Fifty-Sixth Convocation
Monday, 3rd July 2023

Chief Guest

Mr. Narayana Murthy
Founder, Infosys Limited (NYSE: INFY)

Mr. Murthy was born on August 20th 1946 in Sidlaghatta – Karnataka in a lower middle-class family with eight children. He obtained his BE in Electrical Engineering from the University of Mysore in 1967 and M Tech in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology - Kanpur in 1969. After working at the Indian Institute of Management – Ahmedabad as the Chief Systems Programmer, he went to work in a real-time software company in Paris. His stay in Paris and travels in Western and Eastern Europe converted him from a confused leftist to a determined compassionate capitalist. During his hitchhiking from Paris to Mysore he realized that the only way to solve poverty in societies is through creation of jobs with good income, and that only entrepreneurship, unhindered by bureaucracy, can make this job creation possible. This led to the creation of Softronics in 1976 which failed within 9 months. The lessons learned from this failure led to the founding of Infosys.

Mr. Murthy founded Infosys in 1981. Infosys is, in 2023, a highly innovative software services global company listed on NYSE in the US and on the Bombay Stock Exchange in Mumbai with about US$ 18 billion in revenue and about US$ 62.51 billion (as on May 16, 2023) in market capitalization.

He conceptualized, articulated, and implemented the Global Delivery Model (GDM) which has become the backbone of the Indian software industry. GDM is based on collaborative distributed software development principles and has resulted in the delivery of superior quality software to global customers delivered on time and within budget. He also introduced the concept of 24-hour workday to the world.

Under his leadership, Infosys became the leader in innovation in technical, managerial and leadership training; large scale software development; quality; productivity; finance; human resources; customer focus; employee satisfaction; physical infrastructure and technological infrastructure.

In 2014, He was ranked 13th among CNBC's 25 global business leaders. Fortune magazine listed him among the '12 greatest entrepreneurs of our time' in 2012. He received Padma Vibhushan from India in 2008, Officer of Legion d'honneur from France in 2008, and CBE from Britain in 2007. The Economist ranked him among the 10 most-admired global business leaders in 2005. The Financial Times' list of "Business pioneers in technology" ranked him among the top 10 in March 2015. He is the first Indian winner of Ernst and Young's World Entrepreneur of the Year award.

Mr. Murthy was elected as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2019. He was elected a foreign member of the US National Academy of Engineering in 2010. He is a fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering. He received the IEEE Founders Medal in 2018, the IEEE Hoover medal in 2012, and the IEEE Ernst Weber Medal in 2007. He received Thomas Jefferson medal in 2017 and James C. Morgan Global Humanitarian Award in 2012. He has received twenty-six honorary doctorates from Indian educational institutions and eleven honorary doctorates from universities in the US, Europe, Canada, and Australia.

He serves on the boards of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, New Jersey, and the United Nations Foundation. He has served on the boards of Ford Foundation in New York, HSBC in London, and Unilever in London.

He is a member of the advisory board of the University of Tokyo (Japan), ESSEC Business School (France), IESE Business School (Spain) and Fundação Dom Cabral (FDC – Brazil). He is also a member of the Board of Governors and Trustees of the Asian Institute of Management, Manila.

He has served as a member of the boards of various well-known universities in the US like Cornell University, Wharton School, the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University, and the Rhodes Trust at Oxford. He was the Chairman of the Indian Institute of Management - Ahmedabad, the #1 business school in India; the Indian Institute of Information Technology – Bangalore; and the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI).

He has also served on the international advisory boards of Yale University, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, William F. Achtmeyer Center for Global Leadership at the Tuck School of Business, Singapore Management University INSEAD, Asian Institute of Technology (Bangkok), and the Indian School of Business (Hyderabad).

He married Sudha (née Kulkarni) in 1978. Sudha obtained her master's degree in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Science – Bangalore in 1974. She is, today, a well-known author. They have two children. Daughter, Akshata, obtained her MBA degree from Stanford University in 2006. Son, Rohan, obtained his Ph D degree in Computer Science from Harvard University in 2011.

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