

Republic Day 2018

Welcome and hearty congratulations to all the employees of NIPER on the occasion of 69th Republic day. It has been 69 years since the constitution of India was accepted and we are able to reap the rewards of written constitution of India. Though there were minor amendments to the constitution over the period of 69 years, the main theme is being maintained without any dilution. Maintaining democratic values and giving equal opportunities to all sections of the Indian societies are the major components of our Indian republic. Taking these as strengths, India is able to absorb many changes in the society. The changes are being driven mainly by technology, cultural changes and economic factors among many other things.

We are all acutely aware of the fundamental rights enshrined in our Constitution that we gave ourselves 68 years ago. The fundamental duties were added to the Constitution exactly forty two years ago, since there can be no rights without accountability, and duties go hand in hand with accountability.

The last of these eleven duties was added in 2002 to ensure that no Indian child is unschooled. Today we can take some satisfaction that our gross enrollment ratio has reached close to 100% at the elementary level (94.8% to be exact), even if we have some ways to go at the higher levels of school and college education.

I wish to spend few minutes focusing on the three fundamental duties that are especially relevant to us at NIPER, SAS Nagar:

1. the duty to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity,
2. the duty to develop the spirit of enquiry and reform,
3. and the duty to protect and improve our natural environment.

The NIPERs were, and are being, set up to pursue excellence in technology and science research and teaching. As faculty and staff, we are expected to raise our bars high, and strive continuously to teach better, supervise better PhDs, and produce research results that rank among the world's best. In our quest for knowledge, we are to suffuse ourselves with the spirit of enquiry, never settling for the superficial and shallow, always digging deep till we find the true answers to nagging questions. We are also expected to apply our skills to address through technology the many challenges our nation faces in meeting the needs of her people. As students, we are expected to develop into ethical and capable leaders, job creators, and innovators.

In the field of pharmaceutical sciences, India made rapid strides over the past two decades. Availability of costly drugs, modern drug delivery systems, improved methods of analysing the impurities, sophisticated techniques for performing pharmacological and toxicological screening, innovations in drug discovery, drug disposition as well as pharmacy practice trends are all driving the novel thought processes in pharmaceutical sciences. NIPER contributed positively towards the many changes happening the field of pharmaceutical Sciences. In terms of education, in terms of research NIPER set very high standards and thus was able to deliver high quality, meritorious workforce for the pharmaceutical industries in India and abroad. In the coming few years many changes are expected in the field of pharmaceutical sciences. Industrial requirements are changing day by day. The demand for the meritorious pharmaceutical students with excellent communication skills is increasing. NIPER is very well geared to meet this demand. Recently, the management department of NIPER organized a three day event with guest lectures on the personality development. Currently, 81MG event is happening, this also provides opportunities for the interactive growth of the students. Several international visits by students are being planned. Department

of Pharmaceutics is planning for the introduction of bachelors / integrated master's degree courses at NIPERs. I am sure all these future plans shall prove to be very important for the overall training of the students of NIPER.

The NIPER, student or staff, is the one at whose desk the buck stops – we are never supposed to throw up our hands. Let us ask whether we are measuring up to our own standards, take steps to apply ourselves even harder, and surprise ourselves by outdoing our own benchmarks. I am sure each one of us will find one or more ways this year to better ourselves in our studies, in our research, in our pursuit of technological solutions. The country expects no less.

Lastly, NIPER, SAS Nagar, as we all know, is privileged to be located in the loveliest of campuses, surrounded by natural beauty. It behooves us, in particular, to keep our surroundings clean and tidy. This means that our buildings must be squeaky clean, we must not leave unwanted junk in the corridors and quadrangles, we must scrupulously avoid littering, particularly plastic, and we must dispose all our waste carefully, specifically the hazardous waste we generate in our labs.

Each of us must apply ourselves in this regard – it cannot be the remit of housekeeping staff alone. In this regard, I am sure you will agree that all of us – faculty, staff and students – have room for improvement. We have taken some steps in this regard in the years gone by, but more remains to be done. I earnestly request you to commit yourself with your whole heart to taking our campus to the next level of cleanliness and safety. I promise you that it will transform our work and lives as well.

I once again congratulate all the NIPER community on the occasion of 69th Republic Day.

Jai hind!