

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE 4<sup>TH</sup> CONVOCATION OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, MANIPUR ON 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2017 AT NIT, MANIPUR, LANGOL CAMPUS, IMPHAL.

Hon'ble Minister of Education, Shri Th. Radheshyam Singh,  
Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan, Chairman, Board of Governors, National Institute of Technology, Manipur,  
Director, NIT, Manipur,  
Members of the Board of Governors, NIT, Manipur,  
Faculty Members and students,  
Friends from Electronic and Print Media,  
Distinguished Invitees,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to preside over the 4<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony of National Institute of Technology, Manipur today among the graduating students, faculty members and the invitees on this campus. NIT, Manipur is considered one of the premier technical institutes of not only this region but also of the nation.

I am happy that many intellectual stalwarts in the field of technology are here on this auspicious occasion and hope that they would surely fill in our students and faculty members the much needed vigour and inspiration to excel in their individual lives and also as professionals and dedicate themselves to the cause of the nation.

Convocation ceremony is an important event of the Institute which acknowledges the achievements of the new graduates. It is an occasion to congratulate and encourage the students, who have been awarded with degrees. At such Convocation ceremonies, I always remind the graduating students that they are very fortunate to be where they are at that joyous moment and that they should thank their teachers, friends and especially their families who have been an unending source of support. They should keep

themselves well grounded and they have to constantly remind themselves that they should try to utilize their full potentials for the well being of the society which has enormously contributed for their success. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the parents, guardians and well-wishers of these students who have been with them through the thick and thin.

A convocation reminds us to acknowledge the significant work of the teachers who have laboured hard to create a special intellectual, environment and to enable our students to succeed. Teachers have been a constant source of inspiration in every one's life. Technology offers tremendous potentials but it will never be able to replace the teachers. Our teachers should help our students to become learned, skilled and above all more humane. I am sure that the knowledge that the students of this institute has earned here will contribute enormously in the progress of their lives as well as the society.

My beloved students, now that you are at the threshold of professional life, let me tell you that you must excel in whatever profession you take up. Work with dedication, work with honesty and success will find you. Ours is a nation which is advancing rapidly in a multitude of fields, grasp this opportunity and be a part of the nation building process. Never forget that your actions influence the nation and its development. I am confident that you shall rise to the occasion.

Here, I would like to share a few thoughts on the brave new world of technology. As a nation, we have an obligation to use technology and manage our resources properly. Our mission in the digital age is to use the new technologies to make sure that it connects to the aspirations of the people. It is true that one cannot make available thousands of specialists whose services are required in the remotest corners of the country but one can make use of their services through broadband at multi-service centres in every village.

In my opinion technology itself is never the reason that the things change. Rather, it is how people chose to apply technology and whether they make wise decisions and address real needs that makes the difference in the long run. We need skilled and knowledgeable manpower and professionals to drive this change for the better. In the same breath, I would like to emphasize on careful harnessing of technology to prevent any hazardous effect on ecology, creating a more sustainable world. One should not forget that it is not technology *per se* which translates into development but the mind behind which operates it. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first Education Minister of Independent India once said in his address at the Constituent Assembly that the country's development is not going to be judged by the number of institutes or factories but by the quality of mind of the people. The human mind needs to be developed for the society to grow and the quality of mind decides between the two buttons before us – one to change the life of the people for the better and the other that extinguishes the lives of the people.

I would like to urge upon our graduating students to remember that they are central to the vision of a nation which is dynamic, prosperous and inclusive. I wish each one of you success in your chosen career and I have no doubt that you will make a major contribution in making the State and the country developed. May your path be blessed.

With these few words, I wish National Institute of Technology, Manipur many more years of service to the motherland.

Thank you,

Jai Hind,