



# National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Surathkal

## Independence Day - 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

Good morning to all my dear faculty & staff colleagues, my dear students' ladies and gentlemen. **Wish you all a Happy Independence Day.**

Today we are celebrating 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of our Nation, **a moment of pride for every single citizen of the country.**

In a political parlance, freedom is closely connected with the concepts of the **fundamental rights**, and more so, **civil liberties and human rights**, to the citizens of the country. It is something the country fought for 90 long years, with many sacrifices, enduring mutinies and genocides before we claimed our **freedom back** from the British **74 years ago.**

Today, we stand-up to salute our National flag, while paying our respects to those who sacrificed to free the country, and sing our national anthem with pride in our hearts and moisture in our eyes. It is time to look within and recognise our continued commitment to once again get-together to build the country to become self-reliant. Self-reliance is not a destination to reach, rather it is a continuous journey toward a time when foreign assistance is no longer necessary. It's called the Journey to Self-Reliance. And it calls for a **commitment** and **accountability** to work **effectively, inclusively.**

This year's Independence Day marks the beginning of "**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**". We celebrate the spirit of freedom struggle and pay tributes to the martyrs of the country with a resolution to build an India of their dreams. It will be:

A New India - a secure, prosperous and strong nation.

A New India - where there is equal opportunity for all;

A New India - where modern science and technology play an important role in bringing glory for the nation in the global arena.

**Nation-building** means constructing a **national identity** and it aims at the unification of the people.

India has a history of being under colonial rule on one hand, and socio-culturally and geo-politically heterogeneous, on another hand, and it needs more structured efforts for nation building. Nation building is not a process of a few years, in fact, it requires decades. Similarly, it is not a task of one or few segments of a society rather it involves each citizen at all stages. Undoubtedly, the young need to play a more effective and reliable role with **unconditional commitment to the goals of the country**. India has the greatest advantage of the youngest population. By 2022, the median age in India will be 28 years. This is an extraordinary opportunity.

**“I have faith in my country, and especially in the youth of my country. All power is within you, you can do anything and everything. Believe in that, and do not believe that you are weak. Stand up and express the divinity within you”,** said Swami Vivekananda once. Therefore, my dear students **“Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached.”**

The pandemic which started in March 2020 gave an opportunity for NITK to rise to the occasion successfully to integrate and impart on-line education to its students from different geographical locations of the country. Due to consistent efforts of our faculty and staff members, the academic performance and placements records of our students in the year 2021 are superior to the placements records attained in 2020.

NITK has taken noteworthy strides in quality research leading to improved technical publications and achieved **11 patents** in the past **3 years**, of which, **6 patents** were awarded in 2020 alone.

The Regional Academic Centre for Space (RAC-S) in NITK, Surathkal by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is another feather in the crown of NITK. We are working actively to contribute to the objectives of SANKALP.

The new Undergraduate program in **Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning** from the academic year 2021-22, is to place our students on the most desirable platform for the industry today. We take pride in the achievements of our students, and they are ranked **6<sup>th</sup> globally** in the list of Universities, with the most accepted students for **Google Summer of Code (GSoC) 2021**.

The culmination of all the efforts and achievements of NITK has let us improve NIRF ranking to 13 in 2020 (among Engineering Institutes) and to 33 in 2020 (in Overall rankings).

The vision articulated in the **New Education Policy** (NEP 2020) lays a strong foundation to **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and NITK is committed to implement NEP-2020 and contribute to making the dreams of India come true.

We shall be failing in our responsibilities as citizens, if we do not, **dedicate ourselves, at this critical juncture, to the service of this nation, and be a part of Nation building mission.** Therefore, we at NITK - the teachers, staff, and students need to take a few **long steps** in making ourselves equipped to take on all the challenges, **expected as well as unexpected.**

I acknowledge the efforts of Teachers, administrative staff in raising above the bar and working relentlessly during the lockdown period. Nothing apparently looked different as far as functioning of NITK.

**My Dear Students:** Online teaching is not an Option, it is, indeed, has become a necessity. We all know that there are many issues the students are facing in these days of pandemic. We are working hard and sincerely to find options to deal with the challenging situation. The extended uncertainties due to recent spread of COVID is indirectly emphasising the need to protect our students, faculty, academic staff, and the society. Please realise that in the midst of all this mayhem online teaching and online learning can be termed as the panacea for the crisis.

I reiterate that the wheel of development of the country lies on the shoulder of how productive and creative the young population are. The youth, in any society, are the engine of growth and development.

This is what we have witnessed in the just concluded Tokyo Olympics. They personified the **best of skill, teamwork and dedication.** There are a few good lessons we need to learn from them. The wrestlers, boxers, athletes, the men's hockey team, in fact every single participant. They proved that it is not the time to sit and complain, of what they are not provided with, irrespective of their social background, rather they projected, loud and clear, that **country comes first** and their resilience to stand and perform held the country on the pedestal as medal winners. Thus they let the world recognise us as performers.

Let us congratulate the Indian contingent for their stupendous performance in the Tokyo Olympics.

Remember the saying '**Cometh the hour, as they say, cometh the leader**' – challenges and leadership go hand-in-hand.

**Let us all be proud of our country and let us take a pledge that we shall keep the country before us and commit to offer relentless services in building the country to a “Self-reliant India”**

**Jai Hind.**

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15<sup>th</sup> August 2021