

Republic Day 2011

N. Sathyamurthy

My dear students, colleagues and friends:

It is my proud privilege to stand in front of you and address you on this august occasion. The day India became a Secular Socialistic Democratic Republic, 61 years ago.

We are a baby in front of our Nation. We are only three and a half years old. We have grown up reasonably well. From the time we started with nothing but hope, we have come a long way. We have our own campus now. Two thirds of the students moved into Hostel No. 5 on December 3, 2010. The remaining one third will move into Hostel No. 7 in the next few days. We will be inaugurating Hostel No. 7 at 11:00 am today. My wife and I have moved into the Director's residence and the guest house also has moved into the campus. We look forward to moving the entire faculty into the campus. Soon we will have all the lectures and most

of the labs in the new campus. We look forward to having the lecture hall complex and the first academic block completed in the coming months. The faculty housing will be ready by summer. We have started planning the next two hostels, the next academic block and the informatics centre. The gate complex will be functional from today but it will be inaugurated formally in the next month or so by our Chairman Dr R A Mashelkar.

I know many of you have gone through lots of inconvenience in the last several months and more is in store for us in the next few months. We are trying our best to minimise the inconvenience for the campus community. Please remember we depend on the Greater Mohali Developmental Authority for the road in front of us and we are dependent on the Punjab Government for electricity and a whole lot of other issues. But we have no excuses. The Nation expects a lot from all of us. It has already invested about Rs. 100 crores and more will be spent on getting this campus ready. Once each one of you start doing well in your career in science, the Nation will realise that it was worth investing on us. As Dr. Samir Brahmachari, Director General, CSIR put it recently, please look around you. All those people working hard in extreme cold and soon in extreme heat to build these nice facilities for you to work in comfort. Once the building is built, they have to move out and we move



in. Each one of us must make sure that we put in our best and prove to ourselves and the Nation that we deserve it. We must pay back every paisa spent on us and much more. Remember our resources are limited. And yet, the nation is investing on each one of us. Your job is to excel in your studies. Every visitor tells me that we have excellent faculty but you do not seem to appreciate what you have got. They are putting their best to make sure that you get the best training possible. There is a large number of staff members, who are silently working behind the scene so that you and I can concentrate on our mission.

Our vision is to become the No. 1. Not just among the IISERs and not just among the Indian Institutions. But in the whole world. That is possible. We can do it.

I am delighted to learn that we will be giving three CNR Rao foundation prizes this year. The Senate wanted to make sure that each one of the recipients gets the full award of Rs. 5000. Please join me in congratulating all the three awardees this year. There is a large number of students getting the Academic Excellence Prize this time. The Senate has desired that every student getting an SPI of 10.0 gets the recognition. Congratulations to all the students receiving the Academic Excellence Prize.

We are growing slowly but steadily. We have a new Dean Students, Professor Arvind, a new Dean Research and Development Professor Bagla and for the first time we have a Dean of Faculty Professor Anand Bachhawat. It is a democratic set up. Most of the decisions are made collectively by the Deans and the Director. Our first Registrar Shri J P Singh retired and has chosen to lead a quite life. We will soon have a new Registrar Dr. Bapiah. Dr. Jagdeep Singh, the Coordinator has kindly agreed to act as the Registrar in the intervening period.

There is a large number of our colleagues working day and night to make our life comfortable. That is the team from the Institute Works Department, headed by our Executive Engineer Shri Praveen Srivastava. Please join me in thanking Shri Srivastava and his team for all their untiring efforts.

With these words, I wish each one of you a Happy Republic Day.

Jai Hind!

N. Sathyamurthy

Director, IISER Mohali