

# VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS

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Good evening everyone present here today for the 3rd Convocation ceremony.

On behalf of the graduating batch of 2015, it gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to Respected Chief Guest, Professor Narayanasami Sathyamurthy; Guests of Honour, Shri M. Natarajan, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT Mandi, Prof. T. A. Gonsalves, Director, IIT Mandi; members of Board of Governors, and the members of the Senate of the Institute, distinguished guests, family members of the graduating students, faculty and staff members.

This journey of four years finally culminates when we officially graduate today after formally receiving our degrees. But I am sure that this trip back to IIT Mandi after 4 months would have refreshed so many memories of the greatest four years of our lives.

Reflecting back to the days in 2011, when I was coming to IIT Mandi for the first time, I was so excited that I would be a part of a college situated amidst the hills and rivers that took over my initial fear of joining a new IIT. Nevertheless, I used to get those pangs of thoughts if my decision of joining a new IIT would be worth it. But now as I see it, IIT Mandi has groomed me in a way which, had I joined an older IIT, I would not have had. Being a part of an institute that was just building up, being a part of a family that was trying to make it, and going ourselves on that adventure where we were unsure of what will happen at the end of four years and literally carving ourselves a path we wanted to go on, was one of the most enriching and augmenting experiences for me. And I am sure most of us share similar experience.

Although we are the 3<sup>rd</sup> graduating batch of IIT Mandi, yet we were one of the first to shift to this campus which can be seen so well developed today. Three years back when we shifted here, we just had a couple of hostels, few labs and one major classroom. And, now we have almost full flourishing campus running here. This gives such a sense of belonging for this campus that I think no future batch will ever be able to have.

Apart from infrastructure, our batch witnessed the sowing of seeds of so many extracurricular activities that happen in college now, for instance our technical and cultural festival, Exodia, and the idea of the sports fest, Rann-Neeti. We were trained to handle all the pressure that comes our way and come out successfully.

Most of us who sit here today are capable of taking up a new venture even if there isn't any proper guidance because we have been prepared enough to work without the spoon feedings. Also, being so less in numbers and trying to take up so many activities in our college to make it at par with others, has taught us all the art of multitasking and taking-up multiple responsibilities at the same time and handling them efficiently. The experience at IIT Mandi and the grooming given to us by the Institute's faculty and staff has prepared us well for our new phase of life and the real world, the expression of gratitude for which would never be enough.

The thing to remember is that we have to carry forward and showcase to the world what this Institute has transformed us into. We need to realize that we are the glasses through which this world is going to see our college and we have to display the best of our capabilities. We need to be aware that it is our

responsibility now, the responsibility of the alumni of IIT Mandi, to establish the brand name of our Institute. This one is a demanding responsibility. But we need to have faith in ourselves that we are capable of taking it up and IIT Mandi has prepared us well for the same.

Having seen Manjhi, the mountain Man, recently, I realized that there can hardly be any task more difficult than carving a path through that mountain. There would be several mountains that would be coming in our way of our dreams now; but, we need to have confidence in ourselves that we can make it through. As love drove that man, we also need to be driven by our passion for perfection. We all need to have a dream that could wake us up every morning and drive us to push through till we get them. And I know each one of us sitting here is capable of chasing and achieving their dreams.

As I come to an end of it, I would like to wish you all the very best for the different professions that you have chosen to get into. Always keep faith in what you are doing and keep working tirelessly in the direction of your dreams. As was said by Eleanor Roosevelt “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

I would finally like to thank each one of you present here, friends, faculty, and everyone else and my Institute, IIT Mandi, for making this journey of four years so memorable, unique and enriching.

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