

WELCOME SPEECH, NCL DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

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Dr Manmohan Singh, Honourable Prime Minister of India, His Excellency the Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Sankaranarayanan, Shri Prithviraj Chavan, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science and Technology, Smt Purandeswari, Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Professor S.K.Brahmachari, Secretary to the Government of India and Director General CSIR, Professor Ganesh, Director, IISER, honoured invitees, staff and students of NCL and IISER, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my unique honour and privilege to welcome our Prime Minister and the dignitaries on the dais to NCL at this historic auditorium. Sir , you are the fourth Prime Minister of India to step into the hallowed portals of this institution and the third Prime Minister to address the staff and students of NCL from this very auditorium. Every major anniversary of NCL has been marked by the visit of the Prime Minister. Our Silver Jubilee was graced by Mrs Indira Gandhi and the Golden Jubilee by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. By your presence here, we have continued this great tradition. We are immensely grateful to you beyond words!

CSIR- NCL was born out of the enduring vision of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the architect of modern India and was an expression to his extraordinary foresight. This magnificent building dedicated to the nation by Pandit Nehru on January 3, 1950 is the earliest edifice of science and technology in independent India that our Founding Fathers felt necessary to take our country into the league of advanced nations.

As our Republic celebrates its sixtieth anniversary, so are we. The history and growth of NCL has been inextricably linked to the growth and progress of our nation. We are proud of our legacy, the culture of scientific excellence that pervades every corner of this Laboratory through successive generations of many men and women who have toiled here for the good of the people.

As we rejoice in our past, we are conscious of the great expectations that this country has from us. On this solemn occasion we rededicate ourselves to the task of building India of the future. We once again redeem the pledge that was taken in this very building sixty years ago; which is aptly captured in the words of the founder of our Republic at the midnight hour on August 15, 1947 and I quote, "the future is not one of ease or resting, but of incessant striving, so that we might fulfill the pledges that we have so often taken and the one we shall take today. The service of India means the service to the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity"

Thank you, Jai Hind and Jai Maharashtra