On 15 August 1947, India attained freedom from the British Rule. Every year, August 15 is celebrated as the Independence Day in India. This national festival is celebrated with great enthusiasm all over the country.

The Independence Day of any country is a moment of pride and glory. On this special occasion, GITAM University paid rich tributes to the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives and fought to free our motherland.
I am extremely happy to inform you that GITAM University has made appreciable progress in all fronts. ‘GITAM’ to-day is synonymous with vibrancy, quality and values. The University has turned as one of the biggest University in the state of Andhra Pradesh with 660 committed faculty members, 450 research scholars and over 11000 students.

Recognizing the holistic education that the University is imparting, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India ranked GITAM as ‘A’ category university among the universities of its kind. Another apex organization which assesses the quality and standards in higher education in the country National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accredited the University with “A” grade in September, 2011.

I am happy to inform that the University hosted a good number of national and intentional seminars and conferences during the last year. Over 90 research projects sponsored by various funding agencies are in progress and our faculty have published a good number of research papers in reputed national and international journals during the last year.

“GITAM Foundation Annual Award”, was instituted during the last year with a corpus of Rs. 2 Cr. graciously donated by Dr. MVVS Murthi, Hon’ble President. GITAM Foundation Annual Award - 2011 was conferred on His Lordship Justice B. Sudershan Reddy, former judge, Supreme Court of India.

A Gold Medal in the name of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India was instituted from the endowment created jointly by the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and the Condition Monitoring Society. An endowment to organize an Endowment Lecture in the name of Dr. V. Bhujanga Rao, former Director, NSTL, Visakhapatnam was created.

A world-class Data Centre consisting of super computer, and high-end Wi-Fi network covering both the campuses was established. During the year, the Library has been enriched with a collection of 11.60 lakh books and e-learning resources.

The University had many distinguished visitors to the campus, who interacted with the faculty and students thereby enriching the academic climate of the University.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. Vijay Kumar Saraswat, Special Advisor to Raksha Mantry ,Secretary, Defense Research and Director General, DRDO for delivering the convocation address as the Chief Guest during second Convocation.

In order to steer the University to achieve planned growth on a long-term basis, a Vision – 2020 document has been formulated. The basic theme of the document is to transform the University into a centre of excellence in teaching, research and consultancy through appropriate initiatives and strategies.

This brief recap of highlights of GITAM’s saga, during the last year and its future aspirations point out that the University is well poised for reaching even greater heights in the years to come.

I take this opportunity to thank the MHRD, UGC, AICTE, and funding agencies for their continuous support, cooperation and help.
The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is an autonomous body of the University Grants Commission with its base in Bangalore which assesses and accredits higher education institutes to make quality the defining element of higher education in India through a combination of self and external quality evaluation, promotion and sustenance initiatives.

The Council has nominated a Peer Team under the Chairmanship of Dr. H.P. Kincha, former Vice-Chancellor, Visveswaraiah Technology University, which visited the University in during 1st to 3rd May, 2011.

The Team made assessment of total quality of the University on seven parameters broken down to 36 key aspects and one thousand assessment indicators as contained in their self study document already made available to the team prior to their visit.

Considering the overall performance of the University, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has accorded accreditation with “A” grade to the University valid for a period of five years i.e. from 16th November, 2011.

NAAC PEER TEAM VISIT
A Super Computer, called “High Performance Computer (HPC) Cluster”, has been developed by GITAM Centre for Advanced Technology Solutions (CATS). It is capable of delivering 1.5 Teraflops (1.5 Trillion Floating Point Operations per Second) performance. This Super Computer is built with 16 Dual-Processor Sun Rack Servers comprising of 128 Cores and Half Terabyte of RAM.

The Technology used in this Super Computer is “Massively Parallel Processing (MPP)”. Launching the technology, Dr. M.V.V.S. Murhti, honorable President-GITAM University appreciated the CATS team for their achievement.

According to V. Rao Bathina-CATS Director and Chief Technology Officer, using the super computer GITAM is now capable of taking up high computer intensive research and consulting works in the areas such as bioinformatics, molecular modeling, nanotechnology, simulation of large systems, meteorology & weather forecasting, finite element analysis of high-raised building & complex mechanisms, quantum & nuclear physics, computational chemistry, data mining, business intelligence, statistical analysis etc. With this Super Computer the university can handle high-performance-computing (HPC) requirements, he added. He mentioned that very few universities in India are having this kind of Super Computer in their campuses. Prof. G. Subrahmanyanam, Vice-Chancellor GITAM University, Prof. D. Harinarayana, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Prof. M. Potha Raju, Registrar were among those present.
An Agreement of Cooperation (AoC) was made between Vikrama Simhapuri University (VSU), Nellore, and GITAM Institute of Science, GITAM University, Visakhapatnam, on May 19. Prof C.R.Visweswara Rao - Vice-Chancellor VSU and Prof G.Subramanyam Vice-Chancellor, Prof D.Harinarayana-Pro-VC, Prof V.Narayana Reddy- Registrar, VSU and Prof M.Potha Raju-Registrar, GITAM University exchanged the agreement at Visakhapatnam. GITAM University declared as deemed university under section 3 of UGC Act, is one of the best universities in South India region and has a wealth of knowledge, and an expertise in the emerging areas of science and its applications, said the GITAM University officials.

While VSU is situated in an ambience of great cultural awakening and fascinating journeys of the mind, has turned to help knowledge dissemination and skill development in frontier areas among the youth in the region.

The agreement will remain in force for a period of three-years and the managements will focus on exchange of faculty members and academic information for research, joint consultancy projects and in conducting lectures and symposia.

MoU with Tata Consultancy Services

The Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Hyderabad signed a MoU with GITAM University for an academic relationship here on Monday. The TCS Vice-President and Mr V. Rajanna Regional Head signed the document. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Rajanna said GITAM University has been the main source for IT companies for their quality manpower requirements and after Hyderabad no other city in AP is as competing as Visakhapatnam. He said that the Nasscom also recognized Visakhapatnam as one of the major IT talent hubs in Andhra Pradesh. Mr Rajanna said GITAM has been a valued partner for TCS and this agreement of cooperation reinforces the partnership between two organizations.

While interacting with the faculty members, he said that they were ready to offer faculty development programmes on cloud computing and IT security issues.

He promised that his company will extend cooperation to GITAM Hyderabad campus. Prof G. Subramanyam-Vice-Chancellor GITAM University, said that the university-industry interaction was the main component in GITAM vision 2020 document.

A LabVIEW Academy will be established at Gitam University's Department of Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering following a MoU signed between the university and the National Instruments India (NII), Bangalore.

LabVIEW, the Laboratory Virtual Instrumentation Engineering Workbench, is a platform to create an environment for a visual programming language from the National Instruments and automating the usage of processing and measuring equipment in any laboratory setup. The key benefit of LabVIEW is the extensive support for accessing instrumentation hardware.

The National Instruments India (NII) is a developer of computer-based instrumentation hardware and software products used by engineers and scientists in academics and industry. The academy would provide LabVIEW software training to the students and industry personnel. NII would provide start-up assistance and free technical consultancy for establishment of academy and also agreed to provide 50 per cent discount in Certified LabVIEW Associate Developer examination fee for the students. The academy would organize courses, workshops and seminars on various aspects of algorithm engineering and graphical system design.

Prof M. Potharaju- Registrar, GITAM University and Mr Solain Kutty Dhanapal -NII Academic Manager signed an MoU in the presence of Prof G. Subramanyam, Vice-Chancellor, Prof D. Harinarayana, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Prof M.R.S. Satyanarayana, Vice-Principal Institute of Technology, Prof D. Elizabeth Rani, HoD of EIE and J. Visweshvaran NII Academic Consultant.
Chemical Techniques for Coastal Structures

Dr. S. S. Bhavikatti, renowned Civil Engineering Professor of NIT, Surathkal and Author of Numerous Civil Engineering text books and Taskforce member in Karnataka state public constructions wing has visited the GITAM University Campus on 09.07.2011 as a part of expert lecture schedule for the benefit of Civil Engineering students and faculty.

On his inaugural lecture he made special emphasis on the recently revised code IS 800 - 2007 regarding the codal provisions of Steel Structures in coastal areas. The code contains provisions for design and detailing for seismic loads.

He also stated that certain anti-protective coatings and other chemical techniques may be adopted to ensure the corrosion resistant structures in Marine zones. He also discussed about the case studies of various failures occurred in major infrastructural projects in India and their remedial measures.

Prof. M. Potha Raju, Registrar, G.U., Prof. D. Prasada Rao, Principal, GIT and Prof. M. Ramesh, Head of Dept. of Civil Engineering, faculty and students of Civil Engineering Dept. have participated in this expert lecture.
The Department of Chemistry, Institute of Science (GIS), GITAM University in association with AP Akademi of sciences (APAS), IICT, NGRI and CCMB, Hyderabad organized the International Year of Chemistry (IYC)-2011 activity at Visakha Valley School on 12th July, 2011. The focal theme was chemistry-Our life, our future. Dr. Ch. Mohan Rao, Director, CCMB and Hon. Secretary-APAS launched the IYC-2011 activities. Dr. J.S. Yadav, Director, IICT delivered the inaugural lecture. Padma Shree Dr. Vijay Prasad Dimri, President APAS, distinguished scientist and former director, NGRI inaugurated the exhibition of chemistry demonstrations and addressed the gathering. The students of various Schools in and around Visakhapatnam demonstrated experiments and exhibits dealing with various concepts of chemistry. The teachers from different schools demonstrated innovative teaching kits in chemistry. They interacted with expert scientists present in the inaugural programme. The selected exhibits and demonstrations will be presented in AP Science Congress to be held at GITAM University Visakhapatnam during 14-16, November, 2011. Prof. K. Narsimha Reddy, Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University, Nalgonda, Prof. J.M. Rao, Treasure, APAS, Prof. K. Madhav Rao, Vice President, APAS Ms. P. Sarada, Principal, Visakha Valley School and Prof. P. Rajendran were among the other distinguished guest who graced the function. Dr. K. Ramakrishna, Head, Department of chemistry, GIS coordinated the activities of the inaugural function.

Global Action For Healthy Communities Without Drugs

GITAM Institute of Pharmacy, GU in association with the Drugs Control Administration, Visakhapatnam District, Prohibition and Excise Department, Govt. of AP, Lions International and Drug de-addiction Centre, Green Valley Foundation organized a seminar on “GLOBAL ACTION FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES WITHOUT DRUGS” on 25.06.2011 at GITAM University campus.

The meeting was presided over by Prof. P. Suresh, Dean & Principal, GITAM Institute of Pharmacy. The welcome address was delivered by Mr. R. Uday Bhaskar, Asst. Director, Drugs Control Administration, Visakhapatnam District. Padmasree Kutikuppala Surya Rao, delivered the key note address, while Prof. G. Subrahmanyam, Vice Chancellor, GU was the Chief Guest. Among others Mr. P. Chandra Mouli, Dy. Commissioner of Prohibition and Excise, Mr. N V N Durga Prasad, Former Governor, Lions International, Mrs. Uma Raj, Chair Person, Green Valley Foundation, Drug de-addiction Centre, Mr. S R Saini, Director, HR and Administration, M/s. Eisai Pharmatechnology & Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd and Prof. N. Lakshmana Das, Principal, GITAM Institute of Science have participated.
Orientation Programme in HBS

Orientation Programme

A rigorous orientation programme was conducted for the newly admitted batch of MBA from 4 to 9 July 2011 to prepare the students for meaningful learning in the two years to come. In the inaugural of this programme, Sri Sajeev Kale, Director, ITW Chemin, delivered the keynote address on “Enhancing Life Skills”. Other invited guest speakers during this programme were Sri D. Gopal, Trainer for Max New York Life (“Best Mgmt Practices in India and Global Business Enterprises”), Sri Ramesh Venuganti, President, Hyderabad Management Association (“Marketing Yourself”), Sri Mr. Venkat Reddy, Axis Bank (“Marketing Yourself”), Dr Praveen Bhasa Malla, Lead, Thought Leadership, Infosys (“Thought Leadership”), and Sri V.V. Suri, Director, Oracle (“Role of IT in Management”).

“What does industry expect from an MBA?”

An interactive lecture was organized on this topic by HBS, GITAM University, in association with Hyderabad Management Association (HMA), on 26 July 2011 by Prof. G. R. Maheshwar, Director, Impact Foundation, and renowned corporate trainer for the students of HBS. This programme was presided over by Prof. S.S. Prasada Rao. Sri Ramesh Venuganti, President, Hyderabad Management Association (HMA), delivered the keynote address. Mr. T. Tirupal Reddy, Convener, Faculty and Student Development Programme, HMA, explained the activities of HMA. Prof. Maheshwar explained how a B-School can help their students meet the expectations of the industry.

“Dialogue without Borders”: An interaction with MBA Students from Nepal

A team of students of MBA from Nepal visited Hyderabad Business School (HBS) on 5 August 2011 and interacted with their counterparts at HBS, through a programme organized in their honour called “Dialogue without Borders”. Fourteen students along with two faculty members from Presidency College of Management Science, Bharatpur, Chitwan, Nepal, visited HBS as part of their exposure tour to Hyderabad. They were led by the Director of their college, Prof. C.B. Chhetry. Students from Nepal and from HBS made presentations on “Scenario of Management Education in Nepal”, “Globalization and its Impact on Work Culture”, and “Business Challenges facing Developing Nations”.

Visits to ICRISAT & Infosys

HBS organized an exposure visit for its first year students to the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru, on 28 July 2011. Through a documentary film and an interactive presentation, the students came to know about how this international institute was being managed to fulfill its mission of increasing agricultural productivity and reducing poverty. The incubation centre run by ICRISAT to provide handholding support to entrepreneurs in agri-industry was of special interest to the students. They were also taken on a drive across the fields to provide them a first-hand experience of the research on crops carried out at ICRISAT.

Students of HBS along with their counterparts from Nepal visited Infosys on 6 July 2011. In a program scheduled for MBA students, the representatives of Infosys conducted a Business Quiz for them. They also made an interactive presentation on the history and evolution, objectives and activities of Infosys. The students were taken a campus visit.

“Investor Education and Grievance Redressal Mechanism”

Hyderabad Business School (HBS), GITAM University, Hyderabad Campus, organized an Investor Awareness Programme on “Investor Education and Grievance Redressal Mechanism” on its premises for its students and faculty, on 2 August 2011, in association with the Southern India Regional Centre (SIRC) of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI). The Vice President of SIRC, Sri S.S. Marthi, was the resource person of this programme. In addition to providing tips for beginners for successful investments, Sri Marthi introduced and explained the basic concepts in stock trading such as, public, rights and preferential issue of securities, IPO, FPO, prospectus, dematerialization, and opening of a demat account etc.
NCC cadets of GITAM University achieved the distinction of winning the Sahara India award for the third consecutive year. Cadets A. Tulasi Ram and Ch. Naga Satya Karthik of Electronics and Communication Engineering Department received the awards and a cash prize of Rs.12,000 each this year. Prof G. Subramanyam, Vice-Chancellor GITAM University, Prof M. Potha Raju, Registrar, Prof K. Narendra and NCC officer B. Sreenivasa Rao congratulated the students.

GITAM University Rotaract Club is a regional network of student leaders committed to serving and strengthening their local communities. The student members serve in partnership with schools and community-based organizations to address many community issues. Their community service programs also build positive relationships between campuses and communities. To date GITAM Rotaract Club organized various programs in Visakhapatnam city and received appreciations. More particularly the club bagged state awards for their holistic approach towards community service.

GITAM University Computer Science and Engineering department student Ms. C. Yasaswi received best student award from noted IT company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). She received a gold medal with Rs. 10,000/- cash prize as a part of TCS Academic Interface program. She also selected in TCS campus recruitments.

Vice-Chancellor Prof.G.Subrahmanyam, Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof.D.Harinarayana, Registrar Prof.M.Potharaju, Institute of Technology Principal Prof.D.Prasada Rao and Computer Science and Engineering department head Dr.G.Appa Rao appreciated the student for her achievement.

The students of MBA, GITAM Institute of Management have initiated a social Event, Live & Let Live on 8th August 2011 at Government of Andhra Pradesh Child Welfare Committee, Visakhapatnam. Live & Let Live started with the objective of collecting a rupee from the each student of MBA and MHRM every day. The collected amount is given to the orphan children in the form of books for 6th, 8th, and 9th students and Outdoor games like cricket bat, cricket balls, volley ball, shuttle bats, cocks set, rings also given indoor game kit like carom board, chess boards, Ludo game sets, Snakes & Ladder game, and other utensils like fans, Can for sugar according to their requirements. The main motive of the LIVE & LET LIVE is to offer education to the poor children, as the motive we have selected the Child Welfare Committee because the organisation has adopted the child beggars, motivating them towards the living lives. Students of MBA under the guidance of our beloved president M.V.S.Murthi, Dean and Principal, Prof.K. Siva Rama Krishna, and Vice-Principal Prof. P. Sheela of GITAM Institute of Management, GU.
The Union Bank of India on 17th June 2011 announced the creation of a ‘cashless campus model’ for GITAM University, under which all cash and cheque transactions in the varsity and colleges would be replaced by the paperless model, through the bank’s gateway.

The Bank’s Chairman and Managing Director M.V. Nair launched this project in the presence of GITAM University President Dr. M.V. V.S. Murhti at Hyderabad and said that the project involved activation of around 12,000 student accounts in Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam campuses of the varsity.

As a part of the project, Union Bank of India offered its Internet banking Payment Gateway, Debit/Credit Card Payment Gateway and any branch payment (online challan system) i.e., Cash Collection facility through all its branches to students of GITAM University.

Internet banking payment Gateway facilitates payments on GITAM website through Union Bank net banking account. Student’s account is debited and pool account of the Institute (fee collection account) is credited on real time basis.

Debit/Credit Card Payment Gateway facilitates payment through all VISA/MASTER Card debit and credit cards. Student transaction is settled by VISA or Master Card and settlement happens in T+1 basis.

For any Branch Payment Module, Students visit GITAM’s website and select the option of online payment. It prompt’s to enter his/her “Registration No./ Roll No.”. After entering the Regd. No., details of the student is populated. Students thereafter select payment mode as challan payment and the challan will get generated in triplicate with required details. Students Print the triplicate challan and approach any branch of Union Bank along with fee amount either in cash or DD.

Benefits of Cashless Campus Project:

- No need to carry cash/Demand Draft to the University for payment
- No need to stand in long queues
- Fees can be paid from any location
- Extends reach to all India
- Reduces paper work and reconciliation
- Hassle free fee collection system round the clock as this enables students/parents to make the fee payments to the University through Bank’s Internet banking account or credit/debit card or on mobile
Teaching and practical exposure are the two main components in higher education, particularly in professional education. In this context GITAM University over a period developed the science & technology laboratories with International standards. Each and every student who joins in the University is greatly benefited by these facilities and reaching the heights in their career.

As a part of expansion and modernization activity, the University established a highly sophisticated Mechanical Engineering Laboratory in Visakhapatnam campus. The newly constructed Industrial Engineering Bhavan is a milestone in the long run of GITAM journey. The University campus memorized these landmark movements on 28-07-2011 in the presence of Union Bank of India Chairman Sri P.Nair and others. While inaugurating the Industrial Engineering Bhavan he appreciated the university authorities for taking initiative to meet the global standards.

He appreciated that in entire South India GITAM University came forward to start UBI Cash less Campus Project. He mentioned that this type of initiatives will improve the economy of the country. He said that quality education, entrepreneurship will play a key role in Indian education sector. He advised that students should prepare themselves to face the challenges and convert in to opportunities. Dr. MVVS Murthi, President, GITAM University said that the Banking sector should give support to Industrial Sector and encourage the exports. Prof.G.Subramanyam, Vice-Chancellor, GITAM University said that the university is establishing a Centre for Banking studies and will conduct research and training programs.

Sri V.Seetaramaiah, Vice-President, GITAM University, Prof. D. Harinarayana, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Prof.M.Potharaju-Registrar, Prof.K.Sivarama Krishna, Principal Institute of Management, Prof.D.Prasada Rao, Principal, Institute of Technology and others participated in the meeting.
Mr M.V. Nair Chairman & Managing Director- Union Bank of India at the outset complimented Dr MVVS Murthi-President, GITAM University for the wonderful campus and his vision as an educationist. He also appreciated the greenery in the campus. He thinks sometimes even we become like robots and are conditioned by our surroundings. He related himself by reminding his aspirations when he was a student. He knows the difference it makes of present students as a community and a community when he was young. The future of India is dependent on quality education.

GITAM University and Union Bank share a lot of common ground because they grew together and have a long association. One thing that struck him was Mahatma Gandhi statue and was really impressed because Union Bank’ first branch was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi. In 1921 some one invited not Mahatma but Mr Karamchand Gandhi as he was not a mahatma at that time and that was the time when he was not very welcome in a gathering. He stressed that GITAM University has a great future like Union Bank. He also thanked all for opting to be a part of cashless campus. This is a movement in the country India has largest cash circulation in the world-11.5% and even if we bring it down to the cash in circulation in New Zealand Mc Kinsey says the saving for the country is the number. Now the cashless campus is totally cash less, paperless and whoever starts opting for it is starting a movement in the country and in the entire south India GITAM University is the first to opt for. Coming to the point when he aspired to begin college education it was very difficult to get into education as most were not financially sound. He hails from Kerala which is a beautiful place but very difficult terrain to walk. The students were asked not to never ever stop dreaming, dreams finds ways to visualize its dreams. It is said that if we visualize and want certain things to happen it is said that the entire environment conspires to make it happen, so one should keep dreaming.

Students are truly destiny children for the reason India has new entered what we call it as super cycle of growth phase which is a very interesting phase in the history of the country as it goes for one generation full and it is said that one year back India had entered this phase whereas China has entered about two years back. The first time when the super cycle growth happened USA was born and the second time it happened Japan was born and the third time this super cycle affected India and China and all those who are associated with this are benefitted. The reason is, it all depend s on assumptions, one assumption is India has a large democratic strength, a large younger community. He prays that all have quality education so that every one is employable. As a banker he reminded that there are a large number of institutions which have floated only for the purpose of students to borrow education loan but ever not employable. One needs to dream, dream to be at the top.

Mr Nair coming from a humble background could make it to the top; it is also possible for anyone. Some of them could make it to be the Prime Minister of the country. It is expected in the next ten years 350 million will be joining the bank i.e. going to join the banks as customers are. The message is in India our entire system is preparing for getting a good placement which is not enough. First of all we should create jobs, for that there should be industry. It is to be noted that let there should be focus on entrepreneurship. In the present budget the finance minister made a very profound statement that we would like the share of manufacturing in the GDP to move from 16% - 25% with one single underlying objective of these manufacturing units which are going to create employment for a large team of youngsters. Countries across the globe need to have a vision, a global vision. In conclusion, a small story was shared. There was a large office where many people work and one day after the lunch time when all people were coming back they saw a board kept that read that one of the colleagues who actually blocked their growth in this institution is no more so a prayer ceremony in the evening has been arranged. The story went on to say that we ourselves are responsible for either failure or success. The point is if tomorrow if one has to be successful is entirely in their hands. As bankers the future of the country has two very big challenges: one to managing the Gen Y customers, another major challenge is managing new bankable class what is popularly known as financial inclusion. The political economy wants 50% of the population who are beyond the reach of banking to be brought into banking habit. Unless this 50% of the population who are denied of all the elements of growth if not made a part of growth process there will be unrest, there will be movement of naxalism by which we also cannot enjoy the fruits of the growth.

There are major things happening like the AADHAR - the identity for the individuals and in three years time the entire population will get an identity simultaneously. The Union bank is planning on micro ATM - an hand held device which can be kept in merchant shop in a small village where four transactions can take place: (1) depositing cash (2) withdrawing cash, (3) remittance and (4) updating of the MIS. All this changes the banking profile. If they become par and parcel of the growth process, the growth of India 9-10% will be more as dreamt and all of us can be the beneficiaries.
The idea of participating in Lunabotics Mining Competition started as we keep on searching about different Programmes & Competitions throughout the world. We found this to be interesting and something new than the competitions going on in India. We applied for this in November and started making a team. The team started designing the robot in all different stages. We came up with different new designs and creative ideas but when compared to all these, efficiency of the conveyor was the most and easily achievable. The robot was then subject to fabrication and the material selection as the material cost and weight these two things were the most important criteria for building the chassis.

The fabrication work was started in the month of January with small ideas and a little progress because the confirmation and eligibility letter was yet to come from NASA.

The work really took at boost on 26th February when we got the confirmation of team selection and 28th was the last date to submit the team details so we did our best again and completed the task. Then it was time to plan the fabrication schedule and execute it. Work started and we chose mild steel for the chassis as it would give more strength and stability though we had to compromise with weight but it was worth a compromise. Then came the task to select motors and buy them so that further design can be modified based on type, size and weight of the motors and yes also the number of motors to be used. As the cost for motors which were required was very high and was not available in Visakhapatnam we had to approach university for funds. We requested college to give some seed amount and help us, and the university positively responded and we thank them for this help.

As soon as we got motors we started selecting the wheels and transmission of the robot. Along with all this we are also asked to write a Systems of Engineering paper for the way of approach and the way we started our work. Along with this we are also supposed to go to different universities and make people aware for engineering and robotics as a process of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). The last date to submit this paper and the outreach project was on 18th April which we cleared and got the confirmation to move ahead. At this stage the screening was done and out of 60 selected teams 46 teams were eligible to compete on site at NASA Kennedy Space Center and GITAM University was one of the 46 teams (in which 30 are U.S based teams and 16 international teams in which 7 are from India).

The fabrication work went on simultaneously by dividing the team for different individual tasks. In April though all of us had semester exams nearing we have to slow down our project work but we finished our work and submitted the video of working model of robot by 3rd may as par with the deadlines.

After the completion of the video submission successfully we started working on our Visa and Air-tickets. Clearing the Visa process we started our journey to Orlando (Florida State, U.S). After reaching Florida on 22nd May, we went to Kennedy space centre on 23rd and registered our entry and started the assembly of robot on the same day but due to problem in the transportation of robot some parts got damaged and it took time to complete the assembly and we made it to the final checking and got eligibility to compete in Lunarena.

Inspection rounds in on site competition:
23rd May: Assembly of the Robot
24th May: Approval for communication check
25th May:
- Security Check
- Dimension Check
- Weight Check
- Mechanical check
- Practice in Lunarena

28th May: Final round of the competition

We cleared all the inspection rounds and entered into the finals of the competition and we got very good appreciation from the scientists of NASA for our simple design of the structure and electronic circuit and low manufacturing costs. On 28th May in the Final competition due to an unexpected error in the circuit, which we are unable to fix, we couldn’t succeed in the finals. (We couldn’t fix it because we cannot touch our robot after placing it in the Lunarena.)

As a whole we are very glad to be there at NASA till the finals of the competition where only two Indian teams could enter into the finals. We are very thankful to the Mr. Jaydeep Mukerjee, Director, Florida Space Grants Commission, Kennedy Space Center who supported us continuously at NASA Kennedy Space Center.

We are very thankful to our faculty advisor Prof. P.M.Valli for his continuous technical guidance. We are also very much thankful to GITAM University, Universal Infratech Pvt.Ltd, Hyderabad and Symbiosis Technologies, Visakhapatnam for their Financial & Moral support only due to which we achieved this.

This experience really helped us in learning and getting exposed to very sophisticated technology and making very good international contacts and awareness in astronomical sciences and a very rare chance to visit NASA.

Team members:
Vikas Kumar Singh, Bollem Raja Kumar, Vanka Sai Suraj, Chittisani Niranjana Reddy, Hamza Madarwala
GITAM University
Taking inspiration from Grammen Model of Bangladesh, the Self-Help Group movement proved its strength in addressing the financial needs of poor people particularly women who are actively involved in taking the movement to its heights.

The SHG Bank Linkage Programme is the dominant model in this sector. From 2005 onwards, this sector attracted many more players and a new set of supply-side institutions extended their operations as “Micro Finance Institutions” (MFIs) to enhance the micro credit operations under the strategy of Financial Inclusion. They channeled lot of funds into the market by taking this sector a long-way from village market to the capital market, which is evident from the public offering of SKS Micro Finance Ltd., the largest MFI in India. The Apex Organisations like Sa-dhan, MFIN are also working to make this sector more transparent, efficient and effective without compromising the basic philosophy of serving and helping the poor in order to bring social and economic change. Any sector when it grows rapidly with some structural changes, then managing the growth will be a big challenge. Proliferation of unregulated MFIs with profit motive are becoming like a large-scale village-type money lender posing a real challenge by questioning the basic philosophy of micro finance. Particularly, in this sector client protection, responsible finance and business ethics are the major issues.

The recent crisis in the MFI sector in Andhra Pradesh calls for a debate on the use and abuse of micro finance. Lack of prudential lending norms proper governance of MFIs and conflict between social purpose and profit making could be the reasons for this crisis. Andhra Pradesh Government passed an ordinance imposing restrictions on MFIs, which was debated for its constitutional validity. The “Micro Finance India Summit 2010” also highlighted the basic issue of balancing social impact and profitability without harming the people – the poor clients.

In the context GITAM School of International Business organised a National Seminar on “Microfinance Sector in INDIA- Challenges and opportunities” on 10th September 2011.

The record growth of MFI sector during this year combined with surfacing of problems, the present seminar is intended to provide a common platform for the academicians, MFI organizations, government officials, legal experts, and technology experts to initiate the insightful discussions, finding workable and practical solutions for the healthy and ethical growth of micro finance sector in India.

This School has proposed to NABARD to institute a Chair in the area of Microfinance, for promoting research, consultancy and other promotional activities on the occasion.

Prof. R.S. Deshpande, Director, Institute of Social and Economic Studies, Bangalore, delivered the keynote address. Prof. Satchidananda Sogala, Founder & Director, Global Microfinance Foundation, Bangalore, Mr. Venkatrao Y. Ghorpade, Chairman SHIRDI Foundation, Bangalore spoke during the inaugural session. Mr. P. Mohanayya, Chief General manager, NABARD, Hyderabad released the Souvenir during the occasion and delivered his address.

Prof. V.K. Kumar, Director of GITAM School of International Business gave the welcome address.
GITAM Institute of Pharmacy, GITAM University, Visakhapatnam has organized an International Conference on Biotechnology in Pharma and Food Industries (ICBPF 2011) on 29th & 30th July, 2011. It was sponsored by Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Indian Council of Medical Research, Government of India.

The conference was inaugurated by Sri Bobba Venkatadri, General Partner, Ventureast, USA. The formal welcome address was delivered by Prof. P. Suresh, Convener, ICBPF 2011, the Dean & Principal, GITAM Institute of Pharmacy, GITAM University. The inaugural function was presided over by Prof. G. Subrahmanyam, Vice Chancellor, GITAM University. The President of GITAM University Dr. M.V.V.S. Murthi has graced the occasion. Dr. Dange Veerapaneni, MD & CEO, Sparsha Pharma International Pvt. Ltd. has participated as Guest of Honor. In his inaugural address Sri Bobba Venkatadri from USA has stated that after a decade of hard work in the basic science of genomics, the health benefits were beginning to be felt and the leading edge of advances in diagnosis, prevention, and treatment has arrived. The President of the University Dr. M.V.V.S. Murthi has observed that Indian Pharmaceutical sector has registered a steady growth. However, adequate employment opportunities for pharmacy graduates in Pharma Industry need to be worked out to provide employment to all, so as to attract the takers for the pharmacy programme. He has called upon the industrial experts to deliberate on this key issue and to come out with a concrete solution for the larger benefit of the pharmacy students. Sri Bobba Venkatadri has delivered a talk on “BIOTECHNOLOGY: Addressing GLOBAL CHALLENGES”. The key note address was delivered by Dr. Dange Veerapaneni on the topic of Current scenario of IndiaPharma & Biotechnology Sector. A Pharmaexpo was also inaugurated by Sri Bobba Venkatadri in the august presence of Dr. M.V.V.S. Murthi and Dr. Dange Veerapaneni. Manufacturers of several pharmaceutical instruments and others have exhibited their products with lively demonstration of the same which has attracted the attention of all delegates. The delegates from 6 countries have participated in the conference. A total of 550 delegates have registered out of which delegates from India representing 10 states, 68 colleges, 10 industries, two research organizations have actively participated and presented research papers during the oral and poster scientific sessions. Invited talks by eminent scientists from India and Abroad was the main source of attraction for the delegates.

Dr. V. Subrahmanyam, Vice President, Sai Advantium Pharma Ltd, USA has delivered an invited talk on Drug Discovery and Development, Pros and cons: Can India measure up to the challenge. Dr. Rama Rao Malla, Department of cancer biology and pharmacology, College of Medicine, University of Illinois has delivered an invited talk on A novel strategy for the treatment of glioma – SiRNA technology. Dr. Bhagavatula Moorthy, Baylor College of Medicine, 1102 Bates Ave, Suite 530, Houston, has delivered an invited talk on Role of cytochrome P4501A enzymes in oxygen mediated lung injury. Dr. Ram Babu Gundla, Principal Scientist, GVK Bio, Hyderabad has delivered an invited talk on Chemo informatics role in drug discovery.
Indian Pharmaceutical sector seen exceptional growth from Rs. 10 crore (US$ 2 million) in 1948 to Rs. 1.77,000 crore (US$ 26 billion) in 2010. India’s pharmaceutical industry is now the third largest in the world. Globally North America, Europe, Japan and Latin American countries account for 85% of the worldwide Pharma Production.

India is the second largest food producer that offers a huge market for biotechnology products. Marine resource development and aqua culture also hold a great potential as India has more than 8000 kilometers of coastline.

India enjoyed many comparative advantages over its neighboring countries, like educated workforce that speaks English, the world’s largest democracy and second largest population, the world’s tenth largest economy, a sophisticated IT sector, and a young, entrepreneurial workforce that is eager to take advantage of the country’s ongoing economic liberalizations.

Indian Pharma and biotechnology industry is lagging behind for entering into any strategic alliances with research institutes for mutual benefits. This lack of coordination between industry-institute partnerships is a serious drawback especially in India. It is very crucial for both academic/research institutions and Pharma-bio companies to cooperate and try to solve multidisciplinary aspects in product and technology development.

Industry-institute partnerships could have a multiple advantage like inventing new technology, processes or cost cutting. Researches partnerships allow academicians, scientists and regulators help in evolving a compromise solutions on issues, apart from identifying thrust areas for joint programs. Every possible opportunities should be looked into to involve the entire teaching community from different campus of India to get exposed to the concept of Industry oriented applied research work.
Reserve Bank of India Governor GITAM Visit

GITAM University president Dr. MVVS Murthi felicitating Reserve Bank of India Governor Dr. D. Subba Rao

GITAM School of International Business Distinguished Lecture – 2011 was delivered by Hon’ble Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Dr. D. Subbarao on August 1st, 2011 at Mother Theresa Auditorium, GITAM University campus. He delivered the Distinguished Lecture on “India and the Global Financial Crisis: What have we learnt?”. Dr. Duvvuri Subbarao is an economist, central banker, and civil servant. He is the 22nd and current Governor of Reserve Bank of India, serving under Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Dr. Subbarao worked as the joint secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India between 1988 and 1993. Subsequently he became the Finance Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh between 1993 and 1998. On completion of his term, he was deputed as lead economist in the World Bank from 1994 to 2004. On completion of his term, he was appointed to the Prime Ministers’ Economic Advisory Council from 2005 to 2007 before he was elevated as the Finance Secretary in 2007.

Subbarao’s hometown is Eluru in West Godavari district, in Andhra Pradesh. He did his schooling from the Sainik School in Korukonda, Andhra Pradesh. He graduated in Physics BSc Hons. From Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (class of 1969) where he was the recipient of Director’s Gold Medal. He received a MSCe degree also in Physics from Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. Dr. Subbarao topped the IAS examination in 1972 and was assigned the Andhra Pradesh cadre. He later did a Masters degree (MS) in economics from Ohio State University, United States and was a Humphrey Fellow at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He later received a Ph.D. in Economics from Andhra University.

His provided an additional layer of depth and everyone present thought his speech was very informative. GITAM University faculty and students enjoyed and benefitted from his presentation.

Dr. MVVS Murthi, Hon’ble President, GITAM University in his opening remarks appreciated the RBI efforts during global financial crisis. Prof. G. Subrahmanyam, Vice-Chancellor briefly presented a report on GITAM University. Prof. V.K. Kumar, Dean & Director of the School of International Business given the welcoming address. Prof. Ganti Subrahmanyam presented the vote of thanks.
Distinguished Lecture
on
“India and the Global Financial Crisis: What have we learnt?”

by
Dr. D. Subbarao, IAS
Governor, Reserve Bank of India
He said dismantling license permit, opening up the economy to the 
external sector and downsizing the reliance of economy on public 
sector are the three guiding principles that opened up India to 
globalization since the economic reform process initiated in 1991. 
According to him, one of the benefits of globalization is higher growth 
trajectory while the costs of economic integration and globalization 
are the adverse impact of external events like financial crisis, economic 
recessions etc. on the domestic economy.

The global financial crisis of 2008 was a culmination of global 
imbalances, easy accommodative policies and excessive leverage which 
is again a consequence of irrational exuberance among the people and 
the firms of the developed economies. The idea is to maximize the 
benefits and minimize the costs.

On why India was hit by the crisis, he mentioned three channels, 
finance channel, confidence channel and real channel that caused 
crisis. Capital flight, drying up of external credit lines for our corporate 
sector increased pressure on domestic credit and redemption of 
investments in the domestic economy. This created credit and liquidity 
shortages in the financial markets. Many financial institutions have 
had failed during this crisis and that caused a crisis of confidence in US 
and a contagion affect was also felt in the Mumbai markets. Indian 
exports and imports were also hit by the crisis and therefore in some 
sense India was affected by the real channel. He said India is a 
globalized economy and as a result all the three channels mentioned 
above effectively were responsible for the crisis.

In response to contain the crisis, he said Reserve Bank tailored its 
policy to maintain ample liquidity, foreign exchange liquidity and 
availability of credit through its monetary policy tools. They became 
the foundation for our faster recovery, sooner than other countries, 
actually by summer of 2009. However, in the post crisis scenario, 
inflation became a concern and inflation-growth dynamics had to be 
managed.

Inflation was high due to three factors. First, there is a structural 
component to food inflation which was a result of higher demand for 
quality and better food from rural areas. Second, food inflation across 
the world was higher and the third is higher demand for goods and 
services due to increase in income in rural areas. In response to the 
rising inflation he said RBI had to raise interest rates to restrain inflation 
to ensure that our medium term growth is sustainable.

The second strand of his lecture involved explaining the eight lessons 
of crisis that we have learnt from the crisis. The first lesson is that 
decoupling of economies does not work precisely because the whole 
world is interconnected via trade, finance, and the ideas traveling 
through people from place to place.

The second lesson is that we need to make sure that global imbalances, 
current account surplus of Asia and current account deficit of USA, 
are not sustainable and so they had to be restrained at a certain level.

“Global problems require global coordination” was the third lesson. 
The crisis became global in two directions, one from America and the 
Europe to the rest of the world, another from housing sector to other 
productive sectors of the economy and a concerted effort had to be 
put in to coordinate their policies.

In his fourth lesson, Dr Subbarao said that price stability is no longer 
a necessary and sufficient condition for economic growth and 
macroeconomic stability. In fact there is a trade-off between price 
stability and financial stability as extended period of steady growth 
and low and stable inflation during the Great Moderation lulled central 
banks into complacency that caused easy accommodative policies, 
excessive leverage and asset price bubbles. The lesson learnt is that 
preventing an asset price build up should be within the remit of a 
central bank.

The fifth lesson is that “micropudential supervision at the institution 
level has to be supplemented with the macroprudential oversight” to 
prevent systemic risk building up caused by the interconnectedness 
of the financial institutions at the domestic as well as at the 
international level.

Capital inflows far in excess of a country’s absorptive capacity could 
pose problems other than currency appreciation. Thus, “capital controls 
are unavoidable” to discourage speculative flows that can potentially 
lead to asset price build up was the sixth lesson learnt from the crisis.

The economists did warn that the global imbalances are unsustainable 
and predicted a currency collapse. However, when the event occurred, 
the system did implode, but not as a currency collapse but as a melt-
down of the financial system. To this extent the economists failed to 
predict the seriousness of the outcome. He, therefore in his seventh 
lesson, emphasized that “economics is not physics” because it is not 
an exact science as it cannot lay claim to the immutability, universality, 
precision and exactitude of physics.

Finally he concluded his speech with the eighth lesson which is “having 
a sense of economic history is important to prevent and resolve 
financial crises” because all financial crises can be traced to the same 
fundamental causes and there not much different as we tend to think.
A grand extravaganza held at GITAM University marked the University’s 31st Foundation Day celebrations. It was organized in the campus on 13th August 2011 with much vigor and vivacity that is the charm of the occasion. On this day GITAM University crossed another milestone triumphantly which relates to hard work, enthusiasm, high spirits & above all the meaning to achieve a sense of victory, not just as an individual but being as a team & be a victor throughout an individual’s life. The Chief Guest Justice B. Sudershan Reddy inspired the students with his informative speech which gave the students a perspective to prepare for the future. Students carried the kind of warmth that’s wonderful & unique, a bright & happy outlook that’s such a joy to share.
GITAM Foundation Annual Award is aimed at recognizing personalities for their path breaking and seminal contribution in the fields of Education, Economy, Science, Literature, Fine Arts, Public Services, etc. One of the eminent personalities is chosen in the aforesaid fields is invited and honored on the GITAM Foundation Day every year. In this connection an award of 5 lakhs is presented to the person whose contributions are made known to the larger public as token of love and respect.

The University takes pleasure in honoring and presenting the GITAM Foundation Annual Award for the year 2011 to Justice B. Sudershan Reddy, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India for his outstanding contribution to the civil society and his yeomen services for upholding social justice in the country.

As a part of Foundation Day Celebrations Dr. AVL NSH Hari Haran of the Department of Engineering Chemistry was presented the Best Teacher Award 2011. The best supporting staff awards for 2011 were presented to Smt. M. Rasheeda Sultana, Superintendent, GITAM School of International Business, Sri K. Kishore Babu, Foreman, Grade – II of the Department of ECE, and K. Srinivasa Rao, attendant of GITAM Institute of Technology.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. G. Subramanyam in his annual address said that the quality programmes, world-class infrastructure and global standards in teaching and research stand testimony to the single minded devotion and efforts of the University. He mentioned that during the last year, the University provided Rs. 1.5 crore for merit-cum-means scholarships and teaching assistantships to M. Tech. students. The scholarships and fellowships are likely to go up substantially during the year 2011-12 and, hence, an amount of Rs. 2 crore has been allocated for the purpose in the Budget for 2011-12. Further, the earn-while-you-learn programme provides opportunity to the student community for partial self-sustenance. He said that the University established yet another research centre viz., Centre for Finance and Banking Studies to give a new impetus to education and research in finance, banking and related fields in the faculty of Management. Proposals for sponsoring “endowed chairs” in the above Centre have already been submitted to two progressive banks viz., the Indian Bank and the Union Bank of India.

Vice-Chancellor said that the University has entered into several tie-ups and collaborations with prestigious institutions in India and abroad and penned several MoUs for the purpose. These include MoUs with BARC, HPCL, TATA Consultancy Services (TCS), HSBC, IBM, Intelli Group, University of Glasgow, SUNY (B), Central Michigan University, University of Nebraska, Burgundy School of Business, Southern Polytechnic State University, etc. He briefed that the Centre for Distance Learning established in the academic year 2009-10 with recognition from DEC duly recommended by a joint committee of UGC-AICTE-DEC, has been successfully offering 13 UG, PG and Diploma programmes in literature, management, science and social sciences. The student strength in distance learning is steadily increasing and gaining popularity among the masses.

Vice-Chancellor announced that The University aims to become one among the top 500 universities in the world within the next decade. In order to achieve this vision in the backdrop of changing domestic and international scenario, the University has set specific goals to be achieved by 2020, which include the following focus areas:

- to establish off-campuses and off-shore campuses in suitable places.
- to introduce additional academic programmes suitable to the emerging needs and demand.
- to double the regular student strength from 10,000 to 20,000.
- to increase the student strength under distance learning from the existing 5,000 to 70,000 through offering need based programmes and also penetrating into hitherto untapped areas.
- to multiply sponsored research projects with an annual target of Rs. 10 crores.
- to substantially increase revenue from consultancy projects
- to develop students into responsible citizens, who are culturally informed, technologically adept and ready to shoulder civic responsibilities.

With the above goals and commitments, GITAM aims at becoming the hallmark educational institution for lifelong partnerships with students, faculty, staff and public and private enterprises.
GITAM President Dr. MVVS Murthi honoring Justice B. Sudershan Reddy with GITAM Foundation Award
Education, Empathy and Hope: Some Linkages for a Sustainable Constitutional Democracy

- Justice B. Sudershan Reddy

Let me at the very outset express my sense of humility in being asked to deliver the GITAM Foundation Endowment Lecture. Having served as a lawyer first, and then as a judge, for the past three and half decades, I have had to function within the rigorous confines of law, that allows an appreciation of wider perspectives, and linkages between various social phenomenon, only through the lens of particular set of circumstances that are presented to us. From a distance I have often envied the freedom that academic environment provides to let the mind roam, to explore the wider linkages between human knowledge and events in the physical, biological and social spheres. Equally importantly, the sense of humility is also on account of the belief that learning, as a process and as an end, is sacred: both for the individual, and the society at large.

I am reliably informed that Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management, or GITAM as it is popularly known as, had been established by a group of industrialists and philanthropists, over three decades ago, to serve the educational requirements of the people of India. I am sure that this university has, and will continue to live up to the philosophy and spirit epitomised by the great soul, Mahatma, who secured for our country its freedom from colonial rule in order to secure for all of its people a future in which human dignity would be the primordial value that shines through. Paulo Freire, a renowned educationist, has characterised education as “cultural action for freedom”, and I am sure that GITAM would always recognize that its principal role is to ensure freedom of the mind, from both oppression by others and shackles of greed from the inside.

It is always a difficult task to give advice to youngsters who have just entered their adult years and beginning their college studies. This is more so because there is a broad perception that youngsters today are far more aware of the wider array of choices available before them, and are more capable of exercising their choices with due care. Nevertheless, I believe that those of us who have retired can look back at our own lives and offer a perspective that the youngsters may find worthwhile to consider, if not actually put into practice.

Growing up to be an adult implies a socio-psychological step into a phase of life that brings with it the freedom of discretionary judgment as well as the attendant responsibilities for the consequences of actions. Even as you pass into a phase of your life that is marked by greater freedom to make your choices, increasingly you will also find that you would be less able to blame others.
I have often interacted with students, and noticed that there is a great deal of anger at the quality of education that is offered to them, and the general state of affairs in the wider socio-economic context. Indeed it is true that given the state of education in this country, both at the level of primary & secondary school and also at the level of universities & colleges, we ought to show a great degree of concern about how we are preparing our youngsters to face the future, and whether we have failed in our cultural obligation, nay necessity, to provide the best possible education. Nevertheless, we must also recognize that a large part of the anger stems from the fact that many of the youngsters have not been enabled to, and they themselves do not seem to want to, explore the many avenues for social and cultural critique and reconstruction that is possible, and indeed mandated as the duty of every citizen, by the Constitution of India. Those fundamental duties, to abide by the Constitution, to cherish and follow the noble ideas which inspired our national struggle for freedom, and others as enumerated in Part IV of the Constitution, though not enforceable by a Court of law, are nevertheless expressions of ideal citizenry in a republic.

Before giving in to anger, and before we critique the constitutional order we chose for ourselves, it would be appropriate for each and every one of us to actually pause, reflect and question ourselves as to whether we have tried our best to live by the ideals and values of the Constitution. I dare say that very few, if any, could honestly claim that they have lived up to those ideals, whether on account of the daily struggles for life, where one’s own well being takes precedence, or on account of the intense politicisation, leading to vicious competitive politics, of every aspect of our social lives. When viewed from the perspective of the moral frame of the Constitution we would recognize that our anger soon loses any moral foundation.

We need to acknowledge the truth that given the social resources which our society has been able to generate and devote to education, those who gain access to portals of learning are the fortunate few, indeed the blessed amongst us. Given the number of our youngsters who are being left behind, who have no access to collegiate education at all, let alone a decent college education, those of you who are provided such opportunities are the privileged and favoured few. Apparently less than 10% of our youngsters, who have managed to complete their +2, gain access to college education. Increasingly better paying jobs and also the jobs involving discretionary positions in life will go to the better educated youngsters. Consequently, it can only be surmised that the society expects a lot from you in return. Giving into anger and social angst can be argued as being counter-productive even in extreme circumstances. Part of the responsibilities that the society places upon you, for having educated you, is the expectation that you would realise that giving in to anger, without having developed a proper understanding (i) of the social and economic circumstances that confront the country, (ii) the problems and perversions that have entered the functioning of a constitutional democracy, and the (iii) means with which to tackle those issues within the framework of a constitutional democracy, would be unjustified.

One of the principal problems has been that over the past few decades it would seem that a warped view has emerged about what the role of education ought to be in society, and more particularly higher education. There has been a uni-dimensional emphasis on grant of degrees, and skills that can be used in the market, to the exclusion of other goals of higher education: (i) making our youngsters auto-didacts, who would not only master existing knowledge, but also create new knowledge; and (ii) develop in them the values that would enable them to use that knowledge for social betterment.

It is true that in the modern context we expect education to result in development of skills that are required in the market, so that our youth can find employment, and the economy can grow. However, there is a fundamental problem here. If the frequent complaints of various industry associations that most of our college graduates leave the portals of higher education without any employable skills are anything to go by, then it would appear that we have not or are not able to fulfil even that end properly. The problem lies in the fact that modern knowledge is expanding rapidly, and no institution can hope to teach all of its students every bit of the existing knowledge; and obviously knowledge that would be developed in the future would remain beyond the pale of those who have already passed out. By continuing to view the role of education as only consisting of developing a pre-fixed quantum of skills and knowledge, without developing the skills necessary for students to become self-learners, and consequently life-long learners, we are ending up making the problem far worse.

The burgeoning of coaching centers to take competitive examinations, and the inordinate pressure exerted on youngsters to get into “professional colleges” and get themselves an engineering or a medical degree, has had a deleterious impact on the self-learning capacities of our youngsters. To the extent that rote memorisation has become the mainstay of the learning paradigm in schools, one of the crucial roles that school level education is to play, in developing the necessary corpus of knowledge, and critical thinking, amongst youngsters is becoming a casualty. This in turn has a direct impact on the nature of the learning process that the youngsters who are fortunate enough to join colleges engage in. It has been widely recognized by eminent educationists that collegiate level education ought to primarily be one of “self-learning”, wherein the lecturers and professors act as guides to students to explore, intensively, modes of validation of existing knowledge and developing new frontiers. To the extent that learning by rote is the essential or only mode of learning at the school level, to that extent we can expect that students entering colleges are ill-equipped to become self-learners or auto-didacts.

If that be the fate imposed on youngsters who are fortunate enough to get access to college education in this country, then the fate of those who, due to social, economic and cultural factors, receive almost no schooling can be assessed to be very, very dire. It is now a well recognized proposition that social, political and economic development is critically tied to the extent to which human resources are developed, and the nature of skills that youngsters possess. The proportion of youngsters, entering the working age, is ballooning in India. This could potentially portend well for India. A larger proportion of working population has almost invariably implied rapid economic growth in history. Economists call this the “demographic windfall”. Such demographic changes occur over very large time spans, and the implication of that is that we cannot afford to miss this opportunity. In this context we necessarily have to be very worried about the fact that the educational system in India, at the primary school level and also at the collegiate level, is seemingly incapable of serving the needs of this country. In an increasingly globalised economy that the country finds itself in, whether as a result of specific policy choices or the inevitable evolution of larger global economic systems, it would mean that hundreds of millions of our youngsters would be left to fend for themselves without the necessary skills to compete.

We often find policy and opinion makers gloating over the fact that many Indians have done superlatively well in all walks of life, both here and abroad, and that some of them have become world beaters. However,
while those facts are undeniable, let us pause and reflect upon their numbers. They would but constitute a very tiny proportion of the entire population. That is also an equally undeniable fact. In a country of 1.2 billion people, that such a small proportion would rise to the top, through extraordinary self-motivation, or on account of them being fortunate to have grown up in socio-economic circumstances that allows them to explore their creative talents, is only to be expected. But that cannot become an excuse to turn a blind eye to the fact that most of our youngsters are being under-served. Unfortunately, the entire debate about “quality education” seems to again turn on whether there are enough institutions that develop “immediately employable skills”, and viewing the educational sector as another profit, nay inordinate profiteering, avenue. There, there is a difference between running an educational institution in a commercially feasible sense, wherein the costs of providing the education, and the efforts at creating new knowledge, are met, versus greed to generate inordinate profits in disseminating knowledge. That would be the wrong way to go. History, that great theatre of human experience over time, teaches us that there has never been a single centre of great learning that has ever been built on the profit motive. Whether it is an Oxford and a Cambridge in the United Kingdom, or a Harvard and a Stanford in United States, every society built its great centres of learning on one cardinal principle: teaching youngsters is a sacred task, and it ought to be informed by a degree of social conscience that cannot be sullied by the profit motive.

While the economic impact of the failures of our educational system, which can reasonably be seen to be socio-cultural failures, has often been noted, broader public debate does not sufficiently reflect upon the potential impact on the polity of this nation, and the project of constitutional democracy.

An equally important effect of an underperforming educational system, amongst other things, would be with respect to the quality of public discourse about the problems confronting our nation and societies. On account of the failure to inculcate critical and auto didactic modes of learning we end up leaving our youngsters woefully ill equipped to engage in a reasoned and reasonable arguments about choices to be made as collective entities. The learning by rote methodology leaves us with little ability to deconstruct proposed solutions, especially where there are vast distributional issues involved as between the benefits that are expected, who gets them, and the costs to be incurred, and who bears them. What this does is that it induces a blind acceptance of policies as being universally good, especially where the policy design and implementation is likely to effect us beneficantly. This in turn leads to a refusal to acknowledge the fact that the costs may be disproportionately being borne by others in the society, and development of the perception that those who protest the policies being designed and implemented are anti-social, or even anti-national. The core problem is the inability to transcend the narrow sectarian interests and understand the others view point, thereby reducing the level of tolerance exhibited in public debate. It probably ought not to surprise anyone that the nature of public debate in India has assumed, often, the shape of a shouting match – there is less of debate, because people are unwilling or incapable of questioning their own assumptions of what is right or wrong, and more of name calling.

Humanity has grappled with the role of “knowledge” in politics from times immemorial. Plato believed that pure reason will definitely lead us to a categorical body of knowledge that is complete, and that everyone who has access to that categorical body would both agree with each other as to what that body of knowledge is and also follow it, because that would be the just and the good life. However, starting with Hume and then majestically culminating in the works of Immanuel Kant, we have also come to realise that all knowledge is fallible, and that it is only a provisionally accepted truth, which in light of new experiences and circumstances ought to lead us to revise our notions of the truth. While often cast as polar opposites of each other, it would be more fruitful to recognise the two as balancing propositions. Not seeking knowledge, even if it leads us only to provisional truths, would disable action, both individual and collective. It would demolish the very prospect of collective and cooperative action. However, the belief that all truth is provisional also seems to lead to the conclusion that there exist no common grounds for any agreement whatsoever. The post-modernist turn that degenerates into pure critique, and indeed the infeasibility of any form of consensual agreement, also makes collective action impossible, because it posits that there are no moral grounds to proceed.

Today, as we scan the daily headlines, we see public discourse proceeding on both those two extreme fronts. On the one hand we see a group claiming that it has all the answers, and that the niceties and necessity of democratic discourse, channelled through institutions of a constitutional democracy ought to be set aside in creating new institutions and new laws, irrespective of whether they comport with the constitutional values and ideals. On the other hand, we also see a discourse being enacted in our political institutions, wherein competitive politics, and claim to power in order to plunder the nation, ride supreme. If the first one exhibits the monotonic mind, that believes that the knowledge one possesses is infallible, the second one seems to be founded on the belief that there can be no moral foundations of political action and discourse, and hence every venal action is permissible so long as ultimately people keep electing them. In this struggle between the dogmatic, and hence the dictatorial, and the relativists, and hence the amoral, on the other, it would appear that we have forgotten that we have constituted ourselves as a Constitutional democracy, and the history of how we did so.

At the time of our independence, many of those who led us there, had such stature and affection of the people, and indeed possessing of such great intellect, they could have sat down, by themselves and drafted out the Constitution. However, they were also committed democrats, who knew that a constitutional democracy would survive if and only if it is founded on strong institutions to work the constitution, and manned by people who have faith in the constitutional values and ideologies. Consequently, they formed the Constituent Assembly, and debated for nearly three long years every para and word, in an atmosphere of great respect for divergent view points. I will submit that there has never been, and probably never will be, a greater demonstration of reasoned and reasonable debate. Within the context of public discourse that informs our political sphere, I think I would be remiss if I were to not point out that our Constitution, contrary to what its critics propound, is a masterly document to promote reasoned and reasonable debate.

The primary mechanism that the framers of our constitution chose was to explicitly state that all collective action, envisaged under the watchful eye and guidance of the State, was to be subject to the rigour of testing on the anvil of fundamental rights, along with directive principles of State policy that were to be foundational in governance. Contrary to what some political theorists propound, the fundamental rights as enunciated in our Constitution are not just negative rights against actions of the State, but are also informed by positive obligations of the State, to undertake measures that would promote a more productive deliberative democracy: greater equality of status and opportunity, and complete justice, social, economic and political in all walks of life, coupled
with the promise of tolerance for different belief systems. The framers of the Constitution were acutely conscious that in a country with the kind of diversity that we have, and with the endemic inequalities of status and opportunity, and vast swaths of humanity in our nation being subjected to gross and unconscionable social and economic deprivations, the prospects of a deliberative democracy – in which every individual has his/her innate dignity protected and groups of them can live in fraternity – would be very bleak.

It is not a surprise then, that Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, also warned us that without bringing about social, and economic equality, the mere grant of political equality would not suffice to ensure the continuance of a constitutional democracy, that is ever strengthened through reasoned and reasonable debate about choices being effectuated in the social, economic and political spheres. One of the principal reasons why political freedoms are not sufficient, to realise the promise of equality of status and opportunity, is that there is an ever present danger of elite capture of the judicial, executive and legislative spheres of state action and to that extent it was foreseen that the discourse between the elite and the historically dispossessed who form the majority of the population would turn away from the ideals of reasoned and reasonable debate about social choices.

For too long we have belaboured under the false impression that economic growth is primordial and that for its sake we can forsake all other constitutional goals. However, even a cursory glance at the Constitutional structure and text ought to make it clear to any discerning person that economic growth is but one of the means to achieve the broader set of constitutional goals. Where the pursuit of economic growth derogates from other constitutional values and goals, especially to a large extent, then the Constitutional framework necessarily has to intercede to prevent constitutional failure. Consequently, our Constitution has always been interpreted to mean that it does not prioritize either a dictatorial socialist system of organisation of the polity and the economy nor a fascist neo-liberal paradigm in which whatever consequences result as a consequence of the functioning of a laissez faire free market are to be deemed to be acceptable. This has been the principle means through which a balance has been struck between the market and the State, so that the primordial task of eliminating rampant inequalities and social discrimination can be pursued.

In fact the history of our constitutional jurisprudence can be viewed as a debate between the Supreme Court and the Executive and Legislative branches with regard to how and where the balance ought to be struck. In the early years of the republic, while a strictly legal positivist approach would appear to have been followed by the Supreme Court, the fact remains that even though the Court had struck down many socio-economic legislations on the grounds that fundamental rights were affected, once the constitutional amendments were put in place, the Courts accepted the very same socio-economic legislation as acceptable within the constitutional order. However, when the provisions of the Constitution were sought to be used to completely eviscerate fundamental rights of their meaning, of both political and socio-economic rights, the Courts again stepped in to declare that the identity of the very Constitution by which legislatures were being formed could not be changed.

It is this theme of our constitutional history that Granville Austin wrote about in his seminal book, “The Indian Constitution: The Cornerstone of a Nation”. In recent times there have been a lot of remarks, in popular media, that the Supreme Court of India is an activist court, prone to judicial over-reach, and is stepping into the executive domain. I believe that the criticism is unwarranted and also ill informed, both intellectually and ethically. Further, such a claim is only possible if one were to assume that the Indian Constitution is a neutral document or that it ought to be treated as one. When the framers of our Constitution debated, wrote and ratified it, they were obviously informed about larger movements in philosophical thought about how a country ought to be governed. They sent experts to visit many countries, and studied their experiences. Based on such a thorough study, they framed the Constitution, with elements that are both rigid as well as flexible. A recent empirical study about stability and life spans of all the written constitutions reveals that Indian Constitution exhibits practically each and every element that contributes to stability. The average age of a written constitution has been around 17 years, and nearly 90% of them have not gone past 50 years.

What does one mean by the statement that a “constitution has survived”? It could have multiple meanings. In order to delineate those meanings one would need to understand what a “constitution” is. It is certainly a political document, because it reflects the compromises effectuated by people as a nation, at the constitutive moment when they are organising themselves as a nation-state, about the mode and manner in which the country is to be governed, as well as the goals to which the country is to aspire for. It also distributes authority, legislative, executive and judiciary, mandating the duty to uphold the Constitution upon all the organs and agents of the State. Hence, it is also a legal document, and it is a well established principle of constitutional interpretation that any state action that transgresses constitutional limits is to be struck down as unconstitutional. The measure of success of a Constitution then is to be seen in whether the people who have constituted themselves as a nation state continue to reposite faith in the constituting document and the institutions it has created as the means to resolve their differences in, and continue to effectuate collective action through.

That the Indian Constitution has survived is primarily evidenced by the fact that by and large the people of this country have sought to resolve their differences through the institutional framework erected by the Constitution, and have continued to retain faith in democratic politics. The survival of India, as a democracy and as a country is no mean achievement. Few scholars, as this old civilisation and its inheritors constituted themselves into a nation-state, gave it chances of remaining as one for too long. As the Chief Justice of the High Court of Guwahati, I had the opportunity to visit even the remotest parts of the North East. One thing which struck me, and indeed gladdened my heart as it would anyone else, was that in even the remotest of outposts we were invariably greeted by a “Jai Hind.” Not namaste, not good morning, or any equivalent in any local dialect. But a full fledged “Jai Hind” delivered passionately. India has been transformed from being a land of hundreds of political formations and deepest of social divisions; and the idea of India as a nation has survived and even thrived in the minds and hearts of our people. In that sense, we can certainly say that the constitutional order has succeeded.

A closer look at who votes reveals the fault lines. It is the poor of this country, the socially dispossessed and the deprived who have voted, in election after election, in massive numbers and proportion of the total voting public. In a large measure the credit for survival of India as a nation and as a democracy must surely go to the people of this nation, and the institutional complex erected by the Constitution that has been able to provide checks and balances on the exercise of power, and so long as the State functioned in accordance with its values the
people of this nation were given a perceptible degree of hope, especially the dispossessed and the disempowered, of the possibility of a dignified life, if not for them in their lifespan, at least to their descendants.

However, when we look at the matter of other constitutional goals, in the socio-economic sphere, things do not appear to be as rosily as we would have liked them to be, and there are many reasons to be extremely disturbed. Amartya Sen, in his book the Argumentative Indian, notes that with respect to matters concerning equality and justice, while what we have not achieved is not an immeasurable failure, we have “measurably underachieved”. It is this facet of non-performance of the Constitutional order that ought to worry us. This is so because the longer such “measurable underachievement” continues, the greater the risk that the hope that people repose in the constitutional order would be withdrawn. In a certain sense, some of the signals of that hope receding may already have emerged.

As I remarked earlier in this speech, India’s population has increasingly become younger in composition. It is also better informed, and politically more assertive. If a vast majority of them begin to believe that the “hope of a better tomorrow” is nothing more than a chimera, a false promise that will not translate into real development, for all the people in some foreseeable future, then it could lead to an explosive situation. Over the past few decades, a new paradigm of policy and popular discourse has emerged which eschews the need to continue to maintain this project of hope for the poor and the dispossessed. It claims that the only hope lies in rapid economic growth, whatever be the costs, so that eventually everyone else can be lifted. The argument that there ought to be a greater pie so that everyone can have a greater share, and that it would lead to greater political stability is only trivially true and believable if and only if one were to also believe that the existing pie itself is way too small to be more equitably distributed, and that economic growth, by itself, would eventually lead to a more equitable distribution. That this paradigm is being increasingly questioned is reflected in the vast pockets of disaffection. According to some official counts nearly one third of India’s land mass is affected by serious violent agitational politics. It is equally reflected in the fact that in response to voices of dissent, policy makers, power wielders and the elite have begun to advocate a muscular state craft in which all voices of dissent are to be suppressed ruthlessly devoid of any respect for constitutional limitations.

In a certain sense we seem to be again arriving at an inflection point that demands articulation of constitutional values, of political and socio-economic rights of the citizens, in order to protect, maintain and uphold the project of hope that the Constitution essentially is. When a dictatorial socialist world view attempted to eviscerate fundamental rights of all meaning and content, the Supreme Court of India was able to find within the constitutional text the majestic values espoused in its decision in Keshavananda Bharati. When a fascist neo-liberal world view informs the governance model, and as revealed by the shape that the governance systems take, and threatens those fundamental rights, of any content, both negative and positive, the constitutional text can be relied upon to articulate constitutional limitations against acts of omission and commission of the State and its agents. This is the very essence of Indian constitutionalism.

Obviously the judiciary ought not to articulate a political ideology or a world view of its own that is alien to the Constitution. Its primary task is to articulate the constitutional vision, based on the text and constitutional history. The argument that the judiciary can never question and set aside a policy decision is misplaced and a false one. Policy is not framed in the air, and its consequences are not limited to mere theoretical abstractions. Its consequences are real, and those real consequences can and do, many times, have extremely deleterious impact on fundamental rights of citizens. The freedom of the executive and legislatures to frame policy is not unlimited; the domain of that freedom is limited by the walls of constitutional permissibility. It is the duty of the judiciary to enforce those limits; and while doing so it is also the duty of the judiciary to emphatically articulate the constitutional vision and values. The sterile language of legal positivism cannot adequately conceive the vastness of the task, the extent of misery suffered by vast swaths of our people, and the attendant dangers to fraternity amongst groups and national integrity that arise from a disregard of the foundational goals of the nation-state enshrined in the Constitution.

The second criticism levied against the judiciary whenever it holds acts of omission or commission of the State to be unconstitutional is that an unelected judiciary setting aside the decisions of an elected legislature and executive is fundamentally anti-majoritarian, and consequently anti-democratic. This criticism is also misinformed because the very notion of a constitutional democracy is underpinned by the assumption that electoral politics become possible, or if they emerge sui generis sustainable, if and only if the power of the people vested in them are used within limits acceptable to most, if not all the people. The danger to the feasibility of democracy lies in the very possibility that majoritarian mandates are viewed as carte blanche to suppress minority views and aspirations. Moreover elite capture of the decision making institutions can lead the exercise of the power of the people towards ends that are contrary to the interests of the people. Constitutions are written in order to specify those limits so that democratic politics become possible and sustainable. In that sense, constitutionalism is to be viewed not as anti-democratic, but as essential foundation for the thriving of a democracy. There cannot be any doubt that to the extent that political institutions, and the cultural sphere, articulated the constitutional vision of dignity and fraternity, more and more people joined the democratic process, asserting their rights to participate in the decision making processes, and trusted that the processes within the institutions erected by the Constitution reflect adequately the aspirations of the people.

Our Constitution is both long and extremely complex. Nevertheless, there is a way of conceiving it in a manner that facilitates agreement, collective action and sustenance of hope. It makes the ontological assumption that people are willing to sacrifice and set aside their own self-interest in order to achieve greater social welfare, especially for the most deprived. Two visions have informed political theorizing, in the West, about nature of man, and the limits to possible political institutions that can and ought to be formed. The first one views human nature as essentially and primordially selfish. Such an ontological specification consequently views any attempts by collective bodies, such as the State or other social formations, to order social interactions with even small expectations that humans can and ought to also take into consideration communitarian interests, as doomed to failure, and in fact even evil, because they run counter to human nature. The link between such a view of human nature and its limits and laissez faire free market proponents ought to be apparent. The other model of socio-economic organization, communism, is also based on the same assumption of primordially selfish human nature. It concludes that any socio-economic organization that is based on giving precedence to it would necessarily be unstable, and that a stable order can only be created through severe limitations on personal liberties of individuals.

Another strand of enlightenment thought viewed human nature as
About half a decade ago, a young lawyer narrated a stark distinction that he perceived in the manner in which human beings respond to social tragedies. Apparently, on January 26, 2004 he was on his way to Bihar to adopt a young infant who had been abandoned by her mother at a roadside tea stall. That was the day that a tsunami hit, amongst other places, southern eastern coast line of India. Upon reaching Bihar, and while receiving the child in adoption, he also began to actually perceive the magnitude of the problem of discrimination against the female child, including the grotesqueness of female infanticide and female foeticide. At the same time, he also narrated how many of his friends from Bangalore, mostly youngsters, who had of their own free volition rented vans, bought as many medicines, blankets, and food packets as their resources would permit and rushed off to lend a helping hand. For them, the idea that another human being was suffering and needed to be helped was instinctual. They were responding empathetically to fellow human beings. The contradiction that the young lawyer was trying to draw was between a tragedy that unfolds amidst our lives, on a daily basis, and is of such a gargantuan proportion as to make many millions of women disappear from our demographic reality over a decade, and our collective response of befuddlement, and indeed a desire to turn a blind eye to it, versus another tragedy, that is caused by an accident of nature, also involving massive human suffering, and yet evokes amongst human beings a desire to help.

It is a contradiction worth exploring. Obviously, the fact that youngsters took off of their own volition to help out tsunami victims indicates the presence of an ingrained sense of empathy, and the capacity to react to the misfortune and suffering of others. Yet, seemingly an entire nation has turned a blind eye to the massive human tragedy unfolding, in the form of female infanticide and foeticide, wherein millions of fellow human beings are being prevented from coming into being or not being allowed to exist.

One of the great butchers of human history, Joseph Stalin, is supposed to have said: “One death is a tragedy. A million deaths a statistic.” Obviously, Joseph Stalin made that comment as a part of his justification of the dance of death, both during World War II, and also in the post war USSR. Nevertheless, it reveals a fundamental truth: that when human tragedy becomes a part of ones daily life, almost like background noise, to borrow a new fangled phrase being used by youngsters these days, human capacity to tap into its empathetic core, and sustain a drive to help out others, an instinctual part of our very persona as human beings, gets diminished.

Whether it be under dictatorial socialist regimes, or under fascist neo-liberal world orders, one of the principle means used to keep the people from expressing their outrage at the unconscionable misery suffered by vast swaths of humanity, which they surely must if their instinctual response is empathy for other human beings, is to normalise that suffering and sweeping it under the carpet away from critical cultural gaze. Either by assuming that the suffering of the poor to be insurmountable, or by suggesting that the poor deserve to be poor because they have been weeded out of the share of the social product because of societal evolution, vast injustices that are prevalent are sought to be normalised in our conception.

Amartya Sen, in his lifelong work has argued that given the technological mastery that human beings have accomplished, and the existing resource base, there is no reason to have such misery abound. His argument is that how the product of social action is distributed is not some natural or necessary outcome, but is a function of the particular values we choose, collectively, to order our socio-economic lives. Indian Constitution is essentially based on that ontological assumption, and mandates that collective action be directed towards the achievement of equality of opportunity and status, and social, economic and political justice for all. These were recognized to be sine qua non for ensuring dignity to all individuals, so that they and the groups that they belong to can live in a fraternal atmosphere. Indian Constitution also posit that ensuring minimal levels of dignity for all the citizens, and thereby engendering fraternal relations amongst them is a necessary condition for the security and integrity of the nation.

We stand at an inflection point in history. Great technological and scientific advances promise the power to guarantee for all human beings a social existence marked by at least some minimal levels of dignity, such that each, and in groups, can seek to self-actualize their potential. Nevertheless, we need to fundamentally rethink as to how we want to organize our socio-economic orders, and the values by which we seek to distribute the social product. The model that popular culture seeks to prioritize, of unending upward spirals of consumption by the rich, eventually lifting the incomes of the poor so that they can consume at levels consonant with some acceptable notions of human dignity, is turning out to be false. Environmental stress, and indeed the possibility...
of a global climate change, raises fundamental questions about such a model of organisation of distribution. Consequently, we have to rethink in terms of both the levels of consumption that we should seek to aspire for, as well as the need to redistribute the social product, so that the social compact can be maintained.

It is that great challenge that most of you will face. Some of you will move forward to seek solutions in inventing machines that consume less energy, and yet others may look to find ways to extract more resources from the bowels of the earth at as low a cost as possible. Nevertheless, in all of those endeavours, your constant challenge would be the same: how do we make the present more humane for those who are dispossessed and disempowered. The challenging voices from those quarters are rising in volume and intensity. How you respond to those voices would ultimately be determined whether you continue to tap into a quality that defines your very human essence: empathy. I trust that you will always strive to live up to the expectation of that great soul, Mahatma Gandhi, whose name this institution has borrowed, that human beings are capable of being true to their empathetic core. To teach our youngsters the means of being in touch with that core, and to always remain true to it, would be the greatest, and the true, role of education.

Towards the ending, let me recite to you the words of a great Indian, Swami Vivekananda:

“So long as the millions live in hunger and ignorance, I hold every man a traitor, who having been educated at their expense, pays not the least heed to them.”

If we were to not heed the voices of the poor, those living with very little and even lesser hope, we would ultimately be betrays of our conscience, and our own humanity.
NSG GROUP ASIAN TEAM VISIT

NSG Group Pilkington, one of the world’s leading manufacturers of glass and glazing systems and having manufacturing operations in 29 countries, has shown interest for a tie up with GITAM University in the area of research and development. The NSG Group Asian team members consisting of Vice President (commercial and solar energy products) Carlos Medeiros, Business development manager (South East Asia and India automotive and building products) Yasuyuki Watanabe and Finance Director Greg Andrews, visited GITAM University on 19th July 2011 and interacted with the university authorities. Prof. G. Subramanyam, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. D. Harinarayana, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M. Potharaju, Registrar, BOM Member MSP Rama Rao and others participated in the interaction.

MoU with University of Aberty

GITAM University entered into an MoU with the University of Aberty Dundee (UAD) Scotland, UK on 18th August 2011. GITAM University Registrar Prof. M. Potharaju and the UAD School of Contemporary Sciences Research Director Philip J Kalia signed the MoU in the presence of Vice-Chancellor Prof. G. Subramanyam, Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof. D. Harinarayana and Institute of Science Principal Prof. N. Lakshmanadas.

Abertay is a well known university in the field of environmental science research, with initiatives like Aberty Centre for the Environment promoting ‘green’ business practices, Urban Water Technology Centre developing innovative new drainage, pollution control technology, and the SIMBIOS unit exploring bioinformatics. Both universities would take-up research possible areas of collaboration including Biotechnology, Microbiology, Environmental Sciences, Computing and International Business.

TANA PRESIDENT TOTAKURA PRASAD COO LECTURE

Telugu Association of North America (TANA) President Sri. Prasad Thotakura visited GITAM University on 8th September, 2011 and delivered a COO lecture on “Education and Social Entrepreneurship – A Comparison between India and USA”. In his lecture Mr. Prasad said that youth should give equal importance to social entrepreneurship to serve the society. He appreciated the GITAM development and infrastructure and mentioned that GITAM is the best even compare with some of the US Universities. He suggested that Government should establish Centers of Excellence in a particular field and cooperate with other institutions to share/exchange knowledge.

GITAM President Dr. M. V. V. S. Murthi felicitated to Sri. Prasad Thotakura and appreciated the efforts made by TANA for Indians in USA. Vice-Chancellor Prof. G. Subramanyam, Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof. D. Harinarayana, Registrar Prof. M. Potha Raju, Institute of Management Dean Prof. K. Sivarama Krishna, Governing Body Member Sri. Basavapunnaiah and others participated in the program.
Second Convocation of the GITAM University was celebrated in a grandeur on August 20th 2011. Dr.V.K.Saraswat, Secretary, Department of Defence Research & Development and Scientific Advisor to Raksha Matri and Director General, DRDO was the chief guest along with the University President Dr. M.V.V.S.Murthi, Vice Chancellor Prof.G.Subramanyam, Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof.D.Harinarayana, Registrar Prof.M.Potharaju and many other dignitaries.

Degrees were presented to 1500 graduates in various disciplines. Luminaries in various fields such as Defense, Spirituality, Industry and cultural, were conferred honorary doctorates on the occasion. The convocation hall reverberated with the joy of the young graduates in their moments of fulfillment.
GU President Dr. MVVS Murthi presenting Award of honorary degree of doctor of science to Dr. V. K. Saraswat
This honor to the distinguished Defence scientist and a missile technologist of international repute is in recognition of his significant contributions for empowering the nation to be self reliant in its Defence capabilities and having a pride of place among the comity of nations. As Director General of DRDO, Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mathri and Secretary Defence Research Development, Ministry of Defense, he brought innovative breakthroughs in many critical technological areas to support the strategic and tactical requirements of the nation. Dr. Saraswat is one of the most enterprising Indian Defence scientist who has built the base for design, development and production of missile technologies.

A Master in Mechanical Engineering from the IISc, Bangalore, he had specialized and obtained his doctorate in Combustion Engineering. Starting his career at Liquid Propulsion Division of DRDL, Hyderabad in 1972, his 38 years of dedicated career is credited with numerous outstanding contributions towards indigenous missile development programs. He pioneered the design and development of Liquid Propulsion Rocket Engines for various Defence applications.

Dr Saraswat, was the youngest to be appointed as a Project Director in DRDO to develop the Surface-to-Surface missile, in 1989. He is credited with the induction of Prithvi Weapon system, the pride of India, into the armories of all the three armed forces, when India desperately needed missile delivery platform to support its nuclear doctrine.

Dr. Saraswat is one of the most enterprising Indian Defence scientist and Outstanding Indian Award from One India One People in 2006. Some of the most recent awards are Padmashree by Govt of India in 1998,; DRDO’s Technology Leadership Award, Scientist of the Year Award, Path Breaking Research Award; National Aeronautical Prize by Aeronautical Society Of India in 1993; Distinguished Alumni Award from Indian Institute of Science Alumni Association 2010; Dr Y Nayudamma Memorial Award in 2010; Prof Jai Krishna Memorial Award of Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) in 2009; Outstanding Scientist honour by Punjab Technical University, Jalandhar in 2006; FICCI Annual Award for the year 2005 and Outstanding Indian Award from One India One People in 2006.

During his illustrious career, Dr Vijay Kumar Saraswat won many accolades and Awards. A few to mention here are: Padmashree by Govt of India in 1998,; DRDO’s Technology Leadership Award, Scientist of the Year Award, Path Breaking Research Award; National Aeronautical Prize by Aeronautical Society Of India in 1993; Distinguished Alumni Award from Indian Institute of Science Alumni Association 2010; Dr Y Nayudamma Memorial Award in 2010; Prof Jai Krishna Memorial Award of Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) in 2009; Outstanding Scientist honour by Punjab Technical University, Jalandhar in 2006; FICCI Annual Award for the year 2005 and Outstanding Indian Award from One India One People in 2006. 

**AWARD OF HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF SCIENCE**

**to**

**Dr. V. K. SARASWAT**

**Director General of DRDO, Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri and Secretary Defence Research Development, Ministry of Defense**

During the short span of time he assumed the office, he has guided the Tejas (Light Combat Aircraft); Nag (Anti Tank Missile); Astra (Air-to-Air Missile); and Divyadhrishti (EW software).

Dr. Saraswat provided new impetus to development of critical NBC Defence technologies bringing high degree of self reliance in critical technology area. He introduced administrative reforms through integration of required resources and delegation of authority. Hard work, perseverance and ability to lead are the qualities that he would like to cultivate in the next generation. He initiated the personality development program for the young scientists to develop skills and groom them into future technological leaders.

In addition to dedication to the Defence R&D, Dr. Saraswat also contributed immensely to the society for up gradation of technology in select areas through professional bodies. As Chairman Aeronautical Society of India (Hyderabad Branch) Dr V.K. Saraswat provided a platform to practitioners, academia and researchers through seminars on critical technology areas. The new international airport and aerospace SEZ at Hyderabad are a testimony of his initiatives and able guidance.

Dr Saraswat’s rigorous efforts led to establishment of Advanced Combustion Research Centers at IISc and IIT(M). His initiatives on research in Fuel Cell Technologies have made good progress and soon will have technologies for commercial usage. Dr Saraswat has played a pivotal role in establishment of Prof C.R. Rao Advanced Institute of Mathematics, Computer Sciences and Statistics at UOH, Hyderabad. The institute earned international recognition in a short time with accreditation from many international bodies and universities.

The scientific career of Dr V.K. Saraswat spans over 38 years and his Defence research won him international acclaim. International Academy of Engg, Russia elected him as a Member of Academy and honored him as Academician in 2007, a rare distinction for an Indian scientist. The Times Magazine of United States in its Issue dated 17 Sep 2007 described Dr Saraswat as an Innovator working on New Technologies.

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Dr Saraswat created history with a successful interception of an incoming missile at exo-atmospheric region in 2006 for the first time. He continued with his goal of developing an effective missile Defence shield and unveiled an all new endo-atmospheric interceptor (AAD Missile) in Dec 2007. He demonstrated the advanced capability of the BMD system to handle the sea based long range missile threats by conducting the third consecutive successful interception during Mar 2009. With this, the nation has joined the Elite club of four nations that have developed the BMD capabilities in a very cost effective manner.

He coordinated the successful launch of strategic missile Agni-III and submarine launched Ballistic Missile B-05. He has built “Strategic Communications Network” with high degree of redundancy, robustness and reliability. Under his leadership, the missiles viz, Agni-I, Agni-II, Agni-III, Prithvi-II and Dhanush have been made available to strategic force command. He initiated the development of Agni-V missile system which is in advanced stage of development.

On assumption of charge as Special Advisor to Raksha Mantri and Secretary, Defence Research & Development in 2009, he brought a paradigm shift in approach to the Defence R & D requirements of the nation through his creative thinking and dynamic leadership. With the changing times and the advances in Defence technologies worldwide, he initiated many measures for promotion of Defence technologies in the specialist labs.

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GU President Dr. MVVS Murthi presenting Award of honorary degree of doctor of letters to Rajyogini Dadi Janki
AWARD OF HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LETTERS
to
RAJYOGINI DADI JANKI
Chief Administrative Head of Brahma Kumaris

There are some very special souls whose thoughts and actions inspire us to divinity and inculcate virtues and values in our lives. Such persons are really God’s ambassadors of peace. Dadi Janki Ji, Chief Administrative Head of Brahma Kumaris is one such great soul. Her personality overflows with Godhood and spiritual might. Her every action embodies love, sweetness and divinity. Peace and purity are the hallmarks of her personality. GITAM University is indeed privileged to honour this internationally acknowledged great spiritual leader, in recognition of her lifetime dedicated service to humanity.

Born in 1916, in the northern Indian province of Sind-Hyderabad (now part of Pakistan). Dadi Janki Ji has dedicated more than 70 years of her life in the service of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University.

In 1937, at the age of 21, Dadi joined the Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya founded by Prajapita Brahma, whose headquarters are located in Rajasthan. Dadi spent the first 14 years of her spiritual practice living with 400 other pioneers. Together, she studied spiritual knowledge and practiced intense raja yoga, a form of meditation. Under the love and guidance of founder Brahma Baba, Dadi Janki learned to have a relationship with God and formed a deep respect and love for both herself and others. This strong spiritual foundation allowed her to overcome many obstacles in her life, including physical illness and a caste system that gave no rights to women, and become one of the few active women spiritual leaders.

After serving throughout India in the years following independence, she moved to London, UK, in 1974. After arriving there, she established the first Brahma Kumaris Centre outside of India, inspiring self-reliance and the development of spiritual values in western society. Thousands from all faiths and cultures benefited from her wisdom, unfailing encouragement and support in times of need. Her vision and drive saw the organization’s teachings carried into more than 126 countries. She has been based back in India since August, 2007, at the main headquarters in Mt. Abu, Rajasthan, following the passing away of Dadi Prakashmani, the former head.

Dadi’s lifelong focus has been to align her mind and heart to God’s will and purpose. She experiences God as a source of pure love and wisdom, and has made those qualities the foundation of her life. This spiritual strength enables her to be a beacon of light in the lives of others.

Dadi is a pioneer of a modern form of the ancient art of Raja Yoga. Through this structured and disciplined method of spiritual development, she has shown thousands of people of all backgrounds and walks of life how to regain true self-respect, to become free of addictive and negative tendencies and thereby able to contribute more to present-day society as well as a future world.

Dadi Janki Ji, being companion of God, sees only the goodness of each human being, awakening people to fulfill their highest spiritual potential. With an unrelenting search for honesty and cleanliness in her relationship with God as the cornerstone of her life of service, Dadi Janki Ji developed an inspiring vision of the unique potential of every human being. This has enabled her to become a highly effective spiritual entrepreneur.

Through Dadi’s guidance and inspiration, centres teaching Raja Yoga now exist in a number of other countries. Regular students carry the benefits received into their family and workplace. Teachers offer free courses in programmes in hospitals, offices, schools, prisons and in other community contexts.

Dadi has also led the development of several international projects promoting vision, values and action at grass-roots level. The Brahma Kumaris maintain a strong presence and contribution at the United Nations, and Dadi served as one of the Keepers of Wisdom, an advisory group of eminent spiritual and religious leaders, convened at the UN Earth Summit in Rio, Brazil and at Habitat II in Istanbul, Turkey. Dadi addressed the world governments about the crucial need for people-centred development and the pivotal role of human and spiritual values in survival.

In 1997, the Janki Foundation for Global Health Care was established and launched in her honour in London. As a charitable trust, it promotes greater awareness of holistic health and the spiritual dimension of health care world-wide. Through this, Dadi has sought to encourage many others in what has been a passion since her childhood, to care for and nurse the sick, aiding not just the healing of the body but also the healing of the soul.

Dadi has promoted inter-religious understanding and co-operation throughout her life. She is a patron of the World Congress of Faiths and a member of the Global Peace Initiative of Women Religious and Spiritual Leaders. In December, 2003 she was invited as a spiritual resource to be part of a small delegation of religious leaders who took part in dialogues in Jerusalem, Gaza and Ramallah, to help build trust and develop joint initiatives between Palestinian and Israeli women.

Among her many honours, in 2004, Dadi was awarded the Grand Cordon of the first order of Al Istiklal (the Medal of Independence) by HM King Abdullah II of Jordan, the highest civil award of Jordan in recognition of her humanitarian service to the world. The Peace Abbey presented Dadi Janaki Ji with the Courage of Conscience Award in the year 2005 for her lifetime dedicated service to humanity. Dadi Janki Ji published books include Companion of God, Wings of Soul, Pearls of Wisdom, Inside out and Spiritual Greatness.

As the years pass by, Dadi seems to become younger instead of older. Her age, wisdom, and experience in life make her a unique inspiration for anyone looking to live a happier, more peaceful, more meaningful life. Her power opens your mind, and her love opens your heart. Deep experiences stay with us for the rest of our lives and honoring Dadi Janki Ji is one of those rare moments that we can never forget...
GU President Dr. MVVS Murthi presenting Award of honorary degree of doctor of letters to Dr. Akkineni Nageswara Rao
This honor to the icon of Telugu film industry and a multifaceted personality is in recognition of his lifetime achievements and contribution to the field of Arts, especially to the development of Telugu film industry in Andhra Pradesh. Dr. Akkineni became a legend in his own lifetime, through sheer dint of merit, discipline, effort and devotion to work.

Padma Vibhushan Dr. Akkineni Nageswara Rao popularly known as ANR is a household name for generations of South Indians especially Telugu cinegoers. Born on 20th September 1924 at Venkataraghavapuram in Gudivada Taluk of Krishna District, Dr. Rao hails from an agricultural family and had early grooming in theatre, known for his effective depiction of female roles on stage. Equipped with theatre background and primary educational qualifications and the blessings and support of his family, he moved from theatre to films at a tender age of 20.

Having started his career in the Telugu film industry in 1944, then located at Madras, he acted in over 250 films with finesse, success and aplomb. They stand testimony for his histrionic talents at different stages of his eventful innings, spanning over seven decades. Dr. Nageswara Rao won encomiums from millions of art lovers for the portrayal of a wide variety of roles on the screen. In the history of silver screen heroes in the world, it is only Dr. Akkineni who celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of film career. Whether it is the role of a jilted lover in Devadas, Charming and heroic Abhmanyu in Maaya Bazar, a folk hero in Suvarnasundari, a hilarious detective in Missamma, the philosopher Zamindar in Batasari, innocent boat operator in Moogamansulu, or an aged father yearning for the return of his long lost son in Sitharamiahgari Manvaralu, or the recent role of saint philosopher in Sri Ramadasu, he always excelled in their portrayal.

His depiction of the roles of great literary and cultural celebrities of different regions of India on the screen such as Kalidasa, Jayadeva, Vipranarayana, Tukaram, Jakkana, immortalized them as legends, paving way for national integration. It is a well known fact that Dr. Akkineni is instrumental in moving the Telugu film industry from Madras to Hyderabad. It is a seminal contribution and a pay back to the Telugu film industry to which he attributes his success and glory, with all humility.

Dr. Akkineni is not only an actor of repute but also a writer, producer and entrepreneur. His interests grew and broadened along with time. His voracious reading, clarity of thought and purpose and his wide spectrum of interests made him an authority on several subjects. He amply proved that formal educational qualifications and acquisition of knowledge are two separate entities. He continues to be a crowd puller even today with his mature, regulated histrionics and his creative, active association with literary, cultural activities.

The Annapurna Studios and several of his other ventures not only demonstrate his entrepreneurial skills and varied interests but also his contribution for the industrial development and employment opportunities in the region.

He established industries to support agricultural development. The films produced under his Annapoorna banner are known for their wholesome entertainment projecting the family values and traditions. His strong conviction that films must be value-based and harbingers of change resulted in producing message-oriented films under Chakravarti Chitra banner. The ‘Akkineni Nageswara Rao Award’ that carries a citation and cash prize of Rs. 5 lakhs is instituted by the Akkineni International Foundation Trust established by him. The award is presented annually to an outstanding national film luminary, identified for his life time devotion and dedication for the development of film industry.

Dr. Akkineni has been a prolific writer who authored several autobiographical works and poetic expressions. His book ‘Manasuloni Mata’ (My Inner Thoughts) presents us insights into Dr. Nageswara Rao’s journey in life and career which is marked with a practical and judicious approach; introspection was his forte. He is one celebrity from the tinsel world with a mass following who refrained from the lure of active politics and power.

Dr. Akkineni’s busy acting schedule for over decades did not deter him from serving the vital national causes. Dr. Nageswara Rao is always in the forefront to take up the cause of needy in times of war, natural calamities etc., exhibiting his concern for the society and patriotic fervor. During the Chinese Aggressions and Indo-Pak War, he took the lead to contribute and raise funds in a big way. His support to the rehabilitation of the victims of floods, earth quakes and other natural calamities is noteworthy.

His philanthropy and association with educational institutions is an outcome of the importance he bestows on education and the missed opportunities of childhood. As a great education admirer, he donated sumptuously to Andhra, Madras, Sri Venkateswara, Osmania, Bangalore, Kerala and Bombay Universities for instituting merit scholarships. He is the Chief Donor and Chairman of the College at Gudivada, which is named after him, as ANR College.

Dr. Akkineni is widely travelled, serving as the cultural ambassador of the people of India. He visited USA, UK, France, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia and USSR, invited as a State Guest of those Governments, that helped him in studying cross cultural trends in theatre and films. He has also extensively toured across the globe on the invitation of several socio-cultural organizations.

Dr. Akkineni has been the recipient of a galore of honors and awards for his contributions to the film world that include Best Actor Awards, Presidential Medals and Special Appreciations, besides Kalarapoporna, Padma Bhushan, Dada Saheb Phalke Award, Ragupathy Venkayya Award and the recently announced Padma Vibhushan.
GU President Dr. MVVS Murthi presenting Award of honorary degree of doctor of science to Dr. K.I. Varaprasad Reddy
GITAM University is indeed privileged to honor this great scientist, researcher and entrepreneur who made significant contributions in developing life saving and affordable drugs for the benefit of the common man and an indigenous, self-reliant pharmaceutical industry in the country.

Born to Shri. Venkataramana Reddy and Smt. Shanthamma on June 30th 1947 at Papireddy Palem, Nellore district. Dr. Reddy had his primary education at his native place. His journey in the field of higher education is interesting. Having acquired his Bachelor Degree in Science from S.V. University, he moved over to Visakhapatnam, the City of Destiny, to obtain his Bachelor Degree in Engineering from Andhra University in 1970 in the field of Electronics and Communication Engineering. Immediately, in 1971 he joined Biblingen University, West Germany and qualified for the Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Science.

His exposure to learning in different fields - science, engineering, computers and management, coupled with his rural, farming background marked with acumen and resilience, perhaps stood him in good stead in all his endeavors.

Dr. Reddy’s career started with his stint at Defence Electronic and Research Laboratories (DERL) as a Research Scientist from 1972 to 1977. Later, for about eight years (1977-85), he was associated with Andhra Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation (APIDC). This stint at APIDC honed his inherent entrepreneurial skills. Also, during this period he qualified himself with an MBA Degree from Osmania University, exhibiting constant urge to improve his managerial and entrepreneur skills.

Having gained enough experience in the nuances of planning and establishing new industries, he left APIDC and joined Hyderabad Batteries Ltd., and later co-promoted Sabnife Power Systems Ltd., that specialized in the production of high technology based batteries for defense applications.

In 1992, ever testing new pastures, he moved from production of batteries to production of drugs and established Shantha Biotechnics Pvt. Ltd. which is named after his beloved mother- his first guru. It is the beginning of his long saga of innovation, entrepreneurship and social concern.

His focus was on developing recombinant based vaccines and therapeutic proteins for human healthcare. The mission is to produce cost-effective health-care products for the common man, while ensuring international standards in quality.

Within five years of establishing his enterprise, Dr. Reddy developed India’s first genetically engineered product “Shanvac-B” vaccine against Hepatitis-B through in-house R&D. The product was commercially launched in 1997, and did the country proud because of its high efficacy and low cost and won the National Technology Award in 1999.

Soon after, in 2002, Dr. Reddy launched a therapeutic drug for the treatment of various types of cancer, which won another National Technology Award in 2003 for its efficacy and low cost. It is India’s first indigenous recombinant “Interferon Alpha-2b” under the brand name “Shanferon”.

Again, within two years of launching Shanferon, Dr. Reddy launched ‘Streptokinase’ a highly effective, life saving drug for dissolving blood clots, used in cases of acute heart attacks and other conditions like deep vein thrombosis, arterial occlusions and pulmonary embolism.

Ignited by his success, Dr. Reddy moved his focus of Research from curative to preventive drugs. His motto continued to be safety and cost effectiveness, always keeping in mind the needs and affordability of common man not only in our country but world over. He launched several indigenous recombinant drugs and vaccines such as Shanpoietin, Shantetra, Shan-5, Shanhib, Shantt and Shanchol which are not only safe drugs but also efficacious vaccines in preventing several diseases. All these are hailed as next generation products.

Thus, Dr. Reddy established himself as a trail blazer in the successful development of re-combatant products and heralded the bio-pharma revolution in India. He was also a source of inspiration, guidance and assistance to scores of budding entrepreneurs in pharmaceutical industry. Scientists/entrepreneurs all over the world emulated his example to develop and produce life saving drugs indigenously paving way for self-reliance.

Several prestigious National and International Awards were bestowed upon Dr. Reddy as a token of appreciation for his services. Notable among these are: Life Achievement Award (2008), Entrepreneur of the Year (2000) for health care and life sciences, National Technology Award (1999) and (2003) for successful commercialization of scientific products, FAPCCI Awards, Pragna Bharatiya Puruskar, Vasista Puraskar, National Citizens Overseas Award, etc., The Govt., of India honoured Dr. Reddy with Padma Bhushan for his outstanding contributions.
Ladies and Gentlemen

I deem it as a great pleasure and honour to address this gathering on the occasion of the Second Convocation of GITAM University, Visakhapatnam. Greetings and Best wishes to you all. I’m over whelmed by the warmth of your welcome. It is a kind of greeting one would expect from an old friend.

I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduating students for their excellent performance and for achieving the coveted and cherished degrees. I also congratulate the ‘Esteemed Teachers, Mentors’ for sharing their invaluable knowledge and for moulding and training the young minds in different disciplines. I consider that you have nurtured and created a new segment of resource for our country and I value this as a great achievement.

GITAM University is well known for its excellence in offering higher education for more than 31 years. I’m extremely delighted to notice your pleasant campus which is very conducive for higher learning and research. I’m really overwhelmed by the inspiring names of your department buildings such as Mother Teresa Bhawan, Sir CV Raman Bhawan, Yellapragada Subba Rao Bhawan (who discovered antibiotic for plague in 1948), Sarvepalli Radhkrishnan Bhawan, Gandhi Bhawan named after great visionaries of our country reflecting the nationalistic spirit of your founders. Students earning degrees while working from the portals of these departments, I wish, would imibe at least few traits of these great personalities.

My dear young graduates

I would like to share with you some thoughts which have evolved by virtue of my long association with great visionaries of the country and by being part of a dynamic organization which is working for India’s technological self reliance in the field of defence. I would consider these moments with you worthwhile if I could present you the technological challenges lying ahead of us and thereby inspire you to identify areas of your own strength and interest in the endeavor of making our nation a ‘Technology Leader’.

Science & Engineering Education in India: Challenges

Engineering education in India has come a long way. We as a country started with a modest beginning of 44 engineering institutions at the time of Independence and now we have 3000 plus engineering institutions with an annual intake of over 10 Lakh students. In spite of this phenomenal growth, reports suggest that there is a huge shortage of engineers in the IT & ITES sector alone. This is when the IT industry has just come out from a severe recession. Govt of India has set a target of 22% growth for higher education in the 12th Plan period, which I hope will bring down the shortage of trained or skilled engineers. Even though we may keep churning out engineers many of them are not suitable for direct employment globally for want of job-ready engineers. This results in extra manhours in terms of training the raw graduates in order to mould them to the organizational requirements.

To address this problem we need to design our engineering programmes with stress on practical knowledge, industrial orientation and entrepreneurship so that the passing out graduates can apply their knowledge skills to design a product or to devise a method or to conduct novel experiment. They should be able to function in multi-disciplinary environment with excellent communication and innovation skills along with a passion for basic curiosity driven learning.

Another malady which our country faces is the small number of engineers or qualified personnel opting for Science & Technology (S&T) or research. In India a meager 4 persons out of 1000 opt for S&T as compared to 8 in China, 46 in Korea, 55 in USA, 76 in Israel, 76 in Germany and a whopping 110 in Japan !! The demand for quality engineers and technologists is bound to increase in the coming years with more intensive activities involving S&T. By initiating new and innovative schemes to attract and nurture young talent with an aptitude for research and by providing assured career opportunities in academia, industry, national laboratories or other sectors, we can curtail flow of talent away from science. We must have schemes which ensure mobility of scientists and technologists between industry, academic institutions and R&D laboratories. I propose institutes like GITAM will take lead in introducing such schemes and stand as good examples for others providing higher education to the widest possible section of creative students transcending social and economic barriers.

S&T: Some Critical factors

Science and Technology are identified world over as the most productive instruments of human resources in the long run. The optimal utilization of these precious and scarce resources, however, depends on an efficient system of policy-making and policy-implementation.

India is a country with 40 million people living below poverty line. S&T is the only changing agent to improve this lot by combining our research to low cost innovative productive processes. With low cost technology solutions, we can create more products and services and serve the people better at a reduced cost. Institutions like GITAM can play a vital role in this respect.
There is an urgent need for universities to incubate and disseminate scientific knowledge through Technology parks, incubation centres, idea-sparkers, Technology scouts etc. to instill scientific vigor in the younger generation. Since Science & Technology development can benefit greatly by International Cooperation and collaboration and serve our national interest better, it should become an important component of our future plans. I wish GITAM University will take lead in this aspect also.

In the realm of today, deep involvement in research is a must for any faculty member for multiple reasons like updation and enhancing knowledge capital and analytical skills, to stimulate creative teaching-learning experience and to mentor students to become good researchers. We must realise that technology is just a tool. What we need is not just college graduates. We also need quality Ph.D’s in the basic sciences as well as in engineering.

We must remember what Albert Einstein once said “Scientists investigate that which already is; Engineers create that which has never been.”

The interaction between industry and academia in India has been pretty low because of the poor confidence level between the two. On one hand industry is short-sighted and profit-oriented whereas on the other hand academia is at times quite indifferent to the needs of the industry. As far as the funding of the research is concerned, it is high time that industry should come forward in a whole-hearted manner to support the higher engineering institutions in their research pursuits. Long-term industry-academia research programmes should be worked out with clear-cut goals in order to reap multiple benefits. These efforts will go a long way in killing three birds with one stone (i) Creating job-ready engineers, (ii) Funding & thereby furthering research and (iii) Industry getting good return on their investments.

It has been proven beyond doubt world over that economic growth is highly dependent on “Creativity through human resources and innovation through research & development”. This growth can only be achieved with the support of premier higher education institutions which are supposed to be the power house of knowledge and innovation.

**S&T Based Innovation Economy: ‘The need of the hour’**

By 2050 India is expected to overtake China as the world’s most populous nation, and over the next five years will be responsible for nearly a quarter of the increase in the world’s working-age population. Already India has almost a third of the available labor supply in low-cost countries. These figures, pointing to India’s “demographic divide,” represent an enormous competitive advantage for India in its emergence as an innovation economy, and as a potential world-class supplier of skills to the world. However, the widespread perception that India has unlimited employable human resources has changed. India has a growing shortage of skilled workers—caused largely by workforce development and education systems that do not respond adequately to the economy’s needs.

India’s innovation system focuses on formal research and development efforts which results in the growth of the nation’s economy. However, India is an extremely heterogeneous economy, and most of its population operates in the informal and unorganized sector. Given the rising divergence between productivity in agriculture and productivity in knowledge-intensive professional sectors such as information and communication technology (ICT) and finance, and the economy’s inability to sufficiently absorb migrants from the agricultural sector and new entrants to the labor force, income inequality will continue to increase. This has been the trend in most other economies—especially fast-growing ones.

Given expanding trade and globalization, India’s workforce must have skills that are aligned with its transforming economy and can support the country’s continued economic growth. India’s ongoing but incomplete transformation from agriculture - to a manufacturing- and services-based economy requires training a workforce with distinct skills. Skills are needed not only by high-skill sectors but also by labor-intensive industries, which require technological developments to be absorbed by a workforce adept in basic technological literacy and key competencies.

India’s demand for highly educated and skilled knowledge workers outstrips the supply. The high demand is fueled partly by India’s popularity as an R&D destination for multinational corporations luring away domestic talent and partly by the blossoming of India’s IT and IT-enabled services sectors. The higher education system’s ability to overcome with the supply constraint will thus play a major role in India’s competitiveness as a knowledge economy. Putting in few words, I would like to say: in today’s knowledge-based economy, what you earn depends on what you learn!

**Engineering Education: Society and Sustainability**

India is facing issues such as global warming, ocean acidification, biodiversity loss, urban migration, increasing demand for energy, drinking water shortage, clean air, safe waste disposal and fuel efficient transportation. We must agree that Engineering profession has significant role to play in affecting the future of our nation. An ever increasing India’s population that continues to shift to urban areas will require widespread adoption of sustainability. Now, let me ask this question ‘Can a professional engineer ignore these challenges and opportunities that arise out of these problems? What aspirational role should he play? Is there not strong enough a case for Higher Education institutions to equip students with appropriate knowledge and skills to meet these challenges? I urge upon you that there is an urgent need for transformation of engineering education globally to equip society with professionals who can address our 21st century sustainable living challenges. Professional engineers are required to take responsibility for engineering projects and programs in the most far reaching sense including understanding the requirements of clients and of society as a whole; Working to optimize social, environmental and economic outcomes over the life time of the product or program. Here I may remind you of a famous Chinese proverb, “If you are thinking a year ahead, sow a seed. If you are thinking 10 years ahead plant a tree. If you are thinking 100 years ahead, educate the people”.

This shows the importance of embedding sustainability in higher engineering education. I rather advocate that ‘all engineers need to be environmentally educated so that they understand the issues involved in sustainable development with greater breadth of knowledge.”

Most current engineering degrees in India are still concentrating on conventional engineering methods based on old economy involving linear ‘heat, beat and treat’ processes ignoring ‘waste’ at the end of the processes. Today’s Engineering has to respond to the needs of society and undoubtedly we need a new breed of engineers who can become real change agents for creating a sustainable model of society. Let us make a positive difference to the future of the society and the health of the planet ! Let us have fresh air which we and our children can breath without fear!
GITAM: In Search of Excellence

I am happy to note that GITAM University is one of the first few best private universities in the country with lot of autonomy, flexibility and ‘no-bureaucracy’ which are necessary ingredients to infuse more dynamism so that reforms could be effected in all S&T policies to meet the future challenges. In a span of two decades gone by, we have witnessed unprecedented S&T revolutions viz information technologies, bio-technology and nano-technologies. Life in 21st Century increasingly involves multitasking, IT, Social and Professional Networks, Mobile Technology and not to forget widgets, gadgets, blogs, twitter and You Tube !! I am sure the youngsters who are graduating today know these things better ! I learnt that one in every 13 persons on the Earth is now signed on Facebook. The number one benefit of IT is that it empowers people to do what they want to do. IT lets people be creative. IT lets people be productive. IT lets people learn things they did not think they could learn before. Today’s students think and process information fundamentally differently from their predecessors. They are “digital natives” born into a digital age! These revolutions have taken over every one of us by surprise. I don’t know how many more are in store for us ! I once again offer my heartfelt wishes to all those who are receiving degrees of this distinguished University today.

Before I conclude, let me make this parting remark. My dear young minds, today you got your degrees. You may think of it as the passport to a brilliant future and excellent life. Let me ask you to think of something in addition. Think of it as your passport to change the world. We need people like you who can change the world for betterment.
“Community service isn’t about padding one’s resume, it isn’t about doing things so that one might be proud and arrogant about it. But it is the dawning realization of the greater understanding of our humanity, our fragility and a greater appreciation of the great lives that so many of us lead and deem it to be “normal”.

The Students In Free Enterprise-SIFE is an International non-profit organization that brings together a diverse network of University students, academic professional and industrial leaders around the world. The mission of this organization is creating a better, more sustainable world through positive power of business. Participating students form teams on their university campus and apply business concepts to reach out projects that improve the standard of living for needy people.

SIFE at GIM is a student driven organization that is exerting much efforts to make a difference in the community with the help of learning, practicing and teaching the principles of free enterprise. There are around 187 students registered under GIM-SIFE who have the passion and appetite to serve the community. They help the needy by imparting the knowledge that they gained in classrooms.

Lacquer Toy Making Project
Gotivada village is one of the several poverty-struck villages where 70% of the population is under BPL (i.e. Below Poverty Line) category. GIM SIFE with the help from HSBC Financial Literacy Grant facilitated the people by replenishing them with toy-making equipments for producing toys made from natural wood and colors which are eco-friendly. They produced variety of toys ranging from bananas to bangles to idols of ganeshji, hanumanji, and many more.

Child Development Programme
The children are the pillars of society, but our society has been inept in recognizing this fact. For this purpose GIM-SIFE took up the activity of setting up child camps, where children were given basic education and health care camps in the village. The mothers of children were educated about various diseases and their preventions.

Alternate Energy
We know that non-renewable resources are being exploited so much that, a time would come where we would be left with none. In order to make a forward step to reduce the depletion of such resources, GIM-SIFE has come out with an idea of promoting the benefits of solar energy along with rural development by distributing solar lamps to 20 families in remote villages of Vishakhapatnam. These lamps were distributed in village called Anaku, where a person has to walk for at least 14 kms to reach it. The villagers are using the renewable resource of energy and helping in conserving the non-renewable sources of energy.

SIFE India National Championship 2011 brought together students of more than 50 leading national universities, academic professionals and business executives through this platform. The SIFE India national competition was grouped into three regional rounds, one each at Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai. The winners of regional rounds have entered into the national round held at Mumbai. GITAM Institute of Management contested in Mumbai region competition and entered the nationals. The finale witnessed top qualifying colleges compete, to win the National Championship, GIM-SIFE received the finalist memento and the presenters received medals from the CEO of WNS International.

GIM-SIFE is currently having 90 members and 217 volunteers. The group is headed by Prof. Siva Rama Krishna, Principal, GITAM Institute of Management.
"I forget what I hear, I remember what I see and I understand what I do".
This ancient Chinese proverb is the core concept of experiential learning. Outbound Training is one of the popular and tried-out methods.

GITAM Institute of Management, GITAM University has organized OUTBOUND TRAINING (OBT) Program – GURUKOOL for the new students as part of induction & soft skills Development. GIM as always a pioneer in introducing INNOVATIVE practices now brings what was for managers in Corporate to the students of Management.

WHAT IS OUTBOUND TRAINING?
The concept of using the outdoors as a tool in management training was first developed in the 1940's by Dr. Kurt Hahn, a philosopher outdoorsman who believed that the outdoors has many lessons for city people which will enhance their personal thresholds as well as group thresholds. It was Dr. Hahn's belief that advancing civilizations and technology were depriving many persons the opportunities to develop self-reliance, physical fitness and a compassion for others. An established corporate training tool in Western countries, Out Bound Training is gaining increasing popularity in India today as more and more corporate houses discover its ability to solve a number of issues that cannot be completely addressed in classroom training situations.

The crux of OBT lies in taking a group of people away from their normal environment into the outdoors, and placing a new, unfamiliar set of challenges before them, in the solving of which a whole lot of new equations are thrown up. The programme works on the principle that when a team is thrown together in wilderness or adventure settings, where they have to fend for themselves and meet challenges together, there is growth in many directions.

It has been repeatedly proven that the participants in a well-designed outbound programme always find the experience memorable, and the benefits significant and long-lasting.

GURUKOOL
Gurukool is a Three and half days training program(two days in case of UG) designed for synchronizing the mind, body & soul for overall development of the self. It is developed to cover a wide range of topics from as basic as grooming & etiquette to complex modules of team work & leadership.

Group of 25-30 students will have one trainer and each batch was accompanied by a faculty member of GIM. The venue was 30 KM from Vizag and no student was allowed to make phone calls or leave in-between the program.

A total of 344 students have under-gone the training during the program. Two training organizations from Chennai have been engaged for this purpose. Students participated in Fire-Walk, Ladders Run, Moon Walk, Longest Link, Rope Walk, Trust Fall, Quadripede etc during the three days in addition to Yoga, Trekking and Aerobics. The activity got good response from the students.
The bottlenose dolphins and possibly Indo-Pacific humpbacked dolphins, are also being deliberately killed along the coast of Andhra Pradesh because they are perceived as competitors for diminishing fish resources. Deliberate and incidental killing of cetaceans may be especially frequent along the east cost of India near major population centers (e.g., Calcutta and Madras). Where the demand is high for fish and fishing employment. This eastern coastline, at least as far south as Vishakhapatnam, includes the westernmost range of the Irrawady dolphin, a species that seems particularly vulnerable to gillnet entanglement because of its affinity for river mouths where fishing pressure is most intense.

Born out of a concern for the earth’s environment and bio-diversity, initiated by Dr. Nalini Bikkina, a group of youngsters from GITAM Institute of Management have joined together to form the Eco-Friends, a club of like-minded people to work towards generating awareness for protection of environment and conservation of bio-diversity. The club was involved in several activities over the past one and half years.

The Club as part of its awareness creation endeavors organized a presentation contest on marine mammal conservation on 30th June, 2011 to observe the World Whale and Dolphin Day. The presentations highlighted the differences between marine mammals and fishes, pointed out the protected status of marine mammals and spread the message that they should not be hunted, and poached and should be saved from drowning in nets. The activity which gained significance in the context of the Government of India declaring the dolphin as the national aquatic animal, was outlined by the faculty advisor of the Club Dr. Nalini Bikkina in correspondence with the World Dolphin Conservation Society. The day was also observed by members of the club by initiating a campaign called “Wear Blue, Tell Two” to generate awareness about the necessity of curbing marine and coastal area pollution along with reclaiming our beaches to provide safe habitation to the endangered species as enlisted by the IUCN.

The presentations and the campaign brought forth the dangers surrounding the common dolphins along the east coast of India in general and along the Vizag and surrounding coastline in particular. The common dolphins cited along the coast are the bottlenose dolphin, the saddleback dolphin and occasionally the Irrawady dolphins. It was also observed that the hunting of tuna fish which are friendly to dolphins is causing the dolphins to disappear from along the coast. The club appealed to stop trawlers and fishermen to stop hunting the tuna fish and for citizens to consider not consuming tuna, as a delicacy.
A delegation of Ryukoku University and Kobe University, Japan has visited GITAM Institute of Pharmacy, GITAM University on 12.09.2011. A formal welcome was accorded by the Vice Chancellor, GITAM University Prof. G. Subrahmanyam. In his welcome address the Vice Chancellor has presented before the Japanese delegation a clear picture about GITAM University and the various programmes offered by the University, including Pharmacy, an area in which the Japan delegation was interested for their research activity.

Prof. Atsuko Kamiike of Ryukoku University, Prof. Takahiro Sato, Kobe University and Prof. Kensuke Kubo, Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization, Japan have interacted with the Directors, Deans and Heads of various academic units of GITAM University and they have presented a power point presentation on the area of the research in the field of Pharmaceutical industry and generic drugs.

The team has visited the GITAM Institute of Pharmacy, wherein the Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy and Principal, GITAM Institute of Pharmacy Prof. P. Suresh made a power point presentation about the various salient features of the GITAM Institute of Pharmacy including the initiatives taken by the Institute in designing industry driven curriculum, the feed back obtained from Industry and academic experts about the curriculum, regular email communication to students about Lesson Plan, audio recorded lectures, Power point presentations, lecture notes, apart from obtaining feed back from the students and stakeholders about teaching learning evaluation process, apart from the various best practices with regard to student support and progression activities.

The state of the art physical infrastructural facility (Eight storied exclusive structure for Pharmacy) with high end pharmaceutical instruments of industrial significance for research activities has highly impressed the Japanese team and they have expressed their utmost satisfaction stating that the standards of the GITAM Institute of Pharmacy in the aspects of perfection, accountability, documentation with a zero defect approach are at par with Japanese system. They have expressed their satisfaction and appreciated that a Japan based pharmaceutical unit Eisai Pharmatechnology and Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd. has entered into MoU with GITAM Institute of Pharmacy. They have expressed their desire to explore the possibilities to establish a long term association with GITAM Institute of Pharmacy in particular and GITAM University in general for an effective tie up programmes in the areas of joint research.

They have also visited the Centre for Advanced Technological Solutions (CATS) and Knowledge Resource Centre (KRC) of GITAM University. Prof. P. Suresh has offered them that through the CATS services Professors of Japan can deliver online lectures to the students of GITAM University in the areas of their specialization including the disciplines of Engineering, Medicine, Management, Sciences, International Business and Economics apart from other relevant areas.

The team has subsequently visited the Japan based Pharmaceutical unit Eisai Pharmatechnology and Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd at Ramky Pharma city, Parawada, Visakhapatnam with which the GITAM Institute of Pharmacy has entered the MoU, as a part of their research study on “International Industry Institute Interface: An Indian Model”.

Japan Expert Team Visit
GITAM University, Institute of Science organized a National Conference on Present Relevance of Ancient Indian Sciences in association with Institute of Scientific Research on Vedas (I-SERVE), Hyderabad, during September 14-15, 2011 which was sponsored by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), New Delhi. The conference was inaugurated by Sadguru Dr.K.Sivananda Murty in the august presence of the visionary President of GITAM University, Dr.M.V.V.SMurthi, the key note speaker Prof.K.V.Krishna Murty, Chairman, I-SERVE, Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor of GU, Prof.G.Subrahmanyam, Principal of GIS, Prof.N.Lakshmana Das, who is also the Convener of the conference. The well brought out proceedings of the conference and a book on Vedic Sciences authored by Prof.K.V.Krishna Murty were released by the Chief Guest Sadguru Dr.K.Sivananda Murty.

The objective of this conference is to capitalize on the immensely popular field of Vedic Sciences by drawing in experts, researchers and scientists from varied fields of modern science, across the nation to discuss technologies to bring individual and collective life in harmony. This conference is an effort to create awareness in Vedic Sciences in the students and faculty which will encourage the spread of ancient Indian Sciences and expose new angles of scientific study and new areas of future research.

There are ten invited talks and fifteen oral presentations on the two days which was largely attended by the faculty, postgraduate and research students. The conference took off with an excellent keynote presentation on ‘Scope of research in Ancient Indian Sciences’ by Prof.K.V.Krishna Murty. The thought provoking, invigorating and intuitive invited talks in the varied subjects of ancient Indian Sciences include Comparison of Aryabhatta’s & Western methods in Mathematics, Earth quake predictions using ancient Indian tools, the story of Epistemology, Calculus in prose poetry of Kerala school, Astronomy in ancient India, Evolution of Universe, Indian Alchemy, Mechanism of Sanskrit speech sounds.

The well acclaimed oral presentations were on Vedic description of heart, water cycles and natural elements, Science & technology in Vedas and applications of Vedic Sciences There was a very good response on all the presentations which really served the purpose for which this type of conference was initiated by GIS.

The prominent invited speakers and presenters include Dr.I.Suryanarayana, IICT, Hyderabad, Dr.K.Ramasubramanian, IIT-Mumbai, Dr.B.L Narasayya, former Director, GSI, Dr.S.Balachandra Rao, Member, INSA, Dr.R.Sadasiva Murty, Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupathi, Dr.J.L.N.Sastry, Director Technical, Pragati Bio-Pharma Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad, eminent Professors from Andhra University, Dr.Ch.Santhamma, Dr.Chandu Subba Rao, Dr.N.Someswara Rao, Sri C.S.Rao, A.P. Ground water department, Visakhapatnam and research students of department of Sanskrit, AU.

Towards the end of the conference there was a panel discussion on the modalities for the promotion of this emerging field of Vedic Sciences in the back drop of modern science & technology. The deliberations of the panel discussions include the recommendations to introduce the concepts of Vedic Sciences in all academic programmes, so that the highly informative modern student can really understand the in-depth concepts imbied in the ancient Indian Sciences which has been evolving since thousands of years. It can also generate many research topics which really attract good amount of research grants from within and outside India.
It is my duty to gratefully acknowledge the affection shown to me in inviting me to be the Chief Guest on this occasion and the honour to inaugurate the National Conference. The subject, “Present Relevance of Ancient Indian Sciences” is indeed a very original one and demands from the participants a keen knowledge and acquaintance with the ancient Indian sciences and the wide field of the modern sciences of today. Even with my very limited knowledge of both, I would like to say that there is an infinite range of main and subsidiary subjects of ancient India for study, analysis and synthesis as well as a strong possibility of discoveries. Let us treat Astronomy as an example. As you are all aware, the study of astronomy occupied the central place in ancient India among the sciences like agriculture, civil engineering, water management, health sciences like Ayurveda and Yoga, ship building, iconography etc.

It is a common view that ancient India and the present Hindu India have paid more attention to religion rather than sciences and those religious beliefs have clouded the attitude necessary for investigative scientific thinking. Let us note that religion has not stunted the growth of any science. For example, there is a religious belief about the structure of Universe and the existence of higher worlds. At the same time, Hinduism explored the secrets of our solar system and arrived at precise astronomical mathematics. While the religious calendar prescribes religious rituals on the occasion of eclipses and tells the people that Rahu is swallowing the sun or the moon, the astronomical explanation of eclipse is precisely given. Thus science and religion did not clash in India. Some thousands of years before Copernicus, earth rotation round the sun was a proven fact. Diseases might have been ascribed to the evil forces in nature. But they did not thwart the development of Ayurvedic diagnostics, therapeutics and pharmacology.

I have observed from a reading of the current literature that greater attention was paid by foreign scholars than by the scholars of India to the past India’s wealth of knowledge. It is impossible to go into the details within the short time available now. With my high regard to the few Indian astronomers and researchers, I must mention here the example of Dr David Edwin Pingree of United States (1933-2005) as a foreigner’s interest in the ancient Indian astronomy. In 1950, he received and taught the BA degree in Sanskrit and Classics in the famous Harvard University. He received his Ph.D in Sanskrit at the Harvard. Prof Pingree was a Prof of History of Mathematics and Classics in Brown University. He was also with the University of Chicago. He was associated with the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona in 1960s and visited various libraries and archives in search of Sanskrit manuscripts on Astronomy and Mathematics. His researches resulted in his publishing of over 32 books. He wrote 12 books on Astronomy of India Pancasiddhantika of Varahamihira (with O.Neugebauer, 2 Vols, 1970-71); Jyotisasasrastra (1981); Vidvajjanaavallabha of Bhojaraja (1970); Rajamriganka of Bhojaraja, (1987); Grahajnana of Anadhir together with Ganitchudamani of Harihara (1989); From Astral Omens to astrology, From Babylon to Bikaner (1997); and Arabic Astronomy in Sanskrit Al-Birjandi on Tadhkira II...

Pingree wrote nearly 20 other books by himself or in collaboration with other scholars which include Arabic astronomy, Greek and Sanskrit works etc. They include Astrological History of Masha‘allah (with E S Kenedy, 1971); Hephaestionis Thebani Apotelesmaticorum libri tres, 2 Vols (1973-76); three volumes on Babylonian Planetary Omens (with E Reiner, 1975-81); Vettii Valenti Anathomiarum libri novem (1986) and Astral Sciences in Mesopotamia (with Hunger, 1999).

In various other books Dr Pingree wrote as many as 21 chapters directly related to Indian Astronomy touching upon Karnavasna of Sankara (1974); Ganitaspancavimsi of Sridhara (1978) and Khetamuktavali of Nrsimha (1980). He was a great scholar of Sanskrit and taught Greek and Arabic also. He reviewed many books authored by Indians related to subjects like Sulbasutras. It is not possible to mention even the barest of achievements of this great man in discovering the ancient Indian scholarship in astronomy and astrology. He advised young scholars to be seekers of truth, no matter where such seeking would lead them. He planned to retire in 2005 but he died in that year. I have made here a very brief mention of his achievements. Let me finally say this of Prof Pingree. He has not received any titles or honours or other kinds of recognition from any Indian university or government of any state or of the center.

One more observation I would like to make; the ancient Indian sciences were progressive up to the 11th century A.D. Al-Biruni paid tributes to the ancient sciences of India but of course made caustic remarks against people like Varahamihira for their closed minds. The Islamic invasions and the destruction of the vast library at Nalanda by Ikhtiyar Uddin Muhammad bin Bakhtiyar Khilji in 1203 A.D. were the saddest days in Indian history. The progress or renaissance in the study and development of ancient Indian sciences in the medieval age like 13th -18th century was very poor compared to the Renaissance in Europe. Texts in many subjects were deliberately destroyed. We have permanently lost them.

Let us, however, not forget Indian super science of Yoga and Cosmology and even Cosmogony describing the structure of the Universe in this Brahmanda with as many as fourteen worlds inside all inhabited by beings in various stages of wisdom and power. The discovery of soul in the man and the phenomenon of re-birth are all the super sciences exclusively belonging to India long back in the ancient times. Reading them as religion and mere beliefs but not as an empirical science is only a view predominant in modern times. Every one of us can have his/her independent opinion about this. They stand apart from the logically built observational sciences of today.

Regarding the relevance of Indian sciences today, I must say they have the power if studied in right earnest to expand the vision of a modern scientist making him more open-minded and see for himself that, once, great intellectuals ruled the logical scientific world in the ancient India which is the true requirement of an open-minded enquiring into the secrets of our Creation. That is an undeniable relevance to the modern scientists.
FACTS ABOUT INDIA

- India never invaded any country in her last 100,000 years of history.
- India invented the Number System.
- Aryabhata invented zero.
- The World’s first university was established in Takshasila in 700 BC. More than 10,500 students from all over the world studied more than 60 subjects.
- The University of Nalanda built in the 4th century BC was one of the greatest achievements of ancient India in the field of education.
- Sanskrit is the mother of all the European languages. Sanskrit is the most suitable language for computer software reported in Forbes magazine, July 1987.
- Ayurveda is the earliest school of medicine known to humans. Charaka, the father of medicine consolidated Ayurveda 2500 years ago. Today Ayurveda is fast regaining its rightful place in our civilization.
- Although modern images of India often show poverty and lack of development, India was the richest country on earth until the time of British invasion in the early 17th Century.
- The art of Navigation was born in the river Sindh 6000 years ago. The very word Navigation is derived from the Sanskrit word NAVAGATIH. The word navy is also derived from Sanskrit ‘Nou’.
- Bhaskaracharya calculated the time taken by the earth to orbit the sun hundreds of years before the astronomer Smart.; Time taken by earth to orbit the sun: (5th century) 365.258756484 days.
- Budhayana first calculated the value of pi, and he explained the concept of what is known as the Pythagorean Theorem. He discovered this in the 6th century long before the European mathematicians.
- Algebra, trigonometry and calculus came from India; Quadratic equations were by Sridharacharya in the 11th century; The largest numbers the Greeks and the Romans used were 10^6 (10 to the power of 6) whereas Hindus Used numbers as big as 10^53 (10 to the power of 53) with specific names as Early as 5000 BC during the Vedic period. Even today, the largest used number is Tera 10^12 (10 to the power of 12).
- According to the Gemological Institute of America, up until 1896, India was the only source for diamonds to the world.
- USA based IEEE has proved what has been a century-old suspicion in the world scientific community that the pioneer of Wireless communication was Prof. Jagadeesh Bose and not Marconi.
- The earliest reservoir and dam for irrigation was built in Saurashtra. According to Saka King Rudradaman I of 150 CE a beautiful lake called ‘Sudarshana’ was constructed on the hills of Raivataka during Chandragupta Maurya’s time.
- Chess (Shataranja or AshtaPada) was invented in India.
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QUOTES ABOUT INDIA

- Albert Einstein said: We owe a lot to the Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made.
- Mark Twain said: India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grandmother of tradition. Our most valuable and most constructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only.
- French scholar Romain Rolland said: If there is one place on the face of earth where all the dreams of living men have found a home from the very earliest days when man began the dream of existence, it is India.
- Hu Shih, former Ambassador of China to USA said: India conquered And dominated China culturally for 20 centuries without ever having to send a single soldier across her border.

*Let the world know what we stand for*

- There are 3.22 Million Indians in America.
- 38% of Doctors in America are Indians.
- 12% of Scientists in America are Indians.
- 36% of NASA employees are Indians.
- 34% of MICROSOFT employees are Indians.
- 28% of IBM employees are Indians.
- 17% of INTEL employees are Indians.
- 13% of XEROX employees are Indians.
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