

Lecture by Mr Tarun Das at
Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bangalore
On 27th April 2018

Mr Chairman of the University Dr M.R. Jayaram
Members of the BoT

Dr Shankapal, Vice-Chancellor, Dr YS Rajan, Member of the GC who is the person you have to blame for inflicting me on you.

And, all other friends, especially the community of students and members of the Faculty.

I come to you for the first time, hopefully, not the last.

And, today, I have visited both campuses, seen the facilities and got a sense of this wonderful Institution created by Dr MS Ramaiah. My respectful tribute to his vision which has been implemented so well and to all those who are steering this University. I salute the Founder and his team. I salute Dr Jayaram and his Family.

Dr Ramaiah would have been 96, 7 days ago.

In 4 years is his centenary.

A great man with whom I have one thing in common.

What is it?

He was an only child!
I am an only child !

I feel a special bond.

And, Dr Jayaram and I have a connection in reverse: He is one of 10 – my father also.

I know this is a University for Science studies. But, I am not going to talk about science.

When I was privileged to be invited to speak today, for me it was > a Lecture.

It was, and is, the beginning of a relationship, a friendship with a great institution.

This morning. Dr Shankapal, Vice-Chancellor, took me around the Peenya Campus

The focus on practical learning.

The equipment and machines.

The Labs.

Amazing.

Students ready to be productive when they come out of this university. Not so for many others.

My congrats to Dr Shankapal and his Faculty and staff.

My story – the real one – is not in my CV which you have just heard.

-) I am an only child and was an introvert, shy, with low self-confidence.
-) I have a very ordinary education background – only Bachelor's degree.
-) I am a small town boy from a steel town in West Bengal.
-) I loved sports much more than studies.
-) My father borrowed money to give me college education.
-) My family had much financial hardship with my father, the eldest son, responsible for my grandparents and his brother and 8 sisters.
-) My mother was tough with me; my father was my FRIEND.

So, I am a very ordinary Indian boy like most others.

A CV does not tell anyone about one's roots, one's family, one's childhood – all of which makes you what you are. You have heard about my life with CII. There are 5 things I am doing now

- Mainstreaming and eradicating Leprosy.
- Strengthening economic and sociological research.
- Building deeper international relationships for India.
- Reinforcing the work on building Leadership with Values.
- Helping to strengthen institution-building.

I chose the title deliberately

"India – How the Next Gen Can Lead Differently".

I chose this because my generation has largely failed India. If you, the Next Gen, follow our path, India will be destroyed. Democracy will be destroyed.

We can't have that.

When I say this, it does not mean that everything is black about India – Not So.

We are still 1 country;

We have developed our Economy, Industry, Agriculture and Infrastructure.

We have great talent.

We have international credibility.

But, we should have done much better. This is the Failure. This is my Generation's Failure. Especially in Education and Healthcare.

Do you have Dreams? Yes/no.

"The Future belongs to those who believe in their Dreams"

The Future of India belongs to you.

I am going to try and put your future Leadership of India in several buckets, for you to consider.

First Discipline, Respect, Work Ethic, Productivity of People

Do we have it? (Yes/no)

Do I need to explain this? (Yes/no)

Are these basic to everything else (yes/no)

Can we achieve anything meaningful without these? (yes/no)

For me, and I hope for you, this bunch of issues is fundamental to all else. Please focus on this, set up your own Task Forces, frame strategies.

The greatest Act of Life is to spend it on something which will outlast your life!

Please follow this principle.

Second, Security and Safety especially of Women and Girls and equality for them in every aspect of life.

Without this, we have a lawless jungle in India.

You need to work at this.

You need to bring change.

You need to find solutions.

Are men ready to introspect and change their behavior towards women.

The last 44 years I have lived in Delhi and seen the rise in violence, the lack of safety, the absence of security. And, shortsighted, well-to-do people think that by living behind high walls with guards, they are safe.

No way.

This is a short-term solution. One day, many people will climb over those walls. History tells us this.

So, if you are to lead a better India in the future, you need to get security and safety right for all Indians, especially women.

Put your passion and your heart into this. It is critical. And, through this, you will lead India differently.

Third, Do we remember that 700 million of our people live in villages, in rural areas. And, they have the poorest quality roads, housing, water, education, healthcare, if any at all?

Is that why people migrate to towns and cities looking for a better quality of life plus employment?

And, when they don't find these, do they turn to crime and violence?

And, what does it all do to their family life? How does this disrupt our society?

Is it time to take care of our villages and village life?

Is it time to remember Mahatma Gandhi once again?

Can we develop India only in urban terms?

Have you thought about this?

How to apply science and technology to transform the lives of the 700 million.

I was very happy to see this morning the products being developed here for farmers. Please give this the highest priority.

Four, We constantly debate about employment, jobs and skills in macro terms. But, large industry – is into robotics and automation with very few highly skilled jobs essentially for engineers. You know this best of all.

Where does the answer lie?

Is it in Entrepreneurship?

And, what kind?

Let me tell you a true story.

(THE BYST STORY) 6600 micro entrepreneurs. 250,000 jobs. 5000 Mentors.

So, 1 million small micro-entrepreneurs creating an average of 20 jobs? 20 million jobs.

5 million small, micro entrepreneurs, 100 million jobs.

And, this takes me back to rural.

(THE B2R STORY) Another true story. Rural B2B Centres manned by rural women who have learnt English and IT and are working in BPOs whose customers are global.

Two stories. Real stories. And, there are more. Can we multiply these to create 5 million small Entrepreneurs providing 100 million jobs?

Its not rocket science.

Its organization and management which you have.

Five, Young people want to be self-employed (My 2 sons). This is today's youth. Creative. Energetic. Enthusiastic. Excited.

Even older people want to break out and do things on their own.

Use Technology.

Innovate. Create. Adapt.

The Story of Entrepreneurship is a Reality.

We are seeing an explosion of Entrepreneurs to build a different kind of India of the future.

Go for it.

Help build this new India.

Not of bureaucrats only.

Not of politicians only.

Not of business leaders.

But, very small scale entrepreneurs in every corner of India, especially in the rural areas.

You can make a huge difference.

Six, Is the massive challenge of rising, galloping Inequality. Creating a huge gap between People and People.

Dissonance. Dissatisfaction. Dismay. Distress. Disaster.

Where the HAVES have more and more.

Can this be solved by Govt?

Not through Controls, Regulations, Policies.

This can only be solved through Public Pressure and Self-Regulation and Balance and Moderation by the Rich.

And, by the rich serving the poor.

Is it time to start a National Movement to address Inequality?

Create consciousness 24x7 of the cost of inequality.

The implications of Inequality.

The divisions amongst us from Inequality.

Are you going to address this in the future?

Or, are you only concerned with being rich yourself?

Seven, Corruption. Here, There, Everywhere. In every nook and corner.

Corroding all our Institutions.

Destroying our character.

Undermining our moral fiber.

What is it actually?

Asking for something extra to do one's job.

Asking for something extra to break the rules.

Asking for the wrong thing to be done.

This problem is all-pervasive but the real problem is that it is Top Down.

Leaders are the public Role Models. Political. Business. Academic. Research. Leaders are followed. Copied. (Children/Parents).

How do we remove this Cancer?

Is it Terminal. Can there be tough Justice for the Leaders?

Is there Tough Justice?

Is there Faith in the Justice System?

Can you do something about this in the future?

YOU CAN

Eight, Are we expecting Governments to solve all our problems?

And, we sit and wait?

Or, are we going to do something to bring Change?

Should we always pass the buck to the Governments? Are they Change Agents?

I suggest to you, Change can come from Outside Government. And, change has come from outside Government. We are in the "Solutions Business" was the motto of CII.

(The CII STORY)

- Technology (Kalam)
- Protection/C. Duties. (JNG)
- Competition and Unity (RNT)
- Corporate Governance (RB)
- Davos/Global respect (RB)

(Change Yourself to Change the Country).

- PPP with Govt. Earn Trust.
- More than a Lobby
- Development of People (1995 Centenary)-commitment.

Build **TRUST**. Build **PARTNERSHIP**.

Think India

Nine

- Ordinary People, Extraordinary Achievements.
- Opportunity, Space, Trust.
- Trust the young (CII).
- Can Lead, Will Lead.
- Pockets of Success, make it across the Nation.

(BIEC Story – Bangalore)

(The AAC Story) - Leadership with Values
Training with a Difference

- TSALS
- Schools
- Colleges
- NGOs
- Police/CRPF/NSG
- IAS

Every effort counts.
Every drop counts.

Proving that ordinary people can change India.

Ten, Institutions – Very Important.

What is an Institution? & What is it Not?

1. It has no single “owner” Control and governance is shared and distributed.
2. It serves a public purpose and public good.
3. It is not-for-profit.
4. It has a governance structure.
5. It has a permanent administration or secretariat with a Head. A team.
6. It publishes an Annual Report and Audited Accounts for all to see.
7. It is registered either as a Society or Trust or Section 25 Company.
8. It has different activities such as Seminars, Conferences and Round Tables, for private discussion or open to the public.
9. It has to raise financial resources through grants, donations, subscriptions, etc.
10. It has some specified objective(s) which are clearly recorded.
 - Decline of Institutions
 - Stop this
 - Turnaround

A Task for Leaders of Tomorrow.

(You are sitting in a great Institution).

Eleven, Many Born 2000

2018 Karnataka Elections.

2019 General Elections.

Vote for 1st time. Maybe 2nd.

Vote is terribly important.

The Future depends on your vote.

On your participation – on your involvement with India.

Not in your own corner thinking of your own self only.

Do you want to own this country?

Do you want to make it better?

What you want India to be –This is for you to decide. Act for Country.

You are 18+

Go out and vote

Because that's one way to save Democracy.

Twelve

Everyone has a view on WHAT to do.

How many focus on HOW to do it.

And, WHEN and WHERE.

WHO will do it.

Management and Implementation – the HOW – has been a big weakness.

We need a new young breed of people who know HOW to get things done.

And, the WHO is YOU.

You are the future.

So, please focus on the How, the When, the Where, the Who.

And, you can bring change to India.

Listen to your own voice and to others and do the right thing.

Dalai Lama has a wonderful saying

“When you talk you are only repeating what you already know, But, if you listen, you may learn something new”.

Thirteen

India can be great – in many ways

- Economy
- Talent – Education/Health
- Equity (very important)

Most of all happiness

Happy Country/Happy People (1 Billion Plus).

(Now Unhappy).

A different kind of role model.

Who can make this happen?

You can.

You are young

Your life's ahead.

You are Next Gen.

You can lead India differently.

With Values/Tolerance/Impatience/Trust/Passion/Heart – (QUOTE).

You know:

When God measures a man/woman, he puts the tape around the heart, not the head.

So, have a large heart and lead India differently.

Thank you for listening.