

Facing the Challenges of Life

Chancellor's Address on the Occasion of the Sixth Convocation of North Orissa University, Baripada on 23.02.2011

I am today happy to preside over the Sixth Convocation Ceremony of North Orissa University. Convocation is a very important event in the calendar of a university and marks the growth of the university. North Orissa University in making it a practice to hold convocation at regular interval has no doubt delighted the students as this particular occasion they love to cherish throughout life. The other important thing is that the university on this occasion by conferring honorary degree to eminent persons from different walks of life not only expresses its social obligation but also projects such successful personalities before the students to draw inspiration to achieve bigger things in life. In that way convocation is very special for the whole university.

I deem it a proud privilege to extend a warm welcome to our Chief Guest, Hon'ble Dr. Justice Arijit Pasayatji, who is also a recipient of Degree Honoris Causa, along with other recipients of Honorary Degree, Prof. Damodar Acharya, Shri Manoj Das and Shri Bhuwan Mohan. Dr. Justice Pasayatji is a distinguished jurist with brilliant academic career who has excelled himself not only as a lawyer but also as Chief Justice of Kerala High Court and Delhi High Court and later as Judge of Supreme Court of India. I am delighted to know that Dr. Justice Arijit Pasayatji was the architect of introducing legal education in Orissa as five year integrated course. His expertise in Constitutional and Taxation Law has made him one of the most referred judges in whole of the country. I am sure, the students who have heard him today must have been inspired through his intellectual pursuit and hard work with which he has served the profession, the Judiciary and above all this Nation for a long period.

Today, North Orissa University is also equally proud in conferring Honorary Degree (Honoris Causa) on three other proud sons of this country. Prof. Damodar Acharyaji, a son of the soil belonging to Mayurbhanj district, has excelled in many ways not only as an

academician of repute but also as an educational administrator par excellence. As the first Vice-Chancellor of newly instituted Biju Patnaik University of Technology at Rourkela, he has initiated a series of innovative programmes and from there, he became the Chairman of All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi. As the Director of Indian Institute of Technology, Prof. Acharyaji has proved his mettle as to how the IIT can show a path of development and progress to the whole country. It is needless to say here the fame and pride of Shri Manoj Dasji who has brought fame to this State as a prolific writer, outstanding orator and a thinker of high order. By bestowing the Honorary Degree (*honoris causa*) on Shri Das, a devotee of Sri Aurobindo, the University has really honoured a proud son of the State of Orissa.

Shri Bhuwan Mohanji is a Gandhian freedom fighter who is heading the Banarsidas Chandiwala Sewa Smarak Trust Society at New Delhi. He has come to prominence through his service to the society all along his life and serving for the cause of the people in general and advancement of higher education in particular. His continuous efforts and association with various organizations involved in academics, philanthropy and social works have brought laurels to the people living around him. I have great pleasure to confer these degrees and congratulate all of them. I am sure they will continue to inspire others with their dedication, devotion and commitment.

Convocation is a moment of glory in the life of students as well that of the faculty. The students feel honoured for their achievements as they go out to face the challenges of life. It gives me immense pleasure to offer my warm congratulations to the young men and women who are recipients of degrees, diplomas, medals and awards during this Convocation. I share their joy and happiness. Their achievements have made all of us proud and with their success, they have promised bigger things in life. Let this success just the beginning to be crowned with more successes in days ahead and make an identity for themselves in the world they are entering which is full of competition and exciting as well. The foundation laid here and

education received will surely help the young men and women going out of the university to face the challenges of life confidently.

Similarly, teachers feel satisfied looking at the students whom they have trained to face the challenges of the rapidly changing global world and they also get an opportunity to make self-assessment and think of further improvements. I take this opportunity to congratulate the teachers for their effort and wish them all success

This young University is only thirteen years old being established more than a decade ago (13th July 1998) fulfilling the dreams of the people from this tribal dominated northern region of my State, comprising of the districts of Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar. Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanj Deo who was one of the most popular, respected and benevolent ruler of this princely state of Mayurbhanj was the doyen of emancipating higher education in the state and by setting up of this University in Mayurbhanj, the state government has given a befitting honour to the departed soul and I pay my tribute to his eternal memory. His great interest and vision for all round development of the state of Orissa in general and education as well as health in particular has infused a great sense of responsibility in the minds of the people to uplift this tribal dominated region into a modern world.

North Orissa University in the mean time has grown to have 77 affiliated Colleges, comprising of 4 Professional and 2 Autonomous Colleges imparting higher education both through regular and self-financing courses in emerging areas of modern science and technology. It has progressed a lot in academics and infrastructural growth during last two years. Befittingly, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has accredited this University recently with “B” grade which a few Universities of the state have achieved such CGPA grade under new regulations of NAAC - 2007.

I am glad to find the emphasis given by the university on research. Today, there are as many as 72 research scholars who have been awarded their Ph.D. degrees. Similarly, the teachers of the University have published several research papers with high impact factors in

different national and international journals of repute. The University has been receiving several projects from leading organizations of Government of India and State Government to promote its research activities. Three of the Science Departments have been declared fit for FIST(Funds for Improvement in Science and Technology) of Department Science and Technology and one of the Science Departments has received special assistance from University Grants Commission under SAP Programme, which will not only boost the research activities of the University but also encourage young teachers working in their respective departments. Teaching and research have to go hand-in-hand. In order to propel research in the country, we in the university, have to nurture young minds with right frame of mind and infrastructure to think out-of-the-box and prepare new breed of scientists.

The University is taking initiative for employment of students through campus selection. This year, some students from Biotechnology department have been selected in campus recruitment and few more are aspirant for it. Distance Education Programme of this University is functioning very effectively and they have been imparting education through distant mode, in most of the job oriented subjects, like Tourism, Mass Communications, Computer Science, Computer Application, Information Technology, etc. and some other need based subjects, considering the demands of the society, are also being imparted.

It is very heartening that this University, situating at the foot-hills of Simlipal Biosphere Reserve, has got a vision to have some research centres like Wildlife Research Centre, Tribal Research Centre as well as making some ethnic studies in the remote areas of the district of Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar. As I understand, this will help the University to promote sustainable development and growth of this region.

I congratulate the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Rathji and his full team for their endeavour in achieving success and development for this University in every front. It is very satisfying to note that the environment inside the campus as well as in the affiliated colleges is very peaceful. Efforts are also made for creation of additional teaching posts and non-teaching

posts of which some of posts have already been created. In between all the offices, departments, library and students' laboratories are well-equipped with the help of funds allocated by 12th Finance Commission of the State Government, UGC, CSIR and Government of India fund to this University. The University is taking all measures for smooth conduct of the examination and timely publication of results, updating the existing course and preparation of new syllabi to name a few. I am happy to note that the University is making rapid strides in implementing the Gyanalok Programme in different villages starting from "Ziani Village" which I have attended and it is even imparting teaching to inmates of Sports Hostel, Baripada by NSS students. Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts have majority of the people below the poverty line and literacy level is very low, much below the national and state average. This is very good opportunity for the university to show its commitment for the welfare of the community and development of society. Such endeavour will go a long way in improving the literacy rate and when literacy level rises this part of the state will flourish true to its potential. I wish our students and the University all success

Now, in our country, people have started searching for quality assurance in higher education in view of all the problems and challenges faced by them for rapid industrialization and sustainability of agriculture based economy. All the University's pass outs, the young generation of India has to perceive country's scenario in totality. The socio-cultural, political, economic and technical advices are to be considered as an analyst, while viewing the prospect of higher education in our country and the states. To me, it appears that higher education must be shaped into a prospective one and every graduate of today should chalk down the problems and weaknesses looking forward to a prosperous India. In order to advance this aspect, a wide spectrum of discipline and capabilities through initiatives research and industries be integrated together, to see a greater and balance global economy.

The graduates who have assembled here today are the human resources for our country as well as for the whole world. The future of the country lies in their hands and they

can play a positive role to transform our country into a developed nation by the year 2020, a vision very well stressed by our former President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam whom this University had as Chief Guest in the 2nd Convocation. This vision will become a reality through the dedicated and committed efforts of young men and women which will benefit particularly, the common masses in rural and tribal areas of our country who are below the poverty line and whose literacy level is much below the country's average. Here, I would like to quote Dr. Kalamji who said, "We should all create a nation that is one of the best places to live in on this earth and which brings smiles to a billion faces." There is no substitute for hard work and through hard work only I am sure each one of you will be able to bring honour and respect to yourself, to your alma-mater, to our country and to the whole world. Therefore, on this occasion, I throw a challenge before the young men and women who are receiving the medals and degrees to achieve the goals. My dear students, I would like you to remember the words of Swami Vivekanand to excel in life. "Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life-think of it, dream of it, live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that idea and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success".

I am confident that this University will become one of the best universities if it goes ahead in future without resting on the good work already done in a planned way. As I have already mentioned and I repeat the success of a university depends on the quality of students produced and the quality of research and development works performed by the faculty members. The alumni carry the beacon of the University by excelling in their respective fields and serving the society with distinction, dedication, and devotion. I am sure, our young men and women receiving degrees and diplomas and medals today will rise up to the expectation of their parents, teachers and their alma maters and the expectations of each one of us.

Finally, before I conclude, I congratulate once again the recipients of degrees and medals. I wish them very bright future and this University all success.

Jai Hind.