



**ADDRESS  
OF  
HIS EXCELLENCY  
LT GENERAL NIRBHAY SHARMA,  
PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (RETD),  
GOVERNOR,  
ARUNACHAL PRADESH  
ON THE OCCASION OF  
HIS MAIDEN VISIT  
TO  
NERIST, NIRJULI  
ON  
31 OCT 2013**

Since my joining the State as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, I have been looking forward to this visit and I am very happy to meet you all today.

It gives me immense pleasure to address this assembly of members of faculty and students of North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology.

As I stand here, I can see sitting amongst you my dear students the future leaders from different parts of North-eastern region. NERIST is one of the few institutes in the State, which has students and teachers from all parts of Northeast and also from other parts of the country. Many of you will play a decisive role in shaping Northeast's future development, which will be of great significance for India and the world.

I had an interaction with learned Director, Deans of faculty and officers before coming here. A Power Point Presentation on the activities of this institute presented in the meeting which was exhaustive and truly inspiring. As I am told the institute is one of the major centres for research and developmental activities covering multidisciplinary and emerging areas of knowledge in the north eastern region.

I am also pleased to learn that NERIST alumni are placed in key positions in all the States of the north eastern region contributing in the development of the north east India. They have also brought laurels for their alma mater by displaying their talent and creativity at national and international levels.

NERIST has achieved many milestones and continues to tread on the path of progress and development. Attaining Deemed University status is a major achievement towards recognizing its true potential. With this elevated status, NERIST has geared up to expand its academic infrastructure and I am sure, it will continue to lead the way in the days to come.

Today, I am happy to note that Recreational and Cultural Activities Forum of NERIST is playing a proactive role in promoting creative aspect of the students in areas of Art, culture, music and dance. I convey my appreciation to the members and express my hope that the forum under the able guidance of Director and Professors will continue the good work.

In my life, I have learned that culturally based programs in the areas of art, drama, music and dance provide a different, but equally important, means of building skills in creative thinking, decision-making and problem-solving. They foster social skills including cooperative work, negotiation, conflict resolution and tolerance for difference as well as personal skills such as individual responsibility, perseverance, self-management and integrity.

Cultural activities foster social cohesion and community identity by promoting multicultural understanding. They provide opportunities for sharing the various forms of diversity that comprise a community.

Through cultural festivals, presentations and exhibits of art, it is possible to display and recognize different historical and cultural backgrounds as well as other forms of social diversity. Culture and recreation contribute immeasurably to the health of individuals and of communities by keeping them alive and well.

On this occasion, let me leave a few thoughts with you.

**First, Be innovative.** When I use the word 'innovation' I do not expect you to create something alien, foreign, a miracle but I expect you to think in new ways to find solution to existing problem of society, e.g. our town Itanagar faces experience of severe traffic jam problems, our city is disaster prone area of seismic zone five.

By innovation I appeal you to find solutions to the city's traffic jam, may be innovation in public transport or technological solution to regulation of traffic or seismically sensitive house, new ethnic design of houses etc.

Innovation is not about doing different things but its doing the things differently. It is about solving our problem with simple technologically feasible and acceptable creative solution.

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh unveiled a new Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy at Kolkata in January this year. The policy is conceived as the next important step up the ladder of Science and Technology-based development. It argues that innovation is the key to national advancement in the present era. The role of innovation in the contemporary technology intensive, dynamic and globalized economy is well-known. The need for foregrounding innovation and integrating it with other developmental policy is also widely accepted and is need of the hour. I appeal to all of you to provide your valuable inputs, so that this institute becomes a repository of technical ideas to meet any challenge in future. Let us emphasis on indigenous and innovative ideas of the region, which is unique and answers to the unique needs of the region.

Most of you may remember Steve Jobs, who said, Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower.

I also want to emphasise here today is that NERIST must start a system, where students can practice these innovative ideas before passing out of the institute. As Mahatma Gandhi said, I quote, 'An ounce of practice is worth more than tons of preaching', Unquote, we too must focus on providing system of education which aims at establishing institutionalized linkages between the industrial and the academic world, theory and practise.

**Next logical step of innovation is entrepreneurship. Be the job creator and not job seeker.** I am pained by our engineering graduates appearing for non- technical jobs, becoming members of unemployed engineers association. I am told some engineering graduate working as SSA teachers, few appeared into police recruitment rally and some even working as contingency peon.

This I feel is because we look for only government jobs. We should get rid of this colonial mind set and become a job creator. Not only because the government jobs are limited but because too many government jobs are unproductive. You must become entrepreneurs, which is essential for progress of our nation.

NERIST must conduct intensive course on Entrepreneurship for its undergraduate students and should proactively nurse their creativity via a dedicated innovation centre. In times to come, it should focus more on developing entrepreneurship skills amongst students in a manner that will become a model for others to emulate.

When you pass out of this institute, with your entrepreneur spirit, be the job creator and not job seeker.

Remember that quotation of Swami Vivekananda. 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'.

Every individual of this institute must be technically very sound and it is equally important that he or she must be socially useful. Inculcate this idea and strive towards its achievement.

**Thirdly, Be Disciplined.** 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.

Now I would like to share some of my personal views with the esteemed faculty members. Well, you will agree that one of the biggest challenges we face is creating human resource qualified to meet the needs of today's dynamic world. You have the responsibility to make this institute in equivalent to IITs and NITs.

We must make our students ready for avenues for employment, entrepreneurship and industry by making our research, designing our courses, relevant to the present and future requirement.

No Indian University is ranked among the top 200 Universities of the world. It is unfortunate as we have the talent, outstanding faculty and brilliant students, but still not making to the 200 best institutes in the world. Let us improve the quality of education and use technological options available to increase the reach of technical education.

The delivery of higher education in our institutes cannot be allowed to continue in a routine fashion any longer. The administrators and academicians must introduce innovative changes in the institutions. The challenges have to be addressed expeditiously. A culture of excellence has to be promoted by allowing adequate flexibility in different aspects of academic management. I hope that learned Director and his team have note of this and will take necessary action immediately. As sun rises from east, let NERIST rise from North East and be the first institute of India to be amongst the top universities of the world.

As you all know, whole of north eastern region is on a path of rapid development and Arunachal Pradesh in particular will become the power house of the Nation in next decade or so, with an estimated capacity of 55,000 MW of hydel power. Numbers of infrastructural projects are lined up. Major projects would require pool of adequately trained technically qualified resource personnel in next ten years. We need to prepare our human resource keeping in view the future requirement of our region 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 this institute so that we are well equipped to meet the future requirements. Relevant studies in these fields must be pursued vigorously. I envisage the institute to become the efficient consultant in rapid progress and development of the region.

At the same time, you have to maintain congenial environment for academic excellence of this institution. Always remember that the institute owns its existence for academic excellence of the student community. Academic excellence and welfare of students is the prime focus and is the raison d'être of the NERIST should always be kept in mind.

The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.

I am conscious of the unique place that this institute holds in the development of North-eastern region. As President of NERIST Society, I hope to see that this institute touches new height of excellence.

God bless

Jai Hind