



Recipient of Honoris Causa 2022

Dr. Sanjiv Goenka

Chairman, RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group

An eminent industrialist, Dr. Sanjiv Goenka has made an outstanding effort towards the growth and expansion of India's modern, dynamic economy. Words can never adequately acknowledge or appreciate his contribution.

Born in Kolkata (then Calcutta) in 1961 and having completed his education from St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, Dr. Goenka has been the Chairman of the RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group since its inception in 2011. He is the Chairman of the Board of Governors of IIT Kharagpur and the former President of AIMA. He was the youngest President of CII in 2001 and has consistently featured for the last seven years in the Top 20 in the prestigious India Today's List of 50 Most Powerful People in India.

He has been a role model and a pioneer, revolutionizing the power, energy and carbon black industry. He has also richly contributed to developing IT-enabled services, manufacturing and retail, FMCG, media and entertainment, infrastructure and education sectors in our country. In all of these diverse fields, Dr. Goenka has made an indelible impact and has been instrumental in placing Kolkata and the Eastern zone on the global map.

A true visionary, Dr. Sanjiv Goenka is known for his commitment to innovation and positive change. With years of experience and unmatched expertise. He has been working tirelessly in increasing international cooperation in business, where partnerships can lead to advances in areas of global significance, such as health, water and environmental management and geopolitical cooperation.

Dr. Goenka's contribution to business and civic development has been recognised by private and public institutions. He was conferred the title of Global Leader for Tomorrow, WEF, Davos in 1993, and Indian Business Leader of the Year at Belfast Global India Business Meet in 2013. He was felicitated with the Banga Bibhushan Award for his contribution to West Bengal in 2015. He was honoured with the Distinguished Fellowship Award from Institute of Directors, India in 2016. He also received the Asian Leadership Award in 2019 from Asian Association of Management Organisations. The All India Management Association bestowed the Business Leader of the Year Award 2021 on Dr. Goenka.

Dr. Goenka has been deeply invested in the development of educational facilities and infrastructure across the country. As a Xaverian, he has silently but generously contributed to the Jesuit mission and extended his support and encouragement to St. Xavier's University, Kolkata. Dr. Goenka has been instrumental in the university's efforts to become a leading higher educational institution in West Bengal, providing quality value-based education to its students.

In recognition of his exemplary contribution to business and society, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata is proud to confer upon Dr. Sanjiv Goenka the degree of Doctor of Literature, Honoris Causa, on this day, 5th of March, 2022.

Convocation Address

Dr. Sanjiv Goenka

Chairman, RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group

As you step out of the comfort of an Institution and traverse through the complexities of the real world you must stay grounded. A lesson I learnt early in life is that Ego says I know it all. Humility says I know I don't know it all. To me, the biggest insecurity is the threat of a situation where there is no one to correct you. As long as you have someone to correct you, as long as you rely on somebody who can give you good advice, who you listen to with an open mind, you will grow. As long as you absorb from other people's experiences in addition to your own, as long as you are receptive to change, to innovation, you will grow.

Life as we know is never static and is ever changing. Ups and downs are a part of life. You win some, you lose some. You will have significant achievements and you will have big failures. Yes... the thought of failure can be daunting, failure itself can be debilitating. However winners have one thing in common, they quickly bounce back and never give up. And this sets them apart. You need to learn from your mistakes, rise, improve, innovate, and then perform. Disappointment is a natural feeling. Disappointment is something one comes across all the time. But, we should take disappointment as a learning, not a burden.

It is vital that we open our minds and thoughts to embrace change, to embrace new thoughts, to embrace new ideas, to embrace something that can change or improve the way we lead our lives and the way we impact others. As long as you are welcoming new ideas and not sticking inside your comfort zone, you will grow. When you keep experimenting with new ideas and technologies, you will grow.

We must believe in ourselves; we must believe in our convictions and we must make the effort to realise this ambition. Capital in today's world is not a constraint or in short supply. It is available for anything that is good, logical and viable. We should not feel scared to go out and explore our thoughts and ideas, and many times the more unrealistic this seems, the greater the chance of success. Someone thought that electric cars would not only be a reality, but the way the world is going to drive. But it took one man and his team to dream, think and implement. It was a unique idea. Though it seemed ahead of time, but today it has come to rule us.

I remember...several years ago, there was a talk on distance education. A lot of experienced teachers, professors were part of this discussion, and they all said this was theoretical and not going to happen. Today, e-learning, distance learning has become a way of life, much more so, because of COVID-19, true, but even more so, it is the way education is being imparted, the way knowledge is being imparted. Everything is available at the click of a button.

The world has metamorphosed in the last two years. But what has stood out is humanity's resilience. In the recent past, hundred years ago we underwent something similar. Yet humanity triumphed then and will do so even now. Each one of you should be without fear and become a catalyst of change. Dream, Dream big. Implement, implement strong.