

I am delighted to have this opportunity to felicitate an excellent group of Institutions and above all the vision behind the founding of this. I followed with interest Dr.Rangarajan's progression, development of institutions and values from the time he was a teacher, then an industrialist, building brick by brick in partnership with Dr.Sakunthala Rangarajan, and later on younger members of the family and other team members, and I commend them for this remarkably long sighted and progressive scheme of scholarships, astonishingly large number of scholarships given and distributed so well, in fact virtually every State and Union Territory in this country has been benefitted for a start and very few Institutions I know in any field are so open handed and long sighted in their vision. So I congratulate particularly the senior leaders of this Institution and Group for this outstanding contribution to education and society. The Scholarship scheme, I had an opportunity to listen to some of the ideas from the younger members behind this group and I think they thought big, because people at the top, the seniors thought big and wanted to be open handed. Institutions like VEL TECH Group, University here and its various constituent parts of the Group have set very high standards.

If you ask yourself what makes for the success of Institutions of higher learning, say top class engineering college, technical university, I think many of us would think of the following factors without being exhaustive. One is the academic programme and how it is diversified, also the areas of focus and here there are 11 institutions very different, but very well chosen, you avoided the medical field I think advisably, because there are many problems there. So the academic programme I think is very important, what you choose, what you decide not to get into and so on. That makes huge difference. These are extremely relevant in current day aspirations and needs.

The Second factor, I think is the quality and commitment of faculty or teachers and this university, the whole group I think has been blessed with very good faculty. The third thing I think is admissions. How clean and transparent and open your admission policy is, what kind of entrance exam is conducted or not conducted, how fair it is. That I think is important. And here we are proud to see students from every part of India, virtually every nook and corner of India represented here, symbolized by the welcome that we got when we came here representing the States. That is I think factor number three. Then you come to infrastructure and amenities and you can see the spacious campus, the long sighted policy of the Rangarajans in acquiring the land and putting it to extremely socially productive use in this field. You are not short of land and also the construction programmes have been extremely impressive. Five comes interaction with the industries. And your University and all the Institutions here swear by it.

Then comes I think Placement. Placement is very important and placement record I think had been extremely good.

Then comes the real challenge, which I read in the Vision Statement of Vel Tech University about Human Resource Development. I think the challenge for all involved in education and infact involved in any intellectual field is this. On the one hand you want to pursue excellence, high standard and on the other hand, you are in a country where there is a great deal of deprivation. I think our Hon'ble Minister is particularly interested in this aspect of the challenge and also opportunity in India and this is where I appreciate greatly the policy approach and attitudes of VEL TECH Group, the kind of open handedness that we have seen.

It need not be looked on as the favour done to young people, it is a long sighted policy that recognizes the need to broaden access that is how I look at it. It is not charity, but it is empowering young people, it is empowering ourselves, our society when they do this. So I really commend Drs.Rangarajan and all others involved in this field including my friends, The Times of India. I am very happy that 'The Hindu' also had a small role in promoting the scholarships, but I must say, we did not initiate, they initiated it. Mahalakshmi and Kishore came to us and I am sure same thing for Ninan and I think the media will respond if it is made aware of these opportunities. These are some of the ideas that occur to me when I was invited to come here, but we are delighted that you are doing so well.

Looking at the large number of women here, also getting these scholarships, getting recognition award and so on I think that's something to be proud of. So I will close here, wishing you every success and every happiness.



**Shri.N.Ram**  
Editor-in-Chief, THE HINDU  
THE HINDU  
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

## SHRI.NINAN THARIYAN, ASST.VICE PRESIDENT & RESPONSE HEAD, BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO.LTD. FELICITATES VELTECH.

First of all let me appeal that I am very happy to be here with the brilliant students and the academic community at VEL TECH. In India, there are many who are forced to kill their academic aspirations owing to paucity of funds or pressing family concerns. **It is against this background that VEL TECH decided to launch the VEL TECH MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS nationally this year.**

When Dr.Mahalakshmi from Vel Tech approached us, at Times of India, asking us to support this venture, we never thought twice and I can proudly say that the partnership has proved to be a success. **It is interesting and truly heartening to note that this scholarship is being rolled out at a pan Indian level with no discrimination whatsoever of caste, creed or religion. I think in the world we live in empowering young minds to pursue their dreams and careers is the need of the hour. This is the step in that direction.**

We, at the Times of India, are always happy to partner ventures with the vision. In the world we live in, nothing comes cheap and education is expensive. **This scholarship attempts to reach out and alter the lives of many students, who have the talent, but don't have the financial strength to support their education.**

I wish VEL TECH, the faculty and the students all the very best in all their endeavours.

Thank you very much.



**Shri.Ninan Thariyan**  
Asst.Vice President & Response Head  
- Bennett, Coleman & Co.Ltd.  
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## IFTAR Celebrations



IFTAR Celebrations held in University campus on 17.08.09 at Vel Murugan Auditorium.

## DIWALI Celebrations



The Chancellor presided over the Diwali celebrations held in University campus on 17.10.09 at Vel Murugan Auditorium. Moon light dinner was arranged for hostel students.