

Republic day-2024

Good morning to my faculty, staff, and my dear students, ladies, and gentlemen, I wish you all a very happy Republic Day.

Though India became a free nation on **August 15, 1947**, it declared itself: **a Sovereign** (*a self-governing*), **Democratic** (*elected by the people, for the people and of the people*) and **Republic state** (*a state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives, and which has an elected or nominated president rather than a monarch*) with the adoption of the Constitution on **January 26, 1950**. It gave India its identity as the largest democracy in the world. The Constitution of India is the supreme law of the land, embodying the values of **justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity**. On this day, we celebrate the achievements of our nation and pay tribute to the sacrifices of our freedom fighters and leaders who made this possible.

As we are celebrating 75th Republic Day, let us try to think on **how much and how far** have we achieved what is envisioned in the Indian constitution. In fact, we still have to go a long way before we can call India a developed nation. As citizens we need to collectively work towards the development of the nation and **make in India a reality**.

- The unique strength of the country is its **youthfulness as a democracy** and its **antiquity as a civilisation**,”. But it may become counterproductive if we waste this unique opportunity.
- Let us not ignore that India has 5000+ years old history, with 1/6th of the landmass, and almost five times the USA's population. India's challenges are 1000 times more complex compared to the USA. India is the largest exporter of intellectual brainpower to the entire world.
- Today India is the 5th largest economy in the world with 147 lakh crore GDP, accounting for 8% of global GDP. In recent years, India has seen a whopping rise of 15,400% in the number of startups, which rose from 471 in 2016 to 72,993 as of June 2022. This phenomenal rise in startups has also produced millions of new jobs in the country.
- India has risen to become Asia's third-largest electricity generator.
It increased its ability to produce energy from 1,362 MW in 1947 to 3, 95, 600 MW.
- In 1947 India had a population of 340 million with a literacy rate of just 12%, today it has a population of nearly 1.4 billion and a literacy rate of 74.04%. The average life expectancy has also risen from 32 years to 70 years in 2022.

- The **Mumbai Trans Harbour Link**, officially named as **Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Trans Harbour Link** and also known as **Atal Setu**, is a 21.8 km (13.5 mi) 6-lane elevated highway bridge, which connects Mumbai with Navi Mumbai, its satellite city. It is the longest sea bridge in India, and the world's 12th longest sea bridge.
- The G20 Summit-India's Presidency has been a **Tale of Achievements**. The principle of "**Vasudeva Kutumbakam**," or "**one planet, one world and one family**," is the most important lesson to be learned from the G20 leaders' summit.
- The Lander Module (LM) of the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) third lunar mission Chandrayaan-3, launched on July 14, made a successfully landing on the Moon's surface on **23rd August, 2023** making India only the fourth country after the erstwhile USSR, the U.S. and China to make a soft landing on the lunar surface.

Let us, therefore, remember that we have much work to do to ensure that the values are upheld and that every citizen has access to quality education, healthcare, and a fair chance to succeed. It is our collective responsibility **to build** a better future for all and to create a more **equitable** and **prosperous society**. It is only possible if we can build **great human beings**.

The fundamental rights such as:

- the right to equality,
- right to freedom,
- right against exploitation,
- right to freedom of religion,
- cultural and educational rights,
- right to property and
- right to constitutional remedies,
- ensure a quality of life to all of us.

We should never forget that the constitution also **emphasizes** about the fundamental duties as a citizen, according to which: **there can be no rights without accountability.**

The most relevant Of all the fundamental duties, are:

1. the duty to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity.
2. The duty to develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform.
3. Protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures.
4. Safeguard public property (our institute) and to avoid violence.

The last of **the 11th duty**, which was added in 2002, is to ensure that no **Indian child is unschooled**. As a part of the fundamental duty, we at NIT Rourkela are working towards increasing the **Gross Enrolment Ratio** in professional education. Furthermore, we at NIT Rourkela have started Kendriya Vidyalaya-NIT Rourkela from this academic session- we are committed to the principles of “**Sarva Siksha Abhiyan**” of the Govt. of India.

In terms of the strength of NIT Rourkela: I am happy to share the accomplishments of our institute and they are:

- In NIRF-2023, our institute is ranked 16th position in Engineering category, 8th in Architecture, 29th in the Research category, and 37th position in the overall category.
- In QS World University Rankings in 2024 NIT Rourkela is placed in the list among 291-300 top Asian universities, and 67th among South Asian Universities.
- According to the recent QS World University Sustainability Ranking-2024, NIT Rourkela has ranked 676 in the overall category, 177 in Asia and 21 in India.
- According to the World University Rankings under Times Higher Education Ranking - 2024 in

Engineering and Technology, NIT Rourkela has been ranked between 601-800.

- National Board of Accreditation (NBA) has approved 10 undergraduate and 17 PG programs, in the present cycle.
- The institute currently has 369 international students from 20 different countries of Asia, Africa, Europe, and North America continents.
- During the session of 2022-23, sponsored research worth Rs. 42.59 crores were sanctioned through 73 projects in the fields of Science, Social Science, and Engineering.
- A total of 47 patents have been granted to our faculty members and students, out of which in the year 2023, 22 patent grants were obtained.
- 25 of our faculty members are on the list of most influential Scientists in the year 2023, as published by Stanford University.

My dearest students, it is the right time for you to evolve into **ethical** and **capable leaders, job creators,** and **innovators**.

My dear students it is time for you to **Learn to Unlearn to relearn**. Dump your old dogmas in the bin and restart. **Nothing is impossible** and it is **never too late** to make a beginning. **Don't ever take the path of least resistance**. Never try to look for easy ways for success. **Nothing worthwhile can be achieved easily**.

My dear faculty, staff: whenever any person (a student, or a faculty or a retired faculty or a staff. etc.) approaches you for some help, please.... **never** throw up our hands and say: “**NO ... Not now... come later**”, or “**NO...Not at all possible**”.

Let us ask ourselves, **are we measuring up to our own standards?** let us take a few steps and apply to ourselves a little harder. Believe me, it surprises ourselves by beating our own benchmarks.

I am sure and I am confident that **each one of us** will find one or more ways this year to better ourselves in **our studies, in our research, in our pursuits in our administration.**

Let this be the primary duty we offer to the country.

We all are bound to safeguard the environment and take care of our institute and its resources.

- i. It is a blessing that NIT Rourkela is a lush green campus The Team Swachata Abhiyan is relentlessly investing their time and effort towards cleaning the campus and are trying hard to make our campus a plastic free campus. So, let's on our part take a pledge that we shall keep our campus clean and green and **SAFE**. This also points at our **entire academic complex, Halls of residence and faculty residences**, etc. all must be **spick-and-span**.

- ii. Let us not leave unwanted junk in the corridors and quadrangles. We must meticulously **avoid** littering our workplaces, particularly plastic. And let us not waste food, water & power. Let us practice disposing all our waste carefully, specifically the hazardous waste we generate in our labs.
- iii. I take this opportunity to place on record the unconditional service some of our faculty; staff; and students are involving in weekend cleaning activity of the campus - mission “**Swachata AbhiYan**”.
- iv. As far as the institute administration is concerned: We are taking necessary steps to address all the pending matters, Regarding infrastructure projects **to old infrastructure projects are addressed sincerely issues and new infrastructure projects**, hostels for boys and girls and faculty apartments are in progress.

I earnestly request that: **let us commit ourselves** wholeheartedly on this day of the Republic Day and work towards taking our institute to the next level of excellence.

Wishing you all once again a very happy **Republic Day 2024**.

Jai Hind! & Jai Bharat!