

## **Address by Chief Minister, Shri Narendra Modi**

Respected Prime Minister; Her Excellency, the Governor; and all my student friends, who are at the threshold of beginning their journey of life. This year is marked as the Golden Jubilee year for Gujarat, as well as for IIM Ahmedabad. It is my privilege to welcome the respected Prime Minister on the occasion of his visiting Gujarat. I am very grateful he is here at the IIM with us.

Looking at the cultural heritage of India, the tradition of convocation was mentioned for the first time in the Taittiriya Upanishad. Since thousands of years we have had the guru-shishya tradition and the rishi tradition involving giving blessings and good wishes to students who are starting on their life journey. Friends, we are fortunate to be the children of this land of Bharat Varsha.

We are fortunate to possess a great cultural heritage and more so to be a nation with the world's youngest population, which has the potential to win laurels for our country through its enormous youthful energy. The industrialised nations have to contend with aging populations as they move forward. We have the opportunity to use this abundant youthful energy to make an impact among the community of nations. The 21st century belongs to Asia, but if we want it to belong to India, it depends on how we utilise this enormous pool of youth power. How we convert the enormous pool of youth power into a global workforce depends on how we shape the future of India.

Brothers and sisters, when we look at the present state of affairs, it is unfortunate that the youth comprise a mere 11% of those accessing higher education. In developed countries it is 55% and in Asian countries, 22%. This means that 89% youth of the 18-23 year age group are not fortunate enough to get into higher education.

If we want India to emerge on the horizon of the 21st century, then it is our prime responsibility that we take note of this vast pool of youth power in the age group of 18-23 and take them towards new paths of knowledge. How are we to give new direction to our education system and address those needs? Merely forming futuristic education policies based on skill development will not help. The more we emphasise on a knowledge-based society, the more we will be able to contribute towards the world requirement of human resource development. Gujarat has taken some steps. We are progressing towards excellence and coming out of our old mind-set in trying to synchronise with the global education scenario.

One of the dimensions of the Vibrant Gujarat global investment summit was investment. But the main emphasis was on taking desired steps towards creation of a knowledge-based society. We had invited 33 leading universities of the world to the Summit. The state universities, as well as industrial houses of Gujarat committed to future development, participated in a round table conference and we are at initial stages of making some plans on how best to fulfil global demands, using our youth power.

Dear young friends, sometimes it makes us think that while IIMS and IITS nurture and provide capable youth, how many of them have been enabled to contribute in policy-making decisions? If you contribute your knowledge and skills for policy making, it will bring a progressive and innovative changes in our thinking that will help the progress of our nation. The country then will go forward in a new direction when such talents are employed in the policy-making process. I want to tell the students of IIM that even as they give importance to enhancing their managerial skills, they also should pay heed to contributing their mite to public policies and management. IIMA has done much work in this, area of public policy making and I am sure will continue to do so in the future. Being in the government, I know how important the process is and how utilisation of such talent becomes the need

of the hour. This is how the policies and programmes of a nation or state ought to be. The impact thus will be on crores of people for years to come. Such a change will be of permanent nature and we need young talent for that.

Institutions like IIMs are very effective in this work and it is a matter of pride that such institutions were established at the same time in Ahmedabad and Kolkata. Secondly, we can be proud that IIM Ahmedabad has a unique model of a convivial combination of the union, state and the business community. Such a style of functioning should continue in the future too to make this institution even more successful. I congratulate all our young friends who, after finishing their education and training, are moving towards shouldering social responsibilities.

Finally, I would like to end my speech with a message from the Taittiriya Upanishad: Let teachers and students get fame and success; let them have wealth and best wishes and let them also get thanks for their efforts in making dreams come true.