

Address to be delivered

By

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Mr Butschek, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Tata Motors Limited, the Chief Guest of today's function; Dr Singh, Director General of the University; distinguished members of the Board of Governors; august members of the Academic Council; invited guests; faculty and staff members; graduating students; their parents and family members; alumni; representatives of the media; ladies and gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure in congratulating the graduating students of Institutes of Technology, Pharmacy, Science, Management, Architecture, Commerce and those who have successfully completed their programmes in different disciplines from the University. My special compliments to PhD graduates who have pursued serious scholarship. At the outset, I would like to praise the parents who have supported their wards during studies.

I take personal pleasure in introducing the chief guest of the function, Mr Guenter Butschek. Mr Butschek joined Tata Motors as the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director in February 2016. He is responsible for leading all operations of Tata Motors in India and international markets, including South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and South Africa. He is also a Member of the Board.

Regarded as a turnaround specialist, Mr Butschek is known for running large scale business transformations. Mr Butschek's last assignment was at Airbus Group where he served as Chief Operating Officer of Airbus and Member of the Group Executive Committee. He played a critical role in reshaping the industrial strategy, empowering operational units, implementing a global operating system and enhancing the end-to-end supply chain performance in order to master the rate increases.

Prior to Airbus, he worked at Daimler AG, where he gained more than 25 years of experience in international automotive management. He was also the President and Chief Executive Officer of Beijing Benz Automotive Company Limited. Leading the joint venture, he relocated the operations to an all new state-of-the-art facility and increased productivity and flexibility of the plant.

Mr Butschek began his professional career in 1984 at Mercedes-Benz AG in Germany, as Project Engineer Central Material Management. After several positions in logistics, human resources and procurement at the Mercedes-Benz Passenger Cars division, he became a member of the Management Board of DaimlerChrysler South Africa.

Mr Butschek graduated in Business Administration and Economics with a diploma from the University of Cooperative Education Stuttgart, Germany. I welcome him on the occasion of 28th convocation at the Nirma University campus.

Now my dear graduating students, I would like to share some ideas with you. This year is the 150th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, MK Gandhi. He remains relevant even today. He is still a role model for all of us.

Among his various teachings, two of them are relevant for young generation, like yours. He said, “Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” This statement is a big insight. It implies that change begins with you. You cannot change others without changing yourself. The key to change is with you. Change the self, the system will change automatically. You are only one, but you can change others if you have the courage of conviction. Conviction leads to confidence; and, confidence leads to change. There is no shortcut in life. Any shortcut would cut you short.

Gandhiji also pointed out seven social sins. These are: Wealth without work. Pleasure without conscience. Knowledge without character.

Commerce without morality. Science without humanity. Religion without sacrifice. And, Politics without principle. How practical are his insights even today. You have acquired knowledge; but, it is futile without character. Character is the foundation of personality. Knowledge is power, while character is direction of life. Power without direction has no meaning. Gandhiji also emphasised the importance of conscience. Being dutiful is beautiful. Only dutiful people take up hard tasks and create a new world. I urge you to be dutiful and faithful in your actions. Lastly, Gandhiji said that science without humanity is a social sin. He meant both science and technology. The purpose of science and technology is to reduce pain and misery of humankind. It is not possible till technologists have a humanistic approach. They must commit themselves to the service of humanity.

The modern world is changing fast. Knowledge is doubling every five years. New technologies are emerging. And new economic and social order is taking place. This scenario has created deep uncertainty. It is not easy to negotiate your way in such environment. You have to develop several competencies to do well. These competencies are the 5 Cs. That is, critical thinking, communication, conflict resolution, creativity and collaboration. These are useful in both professional and personal lives.

As you move from campus to corporate, the society expects you to be responsible citizens. In other words, you should not only work for your personal goals, but also work for social goals. You have to be concerned about social issues. You must turn around social challenges into social opportunities. This is how you can create a better society.

At the end, let me again wish you all the very best for your personal and professional growth. May God bless you.

Jai Hind.