infused into the mind of the pupils and spiritual urge for coming in contact with the kingdom of the Absolute. But now when we look at the present state of affairs in our country, the situation is challenging to say the least.

Things are loaded on a student’s mind which he cannot digest; he only crams and therefore they never become his own. Our educational system in the words of Dr. Annie Basant, is just “Filling boys head with a lot of disjointed facts poured into the heads as into a basket, to be emptied out again in the examination room, and empty basket carried out again into the world.” This is the reason why a student who succeeds so well in his college examination does not necessarily succeed in the examination of life.

Swami Vivekananda said, “we want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one’s own feet.”

Thirdly, excellence is the key. In this world today, mediocrity has no value. Strive to be excellent and best to be in whatever field you choose. I always maintain that an excellent carpenter is better than an average engineer. Also, knowledge has no boundaries and to achieve it, one has to rise above narrow regional /local confines. Let the minds of knowledge blow in and out of Rajiv Gandhi University. Think globally and let the students and faculty be from all over, only then will we achieve greatness.

Fourthly, have a purpose in life. One's purpose in life has an overriding influence upon what he does with his time, energy, and resources. It can also have a profound effect upon how he relates to other people. Without this purpose, life has no compass and meaning. It is essential to define what is our purpose in life. Early identification of the purpose, easier it becomes to achieve it in the life. There can not be a uniform purpose in ones life, it can be anything, someone's purpose can be to be the best teacher, the best civil servant, the best officer, the best citizen, a best doctor anything but, to have a purpose in life is most important.

As Swami Vivekananda said, I quote, *'Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life-think of it, dream of it, live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success, and this is the way great spiritual giants are produced. Others are mere talking machines.'* Unquote.

I hope my dear students you will identify the purpose for your life and will strive towards its achievement.

Fifthly, don't be trapped by dogma, which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinion drown out your own inner voice. And most importantly, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. Everything else is secondary.

Now coming to the Esteemed faculty members.

You will agree that one of the one of the biggest challenges we face is creating human resource qualified to meet the needs of today's dynamic world. We must make our students ready for avenues for employment, entrepreneurship and industry. By making our research, designing our courses, relevant to the present requirement and promote entrepreneurship.

. As you all know, our State is on a path of rapid development and will become the power house of the Nation in next decade or so, with an estimated capacity of 55,000 MW of hydel power. It also has immense potential for tourism. These two sectors along with horticulture and allied sectors are the future growth engines of Arunachal Pradesh. We need to prepare our human resource keeping in view the future requirement of our State and the country. We have to realise that we need highly skilled individuals for our industries and other sectors.

The courses relevant in these fields must be started in the university so that we are well equipped to meet the future requirements. Relevant studies in these fields must be pursued vigorously. I envisage the university to become the efficient consultant in rapid progress and development of the State.

As a piece of advice, I can do no better than read the letter of Abraham Lincoln to the teacher of his son. It reads,

Abraham Lincoln's Letter to his Son's Teacher

*He will have to learn, I know,
that all men are not just,
all men are not true.
But teach him also that
for every scoundrel there is a hero;
that for every selfish Politician,
there is a dedicated leader.....
Teach him for every enemy there is a friend.*

*Steer him away from envy,
if you can,
teach him the secret of
quiet laughter.*

*Let him learn early that
the bullies are the easiest to lick...
Teach him, if you can,
the wonder of books...
But also give him quiet time
to ponder the eternal mystery of birds in the sky,
bees in the sun,
and the flowers on a green hillside.*

*In the school teach him
it is far more honourable to fail
than to cheat...
Teach him to have faith
in his own ideas,
even if everyone tells him
they are wrong...
Teach him to be gentle
with gentle people,
and tough with the tough.*

*Try to give my son
the strength not to follow the crowd
when everyone is getting on the band wagon....*

*Teach him to listen to all men.....
but teach him also to filter
all he hears on a screen of truth,
and take only the good
that comes through.*

*Teach him, if you can,
how to laugh when he is sad....
Teach him there is no shame in tears, Teach him to scoff at cynics
and to beware of too much sweetness....
Teach him to sell his brawn
and brain to the highest bidders
but never to put a price-tag
on his heart and soul.*

*Teach him to close his ears
to a howling mob
and to stand and fight
if he thinks he's right.
Treat him gently,
but do not cuddle him,
because only the test of fire makes fine steel.*

*Let him have the courage
to be impatient....
let him have the patience to be brave. Teach him always
to have sublime faith in himself,
because then he will have
sublime faith in mankind.*

*This is a big order,
but see what you can do....
He is such a fine little fellow,
my son!*

In conclusion, my dear students and faculty members, we have a challenging task of making the entire educational system relevant to the student to help him in acquiring knowledge, to help student to think analytically and critically, to ask and find answers, to help in innovative thinking to help in assimilating the knowledge in his real life, his society to complete the socialization process, develop social personality, reform attitudes, encourage spirit of competition, and foster participant democracy and earn a dignified living and making him a true responsible citizen of India.

Today, in this first meeting with you all, I appeal to you all to shoulder the responsibility as good citizen of the country and be the 'Agent of Change'. As Gandhi ji said, *'Be the change that you wish to see in the world'*.

In the end, I would like to remind you of Swami Vivekananda's quotation. *'Stand up, be bold, be strong. Take the whole responsibility on your own shoulders, and know that you are the creator of your own destiny. All the strength and succor you want is within yourself. Therefore make your own future.'*

Thank you very much.

God bless you all.