



INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY

CHENNAI

(A Central University under the Ministry of Shipping)

Second Convocation

19th January 2016

WELCOME ADDRESS & REPORT

by

K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty

Vice Chancellor



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By the Vice Chancellor

Good evening and a warm welcome to everyone to the Second Convocation of the Indian Maritime University, Chennai. Our First Convocation was held on 22nd February 2014 and was graced by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the Hon'ble President of India who is also the Visitor of the university. We are assembled here today for IMU's Second Convocation with Shri Nitin Gadkari, the Honourable Minister of Road Transport, Highways and Shipping as the Chief Guest, and Shri Pon. Radhakrishnan, the Honourable Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping as the Guest of Honour.

Hailing from an agricultural family from Nagpur, Shri Nitin Gadkari has served as Mayor of Nagpur, as 5-time Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council, as PWD Minister of Maharashtra, as State President of Maharashtra BJP, and as the youngest ever National President of BJP. As PWD Minister between 1995 and 1999, he pioneered Public Private Partnership (PPP) in infrastructure projects, and built the famous Mumbai-Pune Expressway besides innumerable roads, expressways and flyovers earning him the nickname "Flyover Man". Recognising his stellar contribution in providing all-weather road connectivity to 98% of Maharashtra's population, the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee appointed Shri Nitin Gadkari as the Chairman of the National Rural Road Development Committee. It was based on this Committee's Report that the highly successful scheme for providing all-weather road connectivity in rural areas throughout India known as the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched by Government of India in 2000. So in May 2014, when Shri Nitin Gadkari got elected to the Lok Sabha from Nagpur, he was the natural choice for the Union Cabinet Minister of Road Transport, Highways and Shipping. It is common knowledge that he is the most dynamic, the most effective and the most popular Minister in the present Union Cabinet; he has made a name for himself as a star performer, a go-getter and a

troubleshooter. In particular, he has been a pillar of support to the Indian Maritime University. Shri Nitin Gadkari is a source of inspiration to all of us, and it is our proud privilege to have such a distinguished personality grace our Second Convocation as the Chief Guest. Sir, on behalf of the Indian Maritime University, I extend a hearty welcome to you and I thank you for consenting to deliver the Convocation Address.

We have another luminary in our midst: Shri Pon. Radhakrishnan, the Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping. The sole BJP MP from Tamil Nadu, he hails from Kanyakumari district and is a lawyer by profession. He has served as State President of Tamil Nadu BJP, as Minister of State for Youth Affairs, as Minister of State for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, and as Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. Shri Pon. Radhakrishnan is the very epitome of simplicity, hard work and social service and, though on the opposite side of the political divide, in many respects he reminds us of the tallest political leader that Tamil Nadu has produced, Shri K. Kamaraj. Sir, I have great pleasure in welcoming you to the Second Convocation of the Indian Maritime University and I thank you for consenting to deliver the Special Address.

One of India's most distinguished technocrats, former Chairman and CEO of BHEL, former Chairman and CEO of Maruti Udyog Limited, former Chairman and CEO of Steel Authority of India Limited, winner of the Padma Vibhushan, Shri V. Krishnamurthy is a doyen of Indian Industry. We are privileged to have him as the Chancellor of the Indian Maritime University and he will preside over this Convocation. Sir, I extend a very hearty welcome to you.

I extend a warm welcome to all the candidates who will be receiving the degrees today in-person and I am sure that you will hold aloft the flag of the Indian Maritime University throughout your career and make us proud.

I also extend a hearty welcome to all the distinguished guests who are assembled here, to the members of the print and electronic media, and to the Faculty, staff and students of the Indian Maritime University.

I will now proceed to read out a brief report of the Indian Maritime University for the period 2013-15.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you are all aware, the Indian Maritime University was established in November 2008 by an Act of Parliament as a teaching-cum-affiliating university with Chennai as Headquarters, and with Campuses in Chennai,

Mumbai, Kolkata and Visakhapatnam. A new Campus was started at Cochin in 2011. There is a proposal to start another Campus in Jaigarh in Ratnagiri district in Maharashtra in partnership with the JSW Group who are ready to gift 20 acres of land to IMU. IMU has 37 Affiliated Institutes across the country.

IMU is a unique university. Unlike all other Central Universities, State Universities, Deemed Universities, Private Universities and Institutes of National Importance, which come under the control of the Union Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) and the University Grants Commission (UGC), IMU alone comes under the Union Ministry of Shipping. This is because of the special nature of the Maritime Disciplines which are more of a practical nature. Till IMU was created, there were no P.G or Ph.D courses in Maritime Disciplines. After IMU was set up, we have started 5 P.G courses: M.Tech in Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering, M.Tech in Dredging & Harbour Engineering, MBA in Port & Shipping Management, MBA in International Transportation and Logistics Management, and LL.M in Maritime Law. We have also started Ph.D in Visakhapatnam Campus. We propose to start 2 more P.G courses with effect from 2016-17, namely, M.Tech in Marine Engineering and M.Sc in Shipping Operations and Finance for seafarers who take up on-shore managerial jobs. We also propose to make the remaining 4 Campuses centres for doing

research leading to Ph.D before 2018-19. We plan to collaborate with the World Maritime University(WMU) at Malmo, Sweden and other reputed international universities and Institutes to run joint Courses of Study and Faculty-cum-Student Exchange programmes. U.K, Australia, Russia and Bangladesh have expressed interest. We have also created a School of Naval Studies to promote academic interactions with the Indian Navy.

IMU has also certain unique problems. It is perhaps the only Central University that was formed by the merger of 7 legacy institutes - 4 Central Government institutes and 3 societies - institutes that were geographically scattered, and had dissimilar organization structures, work ethos, pay scales and recruitment rules. Integrating these institutes and fostering a common IMU spirit has not been easy. Further, while the problem of recruiting good Faculty is common to all universities, it is especially difficult to recruit good Faculty for Marine Engineering and Nautical Science because seafarers get paid more than 10 times what IMU can offer them for an academic job. Seafarers who are good at their jobs need not necessarily be good teachers. Hence we propose to establish an Academic Staff College in Mumbai to train Faculty in modern methods of pedagogy. Since seafarers are on ship 6 to 9 months in a year, we are planning to come up with innovative modular courses/distance-learning programmes (on the pattern of

Lloyds of London) whereby a person can study various modules partly while at sea and partly while on land, accumulate credits, and get a certificate/degree/diploma even while he is an active seafarer.

As part of our goal of end-to-end computerization, IMU switched over from the pen-and-paper mode of Common Entrance Test (CET), which was inefficient, time consuming and a logistic nightmare, to the Computer-based Online CET for admissions to its various Programmes since June 2014. Online CET has now become the norm. Similarly, IMU switched over from the physical mode of Counselling (which required students from all over India to come to Chennai and stay here for a couple of days at great expense of time, effort and money) to Online Counselling in July 2014 for making admissions. The Online Counselling was improved further in 2015. Online Counselling has now become the norm. IMU has also switched over to Computer-based Online Common Recruitment Tests (CRT) for recruitments to entry-level posts with the first Online CRTs being held for the posts of Assistant Registrar, Assistant Registrar (Finance) and Assistant (Finance) on 10th January 2016. IMU is in the process of leveraging Information and Communication Technology for imparting knowledge, digitizing its libraries, and bringing transparency in all aspects of administration.

In order to provide opportunities for maritime education and employment, seats have been reserved in UG Courses in IMU Campuses for candidates native to or domiciled for at least 5 years in Andaman & Nicobar Islands (20 seats), Lakshadweep & Minicoy Islands (10 seats), the 8 North Eastern States (40 seats) and Jammu & Kashmir (10 seats).

A number of academic, administrative and financial reforms have been implemented during the past 24 months. These include the framing afresh of 57 administrative Ordinances and 24 academic Ordinances. A major recruitment drive is on, and 42 Selection Committee meetings for different categories of permanent posts - Faculty as well as Non-Faculty - have been held so far, at the rate of nearly 2 Selection Committee meetings a month. IMU's finances have been streamlined and a standardized set of 6 accounts to be maintained both in IMU Headquarters and the Campuses have been prescribed. As a student-friendly initiative, IMU has introduced about 200 performance based rewards per year at the rate of Rs.1 lakh per semester for the toppers and Rs.75,000 per semester for the top ten percentile of students of each batch of each programme of study. A policy on Endowments has been framed to attract donations for Orations, Awards and Scholarships from the industry and alumni.

I would like to place on record my thanks to the Union Ministry of Shipping which has supported IMU at every step, including sanction of Plan Funds of Rs.295.00 Crores for the 5-year period from 2014-15 to 2018-19, and sanction of Non-Plan Funds of Rs.194.00 Crores for the same period. I would also like to thank the Directorate-General of Shipping and the various Port Trusts for their continued support.

IMU's First Convocation was held after a delay of 5 years on 22nd February 2014. 1339 candidates from the 2009-10 batch onwards who had passed all their examinations before 31st October 2013 were covered by the First Convocation. As many as 2815 candidates who had passed all their examinations between 1st November 2013 and 31st December 2015 will be covered by the Second Convocation. Of these, 366 candidates will receive their degrees today in-person and the remaining 2449 candidates will receive their degrees in-absentia. The Campus-wise break up of candidates is as follows: Mumbai - 460, Kolkata - 372, Chennai - 238, Visakhapatnam - 108, Cochin - 77, while 1560 candidates are from the Affiliated Institutes. The School-wise break up is as follows: School of Marine Engineering and Technology - 1107, School of Nautical Studies - 1420, School of Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering - 131, School of Maritime Management - 145 and School of Maritime Laws - 12.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to report that the Indian Maritime University is rapidly going from strength to strength and we are committed to making it a Centre of Excellence. I would like to conclude my welcome address on this optimistic note, and I once again extend a hearty welcome to all of you to our Second Convocation.

Thank you.

K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty

Vice Chancellor