

Foundation Day Celebrations

May 01, 2008

Vote of Thanks by

Professor S R Hashim

Director

Honorable Vice President of India Excellency Shri Mohd. Hamid Ansari, Chairman Professor Arjun K. Sengupta, Vice Chairman, Professor S.K. Goyal, Professor R. Radhakrishna, eminent colleagues of the Board of Governors and faculty, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is indeed a proud privilege for me to propose a hearty vote of thanks on behalf of the ISID.

The ISID evolved out of the Corporate Studies Group (CSG) at the Indian Institute of Public Administration as a full-fledged independent institution in the year 1986. The foundation for temporary building at the premises of Centre of Applied Politics, Narendra Niketan in I.P. Estate was by laid late Shri Lala Jagan Nath, Freedom Fighter on May 1, 1988. Since then, ISID has been observing May 1, every year as Foundation Day to mark the setting up of the Institute and to renew commitment to the objectives for which it was set up.

Prof. Moonis Raza was the first Chairman of the ISID, and Prof. S.K. Goyal its founder-Director. The Late Shri Chandrasekhar, former Prime Minister of India was the longest serving Chairman of the Institute, from 1991 till his recent demise, subsequent to which Prof. Arjun Sengupta has assumed office of Chairman, Board of Governors.

I have been associated with the ISID since its inception in 1986. I assumed office of the Director one year back. Though I am not a stranger to the Institute, I am yet overwhelmed by the progress the Institute has made in last few years by way of building the new campus and diversifying academic activities. Professor S.K. Goyal and his team of colleagues have set very high standards of performance in how to raise an institution and the Institutes' family. Prof. K.S. Chalapati Rao, Prof M.R. Murthy, Prof. K.V.K. Ranganathan formed the core group during the initial stage of the Institute. Shri Bupesh Garg provided the technical support for the academic activities. Ms. Seema Goyal Papola invested enormous amount of energy and ideas in planning and developing the interiors.

On the operational side, I need to underline the efforts of Shri Samir Rastogi, Architect of M/s Space Ace and Shri C.S.P. Sastry, Technical Advisor for guiding the project through various stages. Prof. M.R. Murthy shouldered the arduous task of managing the construction and finances. As part of the foundation day celebration we would be recognizing their contributions today.

Building up of an institution of this size is indeed a Herculean task that has been ably accomplished by the ISID. Dr. S.K. Goyal has been the leading light of this endeavour. Dr. Abid Hussain and other members of the Campus Development Committee provided the vision for this beautiful structure. My predecessor Prof. T.S. Papola steered the Institute's academic activities and expanded the core faculty and introduced new dimensions into the research agenda.

It will be my endeavour to see that the Institute moves further towards the goals set by its founders and emerges as a major policy Think Tank on issues that are most relevant to the society today.

We heartily thank you, Hon`ble Vice President of India for sparing your invaluable time for our programme. Sir, your association with the Institute's programme today will greatly inspire us and I am sure, with your blessings the Institute will gain further strength.

Professor R. Radhakrishna, Honorary Professor, CESS, Hyderabad has kindly agreed to deliver this year Foundation Day Lecture, this afternoon on “Economic Well Being Deprivations: Policy Perspective in the Indian Context.

I am thankful to Indian Council of Social Science Research, members of the academic community, eminent members of the civil society and many government officials for their encouragement and support.

The faculty and staff of the Institute have worked very hard in organizing this event. We have also heavily depended on support provided by various outside agencies.

I thank you all.