

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON 15.1.1962
ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW
BUILDINGS OF THE T.I.F.R. AT COLABA

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chief Minister, Mr. Tata, Dr. Bhabha, Friends:

You have been told that a little more than 8 years ago that I was invited here to lay the foundation stone or the corner stone of this structure. It is so long ago that I have almost forgotten that I have done it and I began to think of another instance which happened in Delhi when the foundation was laid and after a few months people discovered that somebody had stolen it, (laughter). And normally speaking a delay of eight years in completing this structure seems rather excessive, but coming here once in between and today going partly around over this building, my original impulse to criticise the delay was considerably modified because it has been a great effort to put this up as it has been done, there have been difficulties and anyhow the result achieved is something very much worthwhile. So I am happy to be here today to associate myself again in this function with this institute. We have so far previous speakers have referred to the growth of scientific work in India in the last few years have referred to that pioneer Jamshedji Tata who at a time when few people certainly in India thought about this encouraged this kind of work both in science and technology and heavy industry - a man who could look ahead and whose traditions have been followed by those who have followed him who have come after and therefore it is appropriately named after the house of Tata. Now in these years much has happened and many big laboratories have been put up in India and I believe they are doing good work, but there is one aspect of that work which sometimes is not perhaps as good as it might be. Although so far as that matter is concerned here, in

Bombay, under Dr. Bhabha's guidance we do not suffer from that partial disability. I have found going about and generally keeping in touch with these developments that we really have a very fine lot of younger scientists in India and, but I am not quite sure that in many places in India they get all the opportunities that they might have to do their work and to develop. Now that doesn't apply either to this institute or to the Atomic Energy institute here at Trombay. Because here one among the many virtues and qualities that Dr. Bhabha possesses of which we have heard, praised a little while ago, one is that he not only encourages people to do their best work but has built up a very fine very fine groups of able and brilliant young scientists in these two establishments. It is really meeting those young people who have already distinguished themselves and who I am quite sure will distinguish themselves still more in future. It is meeting them and finding out what they have been doing that I have felt so hopeful, optimistic about the future of science in India. I would like this example of Dr. Bhabha that is to build up these groups of young scientists wherever there is an opportunity in India to give them worthwhile work to do and opportunities to be followed all over this country. It is true that previously the opportunities were perhaps not adequate. Now with these magnificent structures will equip the opportunities are there and therefore it is easier to provide these young people to do good work. Anyhow I am quite sure that in the future this good work will be done by younger scientists who as I have just said I am quite I have found have quite unusual capacity. Now I have been just before the start of this meeting Dr. Bhabha was good enough to take me round this building and show me some of the work that is being done there. Because this building has been functioning for sometime and it is not quite correct to say that I have come to inaugurate it. So, I went over this building and

saw them. And I looked wise and understanding but the fact of the matter is that I could not understand much of the things that I saw. We are entering into an age now of the scientists beginning to function like the old high priests of old who looked after sacred mysteries; we all bow down to them in reverence and awe and sometimes in little fear as to what they might be upto. But anyhow one cannot escape science and the scientist in this age and perhaps the scientist might and I say might make a better job of it if he has chances in future than the politician. I am not sure ofcourse but I put it to you that might be possible. So I am prepared to take the risk because anyhow it is a risk living in those days and dealing with politicians of my own tribe. But one does feel these new discoveries tremendous discoveries coming one after the other that we live perhaps at a time when the nature of our knowledge of the physical world and all that flows from it. It may change effecting evil human beings; they may gradually get into another, work themselves up in another phase of existence. I am sorry I speak in a confused way because my mind is not clear except that I feel that we are getting out gradually though science and the discoveries of science from the very gross and purely material way of looking at the world, science itself is although very material goes on hitting at something which is much less material and one doesn't quite know what this future may bring provided ofcourse always that science itself does not help humanity to commit suicide so we live in this age of transition and those who are pessimistic may take a pessimistic view of the world, those who are optimistic may do that. Both are possible. And anyhow the scientist has got a very important to play and it is important I think, that we should encourage him to play that and therefore the growth of science in India is very welcome to me and in so far as I am concerned I think I believe

that the Government of India will encourage this growth of science in the future as it has been doing in the past. A number of eminent scientists have come here from abroad. I am happy they have come because it has been a pleasure and privilege of the Atomic Energy Department and elsewhere to co-operate with other Governments and other eminent scientists in various countries, and therefore they are coming here to day is very welcome so that we might strengthen the bonds that tie us to these scientific development elsewhere. I do not know that it is I need take your time anymore. It has been a great pleasure to me and something like an exhilarating experience to come here from time to time and to see the growth in our scientific work whether on the other side of Trombay or here or some other parts of India and they take me out of the normal rut in which I live. It is rather depressing of (ninash). So I am grateful to Dr. Bhabha for this opportunity given to me to come here to associate myself with this ceremony and to meet many eminent people. Now if I am supposed to inaugurate this formally or to delcare this open formally I do so with great pleasure.

@@@00300