



THIRD EYE

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MBA Class of 2009

Two Mahatmas together

It's seldom that one sees a beautiful confluence of industry, polity and academia on a single platform. But in IIT like they say "We are lucky". Lucky to have witnessed this "Sangam". Mr. N R Narayana Murthy, chief mentor, Infosys, Dr. Arun Shourie, Rajya Sabha member, Faculty and students of IIT Kanpur gathered on the auspicious occasion of inauguration of the Centre for Environmental Sciences and Engineering building. Mr Murthy showered words of praise for Mr. Shourie naming him as one of the rare politicians, most civil and courteous person and a man of dignity. Mr Shourie reciprocated his kind words by saying that Mr Muthy was one of those responsible for changing the perception of world towards India and India's perception of itself. "It takes a genius to hold India down but our governments have done it" was the quote at which the entire auditorium burst into laughter. But looking into the gravity of what it meant, it sunk into us how deeply pained politicians like Shourie are to see the condition of our polity. The only ray of hope emerges from the youth who are torch-bearers of technology, management and ethical governance. He opined that students at IITs must resolve to outdo the likes of Narayana Murthy and only then can we be called the real superpower, the knowledge power of the world. He urged that as the silver smith removes impurities from silver one by one, little by little, again and again, it was our responsibility to remove our vices one by one, little by little and again and again. Handing over the forum to Mr Narayana Murthy for an interactive session with the students, Mr Shourie left us with lots of food for thought.

"We live in extraordinary times" said Narayana Murthy, and yes why not. Never in the last 300 years has India received the recognition which was its due. But on the other side of the "Incredible India" story are the 300 mn illiterate people, 250 mn people with no access to potable water, 250 mn people who do not live in acceptable sanitation conditions. 78% people in India earn less than 2\$ a day and this is the same country which had the richest man on this planet (even though it was only for a short duration). Mr Murthy touched on another point that we Indians suffer from. Sheer apathy. We are here enjoying the fruits of what our predecessors did for us. And if we desire to be

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remembered in a better way we have to do something that we might not be able to see but our descendants will.

Borrowing examples from Infosys, Mr. Murthy mentioned that whenever he or his team had not done well, the lacuna could be attributed to only two reasons. 1) No discipline 2) No commitment. On this New Year he motivated us to resolve that IIT Kanpur will be one of the top ten institutes in the world. Because it has the caliber and the resources to be. This would propel ministers like Mr. Shourie to invest more money into the institute and see it being effectively used.

As we rise to take the next step, the legs give up, but the mind does not. That is true success.

With these final words Mr. Murthy left us wanting to know more about his success story and how his steadfast determination helped build one of the biggest Indian brands.