57th Convocation
57 वाँ दीक्षांत समारोह

10th August 2019

Conferment of Degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) by IIT Bombay on Shri. Nandan Nilekani

Citation read by Professor Subhasis Chaudhuri Director, IIT Bombay
Sir,

On the recommendation of the Senate and the Board of Governors and upon the approval of the Visitor of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, I present Shri. Nandan Nilekani for the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa).

Shri. Nandan Nilekani is the Co-founder and Chairman of Infosys Technologies Limited, Bengaluru, and former Chairman, UIDAI, Government of India.

Three years after graduating from IIT Bombay in 1978, Shri. Nilekani along with Shri. N.R. Narayana Murthy, co-founded Infosys, which later proved to be India’s biggest IT giant. He became the CEO of Infosys in 2002 and then the Co-Chairman on the board of directors of the company in 2008. The company ‘Infosys’ he co-founded at a very early stage of his life is now one of the most famous companies in India and abroad.

During 2009-14, Shri. Nilekani served as the founding Chairman of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), a cabinet-ranking position. He led the implementation of one of the world’s biggest technology initiatives, India’s Aadhaar program, which has now enrolled over a billion Indians and is transforming the lives of ordinary Indians every day.

He is the president of the governing body of NCAER, the National Council of Applied Economic Research, India’s oldest and premier independent economic research Institute.

Shri. Nilekani is also the co-founder and Chairman of EKStep, a not-for-profit effort to create a learner centric, technology based platform to improve basic literacy and numeracy for millions of children.
Shri. Nilekani is also a dedicated philanthropist who has pledged to give away major part of his wealth for the benefit of society. IIT Bombay acknowledges the great support he has provided to the Institute.

He has been conferred with several notable recognitions, among them:

- “Asia’s Businessman of the Year” title in 2003 by Fortune magazine.
- Prestigious “Joseph Schumpeter prize” for innovative services in economy, economic sciences and politics in 2005.
- “One of the 100 Most Influential People in the world” in 2006 and 2009 by Time magazine.
- “One of the Top 100 Global Thinkers” by Foreign Policy magazine in 2010.
- “Distinguished Alumnus Award” by IIT Bombay in 1999
- In 2006, he was honoured with the “Padma Bhushan” by the Government of India.

Shri. Nilekani is the author of “Imagining India: The Idea of a Renewed Nation” and co-author of the book “Rebooting India: Realizing a Billion Aspirations”.

I now request the Honourable Chief Guest Shri. Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ to confer the degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) on Shri. Nandan Nilekani.