

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
XLVII CONVOCATION
Monday, February 23, 2015

Abstract of the Convocation Address by the Chief Guest

This generation of graduates have the greatest gift of graduating at a time when they can have a great impact on the country and the world. Don't waste it! Unlike graduates from global leading universities who can aim for fortune, you have a chance to shape the country and our era. Its India's century and its yours to shape.

With that in mind, and my experience across the USA and India over the past 35 years, here are a few thoughts for you.

- Your first dream may not be the right one. Keep your mind open. Opportunity can come at any time.
- As Steve Jobs said, "Remember it's your life, not someone else's – so live it your way".
- Most of you have never failed before, but if you don't fail at something, you haven't learnt what it takes to truly succeed.
- Winston Churchill said, "Never, never, never give up"

I look forward to seeing how over the next decades you will help India and the world.