

## Speech of Director, NIPER for Independence Day, 2021

Dear Niperites and families,

Our nation is celebrating 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. NIPER, SAS Nagar proudly joins the rest of the country in celebrating Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav. It is a moment of immense pleasure for me as it is my first opportunity to address all of you on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of India. My best wishes and many congratulations to all of you for this.

Friends, 15 August is a day of honor and pride for every Indian. On 15 August 1947, our great freedom fighters freed our country from the British Empire. Today, 74 years after independence, our country is progressing in every field. Due to progress in the field of science and technology, India has reached the moon and Mars. We have achieved self-sufficiency in food grains. Notably, our country has successfully eradicated several diseases. Since the historic day of 15 August 1947, we have evolved as a nation in which science and technology are respected. We adopted the highest values in science and technology and became recognized as a country with many scientific merits.

For the last one and a half years, India and the world are struggling to combat COVID 19 virus, which has taken many lives worldwide. India has played an important role in the management of COVID 19 at the world level. It has supplied the drugs and vaccines internationally. Our responsibility has increased in the knowledge-based pharma sector to generate skilled human resources to take diverse Pharma industry challenges.

The nation is investing a considerable amount of public money in every student, scientist, and faculty and expects the generation of a scientifically sound

workforce. We shall be failing our responsibilities as citizens of an independent nation if we do not dedicate ourselves to the service of this nation. Let us promise ourselves today that we shall always put forward ourselves to the service of the country.

The government of India is giving utmost importance to the health of every citizen of India. Our institute is directly contributing to the health sector of India. We are involved in the design, discovery, development, and management of drugs. With an increase in the health insurance cover to the citizens of India, the requirements of improved standards in the pharmaceutical field also shall be emerging. We will endeavor to bring out a significant change in our pharmaceutical field, keeping pace with the government's efforts in making India a very healthy nation, at par with all the developed countries.

Last year, several of our faculty members were included in the subject-wise world ranking of top 2% scientists. This achievement certainly was a much-needed and long-awaited reward and boost during these tough Covid times. It was a moment where our faculty has once more projected and highlighted our institute on the world map. I genuinely acknowledge their contributions and heartily congratulate them all. I request them to keep the spark alive to move further and bring more laurels to the institute. I have been apprised about the laurels brought by students. I congratulate them and encourage other students for the same.

The Niperians have followed the Covid 19 guidelines in letter and spirit to keep the institution safe. I appreciate academic, scientific, technical, administrative, and security staff's joint efforts to keep our campus safe and running during the most challenging time.

I sincerely acknowledge the faculty, scientific, and technical staff's tireless efforts to organize online classes so that the students are safe at their homes and still getting a quality education. I should not forget to mention the continuous support of the Computer Centre for holding the online classes. The admissions processes for master and Ph.D. students have been successfully completed. In addition, I would like to mention the success of administrative staff for the following:

- The arrears of 7CPC have been disbursed to all Niperites.
- Two Covid Vaccination Camps were organized in National Bioavailability Centre. Efforts are still being put to organize the third one.

The Engineering Section has always been on its toes to make each event of the institute a big success. Tireless efforts, immaculate planning, and day and night vigil of the team of wardens, chief warden, and office staff ensured a safe return of students, which otherwise could have proven to be devastating in this Covid-19 pandemic situation.

Several high-end instruments have been purchased and installed, and some are under the process of installation. We are also in the process of buying several cutting-edge equipments. The quality of research will improve as these instruments will immensely help the students in their research work.

We are overhauling the necessary infrastructure of the institute. New roads, sports arenas, and other civil works are being taken up at a war scale. Our labs, offices, and hostel facilities are being upgraded.

Now, I will outline specific plans for faculty, non-faculty, and students.

Faculty: We have scheduled the CAS in mid-September. One Inspire faculty position has been offered, and five faculty members will be recruited soon. The institute is trying to create several new faculty positions, including faculty of medical devices. Funds for several high-end instruments for common uses have been sanctioned.

Non-academic staffs: Filling up key positions, promotion policy after BOG formation, and training in government-funded institutions are on the cards.

Students: High-speed internet in the hostels, development of hostel infrastructure particularly messes and washrooms, sports infrastructure such as cricket, open-air gym, swimming pool are our priorities. We are committed to improving the teacher-student ratio and placement activity.

Few employees have been superannuated, and some are superannuating soon. I wish them all a healthy, happy, and peaceful life ahead. I request them to stay connected, and we shall seek their guidance in our future endeavors.

Let us celebrate Independence Day with Nationalism at heart. We must acknowledge that we all are equal irrespective of our caste, creed, religion, gender, ethnicity, language spoken, or financial status.

With these words, I conclude my speech, wishing all of you once again a very Happy Independence Day.

**Jai Hind!**