

INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS

DIRECTOR NIPER

15-8-2017

I take this opportunity to greet every one of you and all the Alumni of this great institution living in this great country and all corners of the world a HAPPY 71th INDEPENDENCE DAY.

Seven decades ago, on 15th August, 1947, we became citizens of an independent country, a country free from colonial rule. It marked a turning point in the history of our nation. We attained freedom from oppression and slavery and became the makers of our own destiny. From a country of slaves, we turned into citizens of a vibrant and democratic India.

Independence Day brings me to some of the most energizing moments of my life. When I was young, both of our national festivals, Independence Day and Republic day were celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm and interest and everyone of our village used to participate. We were terming them as Jhanda festivals. Especially the elderly (senior citizens) used show more interest. Everyone was talking great about India and its working democracy.

I took interest in reading about democracies and other forms of governance in the world. According one survey, there are currently 123 democracies in the world of all 192 countries. Democratic nations are more likely to “secure the peace, deter aggression, expand open markets, promote economic development, protect citizens, combat international terrorism and crime, uphold human and worker rights, avoid humanitarian crises and refugee flows, improve the global environment, and protect human health.” I was reading these statements, but could not appreciate much until I was made to understand the value of democracy till I started living in a non-democratic nation like Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. India is widely respected for its working democracy and its pluralistic life in the world.

70 years down the line, the challenges still remain. Our journey to attain freedom from poverty, disease, illiteracy, malnutrition etc still continues. We are all soldiers in this fight and I need each and every one of you to fight like a 'senani'- a warrior.

This Independence Day is very special for me at NIPER as I just completed 90 days of my stay in the office of the Director. I inherited a great institution, the best in India with respect to Pharmaceutical Education and Research, a unique one on its own merit. Let me take this opportunity to thank all of you for immense love, affection and support which enabled me work to positivity.

With your immense support, we have within a short time of 90 days in office, I present before you and share my report card.

Institutional:

1. We celebrated three days of national and international importance namely: The National Technology Day, World Environment Day and World Yoga Day and this is the fourth, the Independence Day. Luckily for me in this short period of a quarter of an year, the institution faced or conducted all the statutory committee meetings starting from: APDC, FDC, LBWC, DAC and BoG of this institute, except Senate which is scheduled soon.
2. A Joint Parliamentary Committee visited us and within 15 days of submission of its report, the follow up meeting was also held with the ministry.
3. We conducted Joint Entrance Examination followed by admissions smoothly despite several concerns.
4. Interviews were conducted for a long awaited advertisement and another advertisement has been in process for recruitment.

Student Related Issues:

1. Placement activities were conducted and I am happy to announce over 75 % (approx. 90%) of our students have been placed in reputed firms.

2. International Exchange of Faculty and students have been initiated and the process started with Indo-Egyptian program. Others from Japan, Germany, USA, Canada and Sweden will follow.
3. Hobby clubs are planned for students and soon come into operation.
4. Efforts are in progress on two issues: fellowships to MBA students, continuation of DoP sponsored project, Dual degree programs etc.

Employee Welfare

1. **Grievance redressal:** Grievance redressal process is started and will be a permanent part of good governance. I have made happiness of the employees my target and will not rest till NIPER becomes grievance free. Together we shall attain freedom from negativity and unhappiness.
2. **Transparency:** promotes trust. Process of uploading minutes of meetings and other documents, for which RTI had to be filed, will be freely available. I have taken special steps to ensure transparency.
3. **Curbing administration related conflicts:** Concerns relating to swimming pool contract and legal consultants have been duly addressed.
4. **Integrated health complex:** Process for making functional an integrated health complex offering healthcare facilities from ayurveda, allopathy and homeopathy has begun. A new initiative for NIPER to make available services of trained psychologists and counsellors to all - students, staff and their families. There has been focus on physical health alone for too long - we need to focus and accept that mental well-being and a healthy mind is equally important for our families, our organization. To ensure 'round-the-clock' availability of doctors, in-campus accommodation is being provided to doctors. Arrangement for institutional ambulance is also being made, to re-assure all that in case of emergency, resources will be there.
5. **Children Creche and Play School-** Process has started to house the children crèche in independent building with all modern facilities.

Initially, one of the vacant houses will be provided. In due course, a dedicated complex will be created which will also include play school and primary school, on the pattern of 'Ankur' school, already existing in Panjab University.

6. **Portfolio-based Governance:** To ensure equal opportunity for all to play a role in the development and progress of the institute, I shall be shortly introducing a 'portfolio based governance' system at NIPER. Under this system, critical areas of governance have been identified e.g. finance and revenue generation, personnel (human resources), science and technology, law and policy, external affairs (international collaborations and foreign languages) etc. Each portfolio shall be managed by a faculty who will be nominated by me based on your feedback and suggestions. It is a new initiative and there will be challenges but together we can make it a success.

Environment

1. A green window has been started under which quality germplasm of medicinal plants is freely available to all at very nominal cost.
2. Water Harvesting and solid waste management initiatives have started
3. Power saving is a cause of concern for me. We are not only going 'solar' but also focussing on effective utilization of existing resources.

New Initiatives in Research and Education for national progress

The most important and significant part of this Independence Day is that with inputs from all- the Ministry, the Board of Governors, our elected representatives i.e. Members of Parliament, the faculty, staff and students- a detailed and comprehensive '5 YEAR MANIFESTO' has been prepared. It is a roadmap on how we have to move ahead, to take the nation ahead.

I am formally declaring adoption of this manifesto today and request all to structure their efforts, projects and research around the manifesto, so that we can achieve the goals in a time bound manner. A copy of the same has

been uploaded on the NIPER website and can be freely downloaded by all for reference.

15th August every year will not be a time of celebration of historical independence alone. It will be the day when we publicly share our achievements and contribution to the Nation to free it from poverty, disease, malnutrition and other ills and issue a 'report card' on what we planned and what we achieved.

I declare the constitution of **'NIPER Technology Ratna' awards of Rs. 5 lacs each** to be given to the teams which successfully commercialize research / technology and bring a product to the marketplace. The focus should be on 'application of knowledge' to make the nation self-reliant and robust in critical areas where we face challenges.

Let us join hands to make NIPER not only an institution of national pride but an institute of global recognition and service to humanity.

Jai Hind!