

CONVOCATION SPEECH, OF SITARAM DIXIT, AT L. A. D. COLLEGE, NAGPUR, THURSDAY – FEB 10, 2011.

Good Morning & Namaskar,

I am delighted, to participate as the chief guest, for the annual convocation function of your college, in this orange city of Nagpur. I congratulate the prize-winning pupils for their meritorious effort, and my best wishes to all the other students, for their academic performance, the faculty members, for shaping their fresh minds, the governing management for providing the opportunity to do so, and the non-teaching staff for their services.

Dear friends, I was going through the vision / mission statements that, this institution has set for itself, and i.e., to foster higher education in women, enlightening, and empowering them, with higher learning, and research capabilities, through dynamic, value based college education, for global competency, and strength of character. Truly, every faculty, staff, and students, of this college, is passionately committed, to the mission, of nurturing this commitment with honesty, hard work, and team spirit. This is indeed, a great vision, which the institute, has evolved for itself, and my best wishes, to all the associated members, for their achievements.

L. A. D. College, has contributed significantly, to the cosmetic industry of our country, by providing quality human resources, who are functioning in the industry, in various capacities, both in India, and abroad. No wonder, the cosmetic industry has recognized your college, as an institution of repute. I congratulate both the present, and the past students, who have strived hard, for laying a robust foundation for this to happen.

Friends, on this historic day, knowing some of you are on the threshold of graduating, and some readying to join the industry, I was thinking, what

thoughts, I can share with you. Taking a leaf out of, your college mission views, I wish to talk, on the importance of human values in our society. You are all aware, of the national and regional problems we are facing at present. I will put deterioration of human values, at the top among the evils that affect us, leading to a significant amount of stress, both on oneself as well as on others.

One unlikely example, to correlate could be the climate change, due to global warming. I see a significant link, between the various solutions to climate change, and to the practice of human values. Telecommunications and the use of internet, provide us enormous information, at the click of a button. We receive information through our five senses, and only human values can help us, discriminate, between right, and wrong, or good, and bad. We may have ready access, to adequate information, however, transforming it into something significantly useful to humanity, will not happen, without the earnest practice of human values.

The five core human values, that are extremely important, to lead a harmonious life, relate to the five domains of our personality. The value of Truth, practiced as honesty and fairness, relates to the intellectual domain. Right conduct and good action in life, relates to the physical domain. Peace, contentment, and equal mindedness, relates to the emotional domain. Love of caring and sharing, relates to the psychic domain, and the fifth value of non-violence, and caring for all beings, relates to the spiritual domain. Truth is foremost, among all human values, and our conscience, the greatest among our friends. As the 'Samayochita Padyamalika' guides us.

नानृतात् पातकं किञ्चित् न सत्यात् सुकृतं परम् ।
विवेकान् न परो बन्धुरिति वेदविदो विदुः ॥

There is no sin graver than falsehood;
no noble deed greater than adhering to truth and
no friend greater than one's own conscience.

- समयोचित् पादयमालिका

- The Samayochita Padyamalika

Love '**Dharma**' for the sake of the supreme, and stick to truth, however crucial and tense be the situation, disastrous, and threatening the crises you face.

Nevertheless, inevitable and indispensable it is to achieve your company business targets; you should ruthlessly stick to truth, avoiding falsehood. Remember, working in an industry, does not compel anyone to lower the moral standards, and this mischief happens, only when, misleaders for their personal gain deliberately exalt, material values over spiritual values. Understand it is never too late to mend, and if the heart were, cleansed of this dross selfishness, and self-glorification, and have righteousness enthroned in it, we can achieve the most spectacular industrial success, keeping the moral standards high.

॥ धर्मो रक्षति रक्षितः॥ Dharma protects those who protect dharma.

We all have an inner voice, telling us, when something we are considering, is incorrect. As a professional, one of the best things you can do is, to listen to your inner voice. If something is not right, our scruples kick in, and the inner voice, tells us not to do it – listen. We cannot drown out, our inner voice totally, it is imperishable – always there.

Every human being, irrespective of nationality, culture, religion, educational status, etc., possesses these five key values. However, their practice varies, according to individual upbringing, and specific reasoning. The awareness and practice of these values, is important, among students, teachers, and all of us. Remember, good students, and good teachers, create a good nation.

Friends, recognise the importance of human values, and all of you will become good graduates, with high academic achievements, and exemplary character. Show leadership in practicing human values, in your day-to-day living, and your life will become harmonious. More importantly, you will become a very valuable asset and an ideal model, to all your associates.

Worldly education, without doubt, will lead to diplomas, degrees, jobs, etc. These are important, but not good enough, since, they do not provide the secret, for a happy and peaceful life. Education should be for life, and not for mere living. Knowledge and learning, gained from within us, is necessary for a fuller, more meaningful and worthwhile life.

Human values, alone will help us, in achieving this goal, and practicing it, will not only be beneficial to our fellow humans, but also to inanimate, and animate objects. You will all become 'solid' individuals, able to face, any adversities that you will come across, in your professional career. Engage in office work or in your business truthfully. Truthfulness, alone is the cardinal discipline, and, wisdom consists, in speaking, and acting the truth. One, who has all the good qualities, is always satisfied with life, and the one, who does not possess goodness, is continually unsatisfied.

Our philosophy says that, only after many births, and deaths, we achieve human life, which although temporary, gives us an opportunity, to attain the highest perfection. There is no past, no future, only present. Yesterday was present, when you experienced it, and tomorrow will be present, when you experience it. Experience takes place, only in the present, and beyond experience, nothing exists. As humans, we should all endeavour, for achieving perfection, ultimate perfection, right now, in all spheres of our life, first time, every time. I am fully aware that it is very easy to preach but difficult to practice, even then, I will earnestly advice you all, to replace, expediency, with truthfulness. Work with integrity, and you will succeed with integrity. Remember,

॥ सत्यमेव जयते ॥ | Truth alone Triumphs.

Let me conclude, with Maharishi Patanjali's, thoughts given in Yoga Sutra.

Begin quote, "When you are inspired, by some great purpose, some extraordinary valuable project, all your thoughts, break their bounds, your mind transcends limitations, your consciousness, expands in every direction, and you find yourself, in a new, great, and wonderful world. Dormant forces, faculties, and talents, come alive, and you will discover yourself, to be a greater person, by far, than you ever dreamt of, yourself to be". End quote.

My congratulations, and best wishes again, to all the students, and members of this august institution, for success in their chosen endeavours. I look forward, to seeing you all, during our technical sessions, after the break.

Thank you! Thank you very much!