

**MAYO COLLEGE 129TH PRIZE GIVING ADDRESS BY CHIEF
GUEST MR. K. P. SINGH, CHAIRMAN, DLF : AJMER,
DECEMBER 2, 2012**

**His Highness Maharaja Gaj Singh Ji of Jodhpur, President Mayo College General Council,
Distinguished Members of the General Council,
Respected Principal and Teachers of Mayo College,
All the Proud Parents and Dignitaries who are present here,**

Dear Students,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me very great pleasure to be here with all of you this afternoon on this important occasion. The very fact that this is the 129th prize-giving ceremony of Mayo College tells its own story –

That this is one of the oldest and most famous schools in India;

That this is a school which is steeped in glorious tradition and has a rich and time-tested history of giving the very best of education to the very best of young minds;

That each one of you whom I have had the honour of handing out prizes today can be proud of the rich heritage of the institution that has groomed you and will always be a part of you for the rest of your lives;

That each one of you deserves the highest praise and heartiest congratulations for doing so well in your studies, on the sports field and in extra-curricular activities that your names will forever be written in golden letters on the rosters of the school.

There come times in the life of a nation when every responsible corporate enterprise, and indeed every citizen, needs to take stock of certain momentous changes sweeping swiftly and simultaneously through the political, social and economic systems of the country and to look beyond the immediate short term effects towards the long term ramifications.

Well done. And thank you for giving me this chance to share in your moment of happiness and glory. I can see it in your eyes and faces just how proud you are of your achievements and how confident you are of achieving even bigger successes in your lives as you step out into the future.

One of your biggest achievements today is that you have made your parents proud and given them the best possible reward for all the love and care that they have showered on you.

You have done your teachers proud by vindicating their faith in you.

And you have made this great institution even greater by showing that Mayo College is still the best and continues the tradition of transforming talented young boys into magnificent young men who excel in everything they do.

As you step into the world of tomorrow with confidence in your abilities and pride in your schooling, you are doubly fortunate that your emergence as ambitious and talented young citizens comes at a time when India itself is on the threshold of achieving greatness.

Driven by the knowledge revolution, fuelled by technological advances and blessed with a youthful population that is determined to fulfill their rising aspirations, India is on the verge of becoming the new economic superpower of the world.

As India grows by leaps and bounds, more and more opportunities will open up for young people to shine and make a name for themselves.

But it is important to remember that the road to success is long and hard, and can at times be bumpy and riddled with unexpected twists and turns.

You will face many cross-roads and sometimes it may be difficult to decide which way to turn, whether to take the right road or the left road.

I am sure some of you may have read "Alice in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll, where the Caterpillar tells Alice: "If you do not know where you are going, it really doesn't matter which road you take".

My young friends, before we do anything or go anywhere, a little bit of planning and thinking ahead are very essential. That is why goal setting is very important on the road to success.

As you go through life, you will have many fascinating experiences and face many challenges. That will be the time when your character will be tested. Whatever you have learnt during your years at Mayo, whether in the classrooms or on the playing fields, will hold you in good stead.

I am really happy to see that Mayo is perhaps the only school in the whole country which provides such wonderful facilities for personality development and character building.

Undoubtedly, doing well in studies is very important, because in today's competitive world, educational qualifications are the stepping stones towards building a successful career. The only way to equip yourself with college degrees and post-graduate qualifications is by taking your classroom work very seriously and preparing well for your examinations.

But, at the same time, I have found from my own personal experience that excelling in sports and extra-curricular activities is equally important. It helps develop a well-rounded personality. It makes you a team player and that means you learn how to get along with others and not remain a loner or self-centered individual. Winning and losing in sports is not as important as playing the game in the right spirit and always striving to give off your best, with a never-say-die mental approach.

I believe these are some of the very important traits and qualities that can only be acquired and shaped on the playing fields.

In fact, my whole life has revolved around sports. When I was about your age, my father taught me how to play Tennis and a few years later, when I went to England to study Aeronautical Engineering, it was my ability to serve and volley that instantly won me some very good friends within the first few days of my arrival at the Ansty Aerodrome in Coventry.

Similarly, I was lucky to learn horse-riding from my uncle who was the aide-de-camp to the then Viceroy of India, Lord Wavell and who had some of the finest pedigree horses in his stables. In England, my love of horses and my riding skills won the admiration of the local British aristocracy who invited me to take part in polo matches and cross-country riding events. When I returned to India to join the Indian Military Academy, my dreams came true when I was posted to the Deccan Horse cavalry regiment.

As I grew older, I started playing Golf and till today it remains my passion. It gives me a sense of immense

satisfaction that the DLF Golf & Country Club which I developed in Gurgaon attracts some of the best golfers from India and abroad.

The reason why I am talking so much about my love of sports and outdoor activity is that just being here today in this magnificent school with such talented young men on the threshold of life brings back a flood of my own memories.

But the message I want to share with all of you is that Mayo has given you the best of basic education as well as opportunities to excel in outdoor activities. Make the best of it.

Your life lies ahead of you and it is up to you harness all that you have learnt to good use. The reality is that modern India needs young men like you to shape the future. The country needs well-educated youth with all-round skills to emerge as leaders in various fields.

There is no better way of serving your country than to set your sights on building successful careers and leading happy lives as individuals and as good human beings and responsible citizens.

I am sure each one of you will strive to bring out you best qualities to become outstanding successes in your chosen careers.

Let me leave you with a few Golden Rules that have always stood me in good stead throughout my own life and career.

- Surround yourself with people of integrity and common sense. Make friends with team makers, not team breakers.
- Never let success go to your head. Practice a degree of austerity even in times of prosperity.
- Avoid shortcuts and unethical methods. Remember two wrongs don't make a right.
- Never give up. Always look for the silver lining behind dark clouds. There is nothing impossible for a man who is determined to overcome all the odds to achieve his goal.

These are some of the ways to ensure personal success. But, my young friends, merely achieving fame and fortune is not enough to get true satisfaction in life. It is equally important to fulfill one's social responsibility by reaching out to the less privileged sections of society with a helping hand.

One can repay one's debt to society in a variety of ways, not just by making donations to a charitable organization, but by performing one good deed every day. Perhaps one of the simplest yet most fulfilling ways is: "Each one, teach one". Millions of our fellow citizens do not know how to read and write because they have never been to a school. If each one of us makes a solemn commitment to teach Reading, Writing and Arithmetic to just one poor child in our neighbourhood, imagine the difference it will make. Imagine what a wonderful country India will then become. Imagine the opportunities that will then open up for all of you and all the youth of India whether rich or poor across the country.

I wish you all success in your life.

Thank you,

(Dr. K.P. Singh)
Chairman
DLF Limited
2nd December, 2012
Ajmer.

