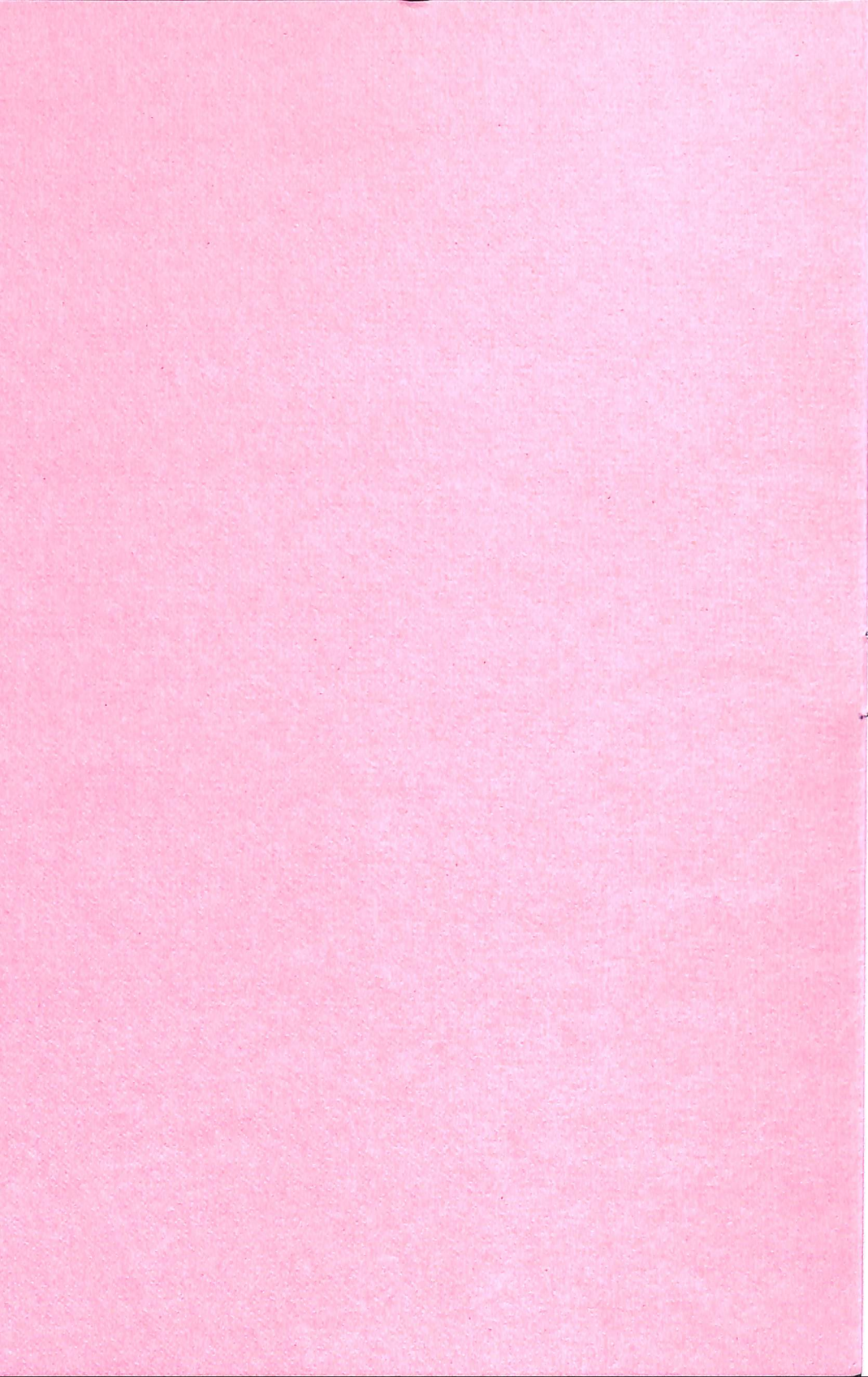


**THE SIXTY-SEVENTH
ANNUAL CONVOCATION
24 DECEMBER, 2024**

**ADDRESS BY
GUEST-IN-CHIEF
PROFESSOR AMITABHA GHOSH
INSA Honorary Scientist
Indian Institute of Engineering Science & Technology**



**JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY
KOLKATA 700 032
INDIA**



**THE SIXTY-SEVENTH
ANNUAL CONVOCATION
24 December 2024**

**ADDRESS BY
GUEST-IN-CHIEF
PROFESSOR AMITABHA GHOSH**
INSA Honorary Scientist
Indian Institute of Engineering Science & Technology

**JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY
KOLKATA-700 032
INDIA**



Convocation Address

by

Prof. Amitabha Ghosh

Honorable Chancellor of Jadavpur University, Shri C V Ananda Bose, Honorable Vice Chancellor Professor Bhaskar Gupta, my esteemed faculty colleagues of the University and the respectable members of the Court and the Council, distinguished guests and parents, the members of the Press and my beloved Degree Recipients – to begin with I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Jadavpur University for giving me this opportunity to participate in this year's convocation. Lately I have been avoiding such invitations to deliver speech primarily because of my age and health related issues. However, this time around I could not resist the temptation of congratulating the brilliant group of students and scholars who are going to receive the much coveted degrees of this top ranking university of our country today in this convocation.

Truly speaking the role of the Chief Guest in this cardinal event in the lives of the students and scholars is quite insignificant and it pales in comparison to the roles played by my esteemed faculty colleagues and the administration of the University. However, the common tradition requires one person from outside the University to be invited for addressing the degree recipients at such a momentous occasion that embodies a major transition in the lives of students. My dear young friends you have been fortunate to enjoy a very privileged status as students when our great nation gave everything to you; but now onwards you will enter the phase of your lives when the torch will be passed on to you to carry forward in dedicated service to our country to the best of your abilities.

Dear degree recipients, it is a memorable day in your lives when your hard work and dedication are going to be rewarded by the university. I congratulate you for this distinction of becoming an alumnus of Jadavpur University known for its high standard and unwavering commitments in academics and commands respect throughout the academic world. Please remember that this is indeed a privilege bestowed

upon only a few from the enormous student community of our country to have the opportunity to become a student of such a high-ranking university and successfully complete their studies. It is also the appropriate moment to remember with utmost sense of gratitude the contributions made by your parents, guardians and teachers behind this success of yours. Without their blessings such achievements could not have been easy to come by.

Dear friends, during my 59 + years of teaching carrier that started on 1st May 1965 and continues till date, students have been an inseparable part of my existence and I feel emotional when I get the opportunity to address student communities. About quarter of a century ago when I started getting invitations for addressing the students in similar occasions, I used to feel enthusiastic and would often find myself preparing long lectures for the students spending hours during the nights. But now arriving at the ripe age of 84 I realize how futile and unnecessary such an exercise is. The earlier tradition of subjecting the degree recipients to sermons and advices from an invited 'Chief Guest' was primarily to mentally prepare the young students for their working lives since during those earlier times the students were predominantly confined to their studies without much scope to have a taste of the 'outside' world. But, now, in the current era of knowledge-based society and information technology, all of you are as informed about the outside world as any 'chief guest' can ever hope to be. Therefore, with this realization I do not believe any more in giving sermons and advices and loading my brief address with those. But there is always a 'however' and I feel like sharing some wisdom I have gained in my life. I sincerely hope that you will kindly tolerate me for this.

We all have heard about the saying - 'Life is the best teacher and time is the best healer'. But, unfortunately, we all have only one life to learn from; and by the time we reach the end and learn from the lessons of our individual lives, there is hardly any scope left to make any use of that 'learning from the life'. The way such teachings can be rendered somewhat useful to human civilization only if the basic tenants of the wisdom gained are transferred to the next younger generation. May be keeping that in view I can tell you a few things which may not be out of context today. Please note that whatever I am going to tell you is based

upon the lessons I have received from my own life that has been reasonably eventful and full of varied experiences. So, may be a few of these experiences I gained could be of some use to you during your working careers. I will restrict myself to only a few points which are related to life in general and your forthcoming professional careers in particular.

The most important of all is that you should be happy and content in your work and in your individual personal lives to the extent possible. The quality of your personal lives will dictate the quality of your contributions to the society. To achieve happiness, as per my experience, you must enjoy enough independence in your thinking and choosing your activities at your work place. The next important matter I have learnt in my life is that one should avoid comparison with others; and the third most effective way to become happy is not to think of doing any harm to others whatever the situation may be.

Now, a few points regarding your professional life can be mentioned which you may find useful. The width of the spectrum of teaching and research activities of Jadavpur University is both vast and deep; thus the areas in which you will be all occupied in your working lives are going to be also widely varied. Hence I will confine myself to draw your kind attention to some major and general changes expected. It is also to be noted that our country is now at the cross road of her long journey in the history of human civilization. India is now poised to take up a centre-stage role in the world affairs – both economic and political. Our country is expected to become a scientific and engineering resource house for the world as the human civilization approaches the inevitable next Industrial revolution. Although it is difficult to predict accurately the effects of the impact of the paradigm shifts, resulting from this impending revolution, in many spheres of our private and working lives, it is doubtless that the transformation of the society may go beyond the imagination of science fiction writers! Just consider the fact that even in late 80s no science fiction writer could think of mobile phones and the internet! But within a couple of decades these have become inseparable parts of our private and public lives!! We have already started getting the hints how the forthcoming technological developments

are going to affect all types of activities. It is now beyond any doubt how the onslaught of AI is going to alter most types of activities, be it in health care, legal practice, education, research & development, planning, civic administration and management in general.

Thus, my point of discussion will be how you can plan your working lives from now onwards with a view to not only sustain the onslaught of drastic changes which you will be subjected to but also to take advantage of the changing scenario in science and technology. Please be careful while taking decisions and making plans. Kindly remember to take note of not only the current situation; instead, please try to understand what areas of science and technology will play the predominant roles in our lives after a couple of decades when you will reach the prime of your respective careers. A proper decision taken by you at the initial stage of your career (during the next few years) may render your future working life commensurate with your liking, temperament and abilities providing you not only satisfaction in your work but making you capable of giving the best possible service to our nation making you a valuable asset for the society. Even in your personal lives such a situation will bring not only satisfaction but also happiness.

Without going into the details I will restrict my suggestion to some very general issues related to the possible changes you may experience in the future.

1. Those of you who are in the fields of science and technology will find the disciplines to become increasingly more interdisciplinary in character and the boundaries to become blurred. So the acquired knowledge during your student carrier is not going to fully serve you in future. Continuing education is going to be a part of your working lives at a level that is not experienced currently.
2. Another very important change you may experience in the future. In a large number of cases your work may be of a 'multi-tasking' nature.
3. Furthermore, a very large proportion of the future workers will be playing the role of a 'consultant' instead of an 'employee'.

These are only a few of the major issues that may play important roles in your working lives a few decades from now. Thus, you can take proper care of your attitude towards work and also plan your career accordingly. The current trend in which the graduating students get attracted to 'fat pay packets' may not pay dividend in the long run.

I wish excellent and prosperous careers to all of you in whatever directions you take your working lives. Whatever level you may attain in your lives please do not forget the sacrifices and contributions made by your parents so that you can achieve success in life. Finally, I pray that you all can become true daughters and sons of our great mother land and help her to become a cradle of prosperity and happiness for the whole humanity.

Jai Hind

**Amitabha Ghosh
Kalpataru Apartments
50/A College Road
Howrah 711103**

Printed by : Shri Pijush Kundu (Foreman)
Jadavpur University Press (Printing) , Kolkata -700032