

## **Director's message on the Occasion of 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day & Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.**

Colleagues, Students, Employees, and their families – I congratulate you all on the occasion of 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. In the past 76 years, our country has overcome several difficulties and made huge progress. We've reached the Moon and Mars; our economy is the fifth largest in the world and our scientists have achieved great successes in various realms. We have also produced some of the finest institutions that are now counted among the best in the world. You can now find Indians at the top of all major tech companies, in world politics, and in the areas of finance and management. We are proud to be Indians.

This is also the 25<sup>th</sup> year of NBRC and soon we will celebrate the 26<sup>th</sup> foundation day on Dec 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023. On this occasion, let us look back at some of our achievements.

First, NBRC has produced over 100 Ph. D. students and nearly 80 M. Sc. students. Our alumni have gone on to become faculty in many well-known institutions. We produced several patents and highly impactful publications. In the past 12 months, 16 Ph. D. and 10 M. Sc. degrees were awarded, we published more than 30 articles, with some highly impactful ones, and got a process patent. Scientists from NBRC have gone on to develop two new neuroscience and brain research centers in India – the Centre for Neuroscience and the Centre for Brain Research - both at IISc Bengaluru. All these were achieved against the heavy odds of being in a remote place and with a small group of individuals. It was a true sacrifice by all of you. Therefore, I can confidently say that we made good progress in laying a solid foundation. The time is now right to launch the next phase.

We are unique. This is one of the few places in India where neuroscience research is carried out at all levels and with a focus on societal impact. We produced DALI – the first Indian protocol for detecting Dyslexia. We identified a new drug for Encephalitis that has the potential to eliminate child mortality. We learned how estimating the levels of Glutathione and Iron in the Brain can predict whether the person is likely to lose his/her mind, i.e., predict the onset of dementia.

Of course, these are not enough. We need to do much more. The question is – what is it that NBRC can do more to help Bharat Mata? The answer is by fulfilling the mandate given to us. To attract the best talent and develop the most efficient research infrastructure in this country. In order to achieve it, we have to stop asking what the institute can give us and instead, commit to what each of us can do for the institute. Instead of being a fault finder, we should become a solution provider. We need to stop looking at each other's faults and

start celebrating each other's achievements. We need to feel proud to be a part of this institution.

NBRC needs to do a lot more. Our vision is to become the world's topmost center for Brain Mapping and allied research. We need to develop a culture of excellence. For this, all the staff, students, and faculty have to work together. We need to embark on a mission to understand on how Brain works and how to manage it.

Towards this, NBRC has recently started a collaboration on autism spectrum disorder (ASD) with a group of Physicians and Scientists across the country. I hope that it will bring some fruitful results in the near future. We are also embarking on a project to train future Brain Mapping experts in this country. We are consulting our colleagues at AIIMS and other institutions and I am confident that a joint training program on Brain Mapping would materialize very soon.

I invite you all to join me to make all these dreams- 'a reality'. Once the institute prospers, we all would get benefitted. Our reward is the opportunity and freedom to contribute. In the long run, you will be happy and proud to have left a legacy of excellence for future generations.

Jai Hind and Jai Vigyan

Independence Day celebration\_Twitter:

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