

WELCOME ADDRESS

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His Excellency, the Governor of Chhattisgarh, Hon'ble Sri E S L Narasimhan, the Key Note Speaker, Sri A V Mangrulkar, Former Executive Vice President, MPCON, Bhopal, Sri Prakash Pandey ji, Registrar, CSVTU, Bhilai, distinguished guests, Principals, Professors participants of the seminar, students of the various institutions, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great honour to have amongst us His Excellency Sri E S L Narasimhan, the Governor of Chhattisgarh as the Chief Guest. Sir, we are privileged for the keen interest you have taken in the matters of this University and thereby given us the patronage and the affection without which perhaps we could not have progressed so well. On behalf of the University and my own behalf I extend a very warm welcome to His Excellency Sri Narasimhan ji and all other distinguished guests.

Swami Vivekanand said "We want education by which character is formed the strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded and by which one can stand on one's own feet. This imessage of Swami ji we have in our hearts and mind and we are trying to develop this University accordingly. We have created a component of character building in the form of Value Education in the scheme of teaching and examination starting from the beginning. The mental and intellectual capabilities of the students are developed through effective interaction in the class rooms and laboratories.

Finally, the students have to be developed in to the kind of persons who can stand on their own feet either by way of receiving good employment or by way of being self employed. The University through its vacation practical training programmes and entrepreneurship programmes is trying to build the qualities of entrepreneurship amongst its students by which they can develop the self confidence to stand on their own feet.

The University right from the time of its inception has taken care that the academic activities of the University are performed flawlessly. I am happy to inform that the University has been following the academic calendar without any delay in the schedules of examinations and declaration of results.

Unfortunately uptill now we have not been able to start the construction activities at our permanent campus. The present campus is a small one and the inconvenience being caused is quite evident. Nevertheless we are hopeful about the future and we do hope that within one and half year the University will be able to have its basic infrastructural facilities in the form of Conference Hall and the Administrative Block in the permanent campus which is spread over 250 acres of land

The University with the collaboration of Bhilai Steel Plant has started a two year M Tech Degree Course in Steel Technology. Similarly two PG certificate courses, one in Nanotechnology and the other in Environment and Sustainable Development of three months duration each have also been started from the session 2008-09.

The University is well aware of the fact that the quality of students need to be improved. For that the first step is improvement in the quality of teachers. The University has conducted a few workshop on quality improvement in teaching and learning. In line with these workshop similar workshops have been conducted at institutional level which are being monitored by the University.

With a view to inculcate competence and confidence in the students, the University has started the Programme of Problem and Project Based Learning". As a part of it the students fourth and sixth semester are sent for vocational industrial training during which they collect the live problems and come up with possible solutions which they submit to the respective institute in the form of projects. The University arranges competition for award of best industrial training report and the project. The best project is selected from among the students of final semester which is awarded on the Foundation Day of the University.

The University is also well aware of its social responsibilities and to fulfil the same it has established a Consortium for Application of Science and Technology for Sustainable Development. The Consortium creates awareness amongst all concerned about the sustainable Development.

I would like to inform this August gathering that with the help of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, New Delhi we are promoting entrepreneurship of technical nature amongst grass root innovators. For this purpose the Ministry has accorded the University the status of outreach centre for Technopreneurship Promotion Programme.

Today's seminar on Innovation for Technopreneurship aims at bringing together the innovators, professionals, entrepreneurs, students and teachers on a common platform to discuss, share the information and experience in the development in Technopreneurship.

Rapid growth of information technology during last two decades has resulted in the globalization of knowledge coupled with creativity & innovation. Technopreneurs are viewed as wealth creators and act at the interface between the community and technology. Graduate engineers are supposed to be the most appropriate ones to perform the role of technopreneur. Technopreneurship development requires creativity, innovativeness interpersonal skills and problem solving approach. Therefore, they need a broader education than is currently offered in engineering educational institutions. The new breed of engineering graduates turning into technopreneurship will need to work as a member of multidisciplinary teams which includes scientist, planners and economists. In the light of this, they will need to demonstrate good communication and managerial skills. Adoption of a systems approach to engineering learning is the most appropriate way to facilitate the development of the skills required to be effective team players.

In order to create economic value and meet social needs, entrepreneurial thinking and action at multiple levels across multiple disciplines is required. This calls for collective effort of individuals, groups, firms, industries and institution in technology intensive environment

India's manufacturing sector mired in a slowdown for the past few years has seen a decline in its rate of growth of employment creation. As a result, India finds itself in a situation of 'jobless growth' and the rate at which pass outs from Universities are entering into job market has in the recent years tended to dwarf the rate of new employment creation. It is therefore necessary to find

ways and means to overcome this situation.

There are some questions which need to be answered by the academicians namely

- 1) How can the principles of knowledge management be applied to strengthen engineering education in the global economy?
- 2) How can we strengthen student's identity, encourage critical thinking and empower students with the capacity of innovation and creation?
- 3) What role can institutions play in preparing students to be future entrepreneurs?

Entrepreneurship is best suited to those who desire to set instances in the world of business and can value the economic trends. With jobs getting scarce, a career in technopreneurship may be the best way to satisfy and earn in profusion simultaneously. The urge to achieve new goals inspite of adversities is the essence of entrepreneurship.

The inspiration, motivation, guidance and support can very well be provided by the engineering education institutions & they should take a lead in organizing such programmes..

Today's knowledge based economy is fertile ground for technopreneurship. In order to nurture this we should focus on the following areas.

1. Create the right kind of environment
2. Ensure that entrepreneurs have access to the right skill.
3. Ensure that entrepreneurs have access of capital.
4. Enable networking

Apparently, it can be said that starting point of entrepreneurship would define its type. The two types of entrepreneurship may be classified as

1. Opportunity based entrepreneurship - an entrepreneur perceives a business opportunity and chooses to persue this as an active career choice.
2. Necessity based entrepreneurship – an entrepreneur is left with no other viable option to earn a living. It is not the choice but compulsion which makes one to choose entrepreneurship as a career.

The Industry-University Partnership as well as Technology Business Incubators and Technology Transfer Centres though are playing significant roles, yet the implicit or tacit knowledge frequently referred as 'know how' is not imparted well and becomes an even more difficult objective in the global science and engineering environment. It is therefore necessary to device ways and means to do it.

The State of Chhattisgarh requires youth having technological background to opt entrepreneurship as career. Perhaps the students of engineering educational institutions are best suitable for this purpose.

The purpose of this Seminar will be well served if the Programme of Promotion of Technopreneurship in the State of Chhattisgarh is planned and implemented with the spirit of innovation.

Thank you.