

VALEDICTORIAN'S ADDRESS



A very good evening to one and all present here for the 6th Convocation Ceremony of IIT Mandi.

On the behalf of batch of 2018, it gives me immense pleasure to extend a warm welcome to respected Chief Guest, Prof. Ashok Jhunjhunwala, Guest of Honour Mr. Sonam Wangchuk, Chairperson Board of Governors, IIT Mandi, and Former Chairman Tata Communication Limited Shri Subodh Bhargava, Director IIT Mandi, Prof. Timothy Gonsalves, members of board of governors and members of Senate, distinguished guests, family members of graduating students, faculty and staff members, and my dear friends.

Today, I want to take you all back in time to the 4th day of August 2014. It was our first day at IIT Mandi and I recall how reluctantly I was sharing my fear of the huge mountains and narrow roads in one of the fresher's speech. Who knew that waking up to these mountains will be the first thing I will miss after leaving IIT Mandi. I also distinctly remember my father asking me whereabouts of academic buildings in the campus and in a total confused state I pointed him towards the A1 building. Of course there was more than just one academic building in the campus at that time but we have surely grown from a handful of them to huge complexes coming up in the North campus. However, the 4 years we spent at IIT Mandi were more than just the number of buildings in the campus.

Since our first day at this place we became a part of a close knit family where you knew every other person in the campus. I remember the endless nights we spent to find different ways to surpass the institute network restrictions and here are some of us now, building network & security systems for big companies. From crazy teenagers to professionals we have all come a long way. Not only do we graduate and get our degree today but we takeaway 4 year worth of life lessons and memories with us. During our time here, it almost always rained cats and dogs during festivals and special occasions, ruining all the festivities.

However, it taught us no matter how bad the present might be, life goes on and so should we because the sun is going to come out soon. With the guidance of our senior batches, the faculty members and the staff, our batch played a small role in helping the institute grow. Be it research publications, setting new placement records, helping start the GSOC culture and volunteering to

organize Exodia and Rann-Neeti in the most adverse situations. I strongly urge the upcoming batches to continue this culture and contribute more to it. This institute is always going to be a major part of what we are and what we become. Our future and the future of IIT Mandi are tied together. We are the representatives of IIT Mandi for the outside world and it is upon us now to raise the institution to new heights.

Finally, I would like to leave you with few thoughts that I take away from this place. The first one is don't let your fear hold you back. Had I succumbed to my fears on my first day at IIT Mandi and went back home I wouldn't have been standing here so happy and satisfied. There are very small things in our life as trivial as the fear of talking to someone and somehow instead of fighting the fear we get comfortable with it. It will be years before you realize how you have changed your life according to your fears and missed out on great experiences. Always ask yourself 'What would I do if I weren't afraid?'.

The last thing that I want to share is very trivial but somehow very important. I am sure we all have been to the amazing treks arranged by the institute and a trek is full of ups and downs. Life is full of good times and bad times but it is the bad times which open our eyes to our capabilities and give us a stronger sense of who you are. In times of frustration, remember to believe in yourself and all the dreams you want to achieve because these challenges will only prepare you for your goals. Everything can fall apart and go wrong but the one thing that stays with you is your faith in yourself. So instead of running away from challenges, embrace them and get closer to your dreams.

Finally, it has been a wonderful journey and I am sure that the memories of this place will always bind us together.

Best wishes to all of you for your future endeavors!

Thank You!

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