

## Youth, Our Greatest Wealth

### **Closing Ceremony of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Nayagarh Autonomous College, Nayagarh on 10.01.2011**

I am very happy to be amidst you today on this closing ceremony of Golden Jubilee Celebration of Nayagarh Autonomous College. I feel very happy to visit this institution on this pride moment of achieving this important milestone. It is true, the celebration comes to an end today but I am sure, the enthusiasm it has generated among all from students to teachers, staff, alumni and the people of Nayagarh will continue to take the institution to further heights of glory in days ahead. It is my great pleasure to extend my hearty greetings and good wishes to you all and congratulate each and everyone for their active participation and involvement to take the institution to its present height.

Youth of the country are always at the top of my priority because they are the wealth of the country and their vigour, spirit and enthusiasm have the ability to lead the nation on the path of progress and development. When it is relating to youth, I hardly give it a miss. Today, I am with you to renew my bond with the youths of the country.

The occasion reminds me of my good old student days and it also reminds me of my hopes and aspirations during college days. Even so many years after leaving the college, I still feel the strong role my alma mater has played in my life. It has taught me that life can best be lived courageously facing the problems and challenges and not by running away from them. This is the secret of my success in life. Today, when I compare the past with the present I find there have been many changes and today's students are more fortunate to have more facilities in terms of both education and infrastructure besides having more opportunities of making a career than we had. But one thing remains the same that the days in college are very crucial for the future of a student and it is for the students to make their days in college

memorable by having good friends and also by being good at studies and other activities. The days one spends at the college should be utilized in building character and preparing for the challenges of life in later period. My dear students, if you have prepared well here then you will definitely achieve success or else you will be left cursing your destiny. I do not want you to be of second category. Always remember, who takes life earnestly and courageously is bound to succeed. Other thing, which, helps in life, is discipline and character. Here, I would like to quote the words of Swami Vivekanandji who said, "Give me one hundred young men and women of character and I will change the face of the country."

I understand that this college since its inception has been catering to the needs of the local youths to pursue college education and I am told it has made good progress in imparting education, which is evident as many alumni occupying positions in society. It is true, students have been blessed with talent but it is the institution and the teachers who play vital role in bringing out the best from them by providing good guidance and a healthy environment to grow and prosper. This college has been doing this noble work with the cooperation and support of the local people as well with very active faculty members who deserve commendation on this occasion.

It is very appropriate to recall the selfless service and contribution of those individuals who have toiled hard to realize the dream of having a college at Nayagarh. 50 years have passed and during this period the college has built lives of many students. I appeal to the alumni to involve themselves actively for the growth and development of the institution so that it continues to shape many young minds in days to come.

The younger generation in the pursuit of excellence and good career, should also be sensitive to the social realities around them and also to the plight of a large number of unfortunate fellow citizens who continue to lead lives of marginal existence. Orissa is culturally the richest state in the country and also minerally the richest but it is yet to achieve desired development and progress to its potential. Poverty and illiteracy are the major blocks on the

path of progress and development. I always tell – poverty leads to illiteracy but literacy drives away poverty. We in the state do not have an encouraging literacy rate particularly among tribals and more so only 25 percent among tribal girls. So, it is very much needed to spread the message of literacy to make the State a fully literate state. I have initiated Gyanalok programme through the NSS wings of University and college in the State to enhance literacy in tribal areas and to prevent dropouts among girls. It has started delivering results and the promises it has shown with very spirited volunteers, I am optimistic that we will be able to remove illiteracy from society. They are like you and I expect you to be doing such noble work for the society.

As I have said earlier, youth is our greatest wealth. They are the strength and dream of the nation. India has the maximum human wealth in the world and it is an asset because when the leading countries now have an ageing population India will be ahead of others with a very young population who will lead the world. In today's 'Knowledge Society' or 'Gyan Yug' everything is governed by brain power. The physical prowess has lost its superiority. I want you to make best use of opportunities available in this institution and develop yourself physically, intellectually and morally to face today's highly competitive world with your head high and a big confidence in heart. With these words, I wish the students very bright future and college to attain greater heights in future as a thriving centre of excellence of learning in the district and the State as well.

Jai Hind