

Challenges and Opportunities

Sixth Annual Convocation of KIIT University, Bhubaneswar on 05.12. 2010

It is indeed a matter of great pleasure for me to be in Convocation Ceremony of KIIT University for second consecutive year. I had the privilege to grace the Fifth Convocation last year. This annual academic ceremony is special for students as they seem to enjoy the thrill and excitement of receiving their degrees. It is also something special for the distinguished persons who receive honorary degrees for their outstanding contribution in their respective field. On this joyous and important event of the University, it is my great pleasure to extend good wishes to you all.

Today, KIIT University is certainly proud to confer the degree *Honoris Causa* to several distinguished personalities who have carved a niche for themselves with their strong determination, commitment, dedication and devotion to the profession and to the task they have taken upon themselves. It is indeed a sheer delight for me to confer the degrees on the proud recipients. I extend my hearty congratulations to all of them and wish they will continue to shine and not only bring glory to themselves but set high standard in society for others to emulate. I am sure the response of the recipients on receiving the degree will boost the morale of our young men and women in particular to strive for excellence in life.

It is my great pleasure to congratulate the students who have received degrees and medals today for their success and achievement and reached an important milestone in their career. This is a day they will always remember and cherish. Through these distinctions and excellence, they have not only brought glory to themselves but made proud their teachers, parents, relations and KIIT.

Today is an important occasion for the state of Orissa and for the country because so many of our young women and men are going out of the university campus equipped with the power of knowledge to make a mark in the world. The society is waiting to see them join the task of nation building, and secure for India its place of pride among the leaders of the global community.

My dear young friends, you must know for sure, the competition will not end until you feel confident of meeting uncertainties and challenges and face those with a positive attitude. I am sure that all of you will be very successful in your chosen fields. I am tempted here to quote Swami Vivekananda who said, "Don't look back, look forward! Infinite enthusiasm, infinite daring and infinite patience, then alone can great deed be achieved." Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm and there is no substitute for hard work. While forging ahead never ever forget the millions looking at you, spare a thought for those not as privileged as you, to have graduated from such an elite institution. You must think of your parents who toiled hard to make you what you are today. You must thank God for giving you the opportunity to be in a better place. But take a pause and think about the poorest of the poor. Think about a child who is not as fortunate as you are. It is your responsibility to see that the world is as much his or hers as much yours. As inheritors of a great Indian society and rich culture which blossomed up great values for life and a deep concern for human development, you should intensely aspire for deepening and broadening your knowledge, learn to experience the power within you and be guided by higher values which you believe in. The greatest satisfaction in life lies in giving something back to the society which gave you the scope to be what you are today.

You have a bright example in the founder of this young and fast growing University. See for yourself his dedication, commitment and strong desire to make things happen against all adversities. He made it a mission in life to reach out to the unreached and by setting up Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences he has not only made thousands of poor tribal children to dream but is helping them to realize this dream by providing free education and boarding and an atmosphere to explore their potential and talent. They in turn have not failed their mentor bringing glory to the institution in academics, sports and other activities.

Over the past two decades higher education in India has expanded considerably. With the opening up of Indian economy, the post liberalisation period witnessed a new type of higher education providers in India. During this period, a number of private universities were established and some of those gave very tough competition to the established Public Universities. Some Private Universities have been doing remarkable work in education and

research in India. KIIT University is surely one of them. Continuous value addition has made KIIT, one of the fastest growing universities not only in India but in the world.

I am glad to note that though it is comparatively a new university, KIIT has already established a name for itself. It is providing manifold opportunities to our young men and women and is encouraging them in their academic pursuits. I am sure; the University will continue to enhance its academic excellence as well as social commitments. Change is the order of the day and inevitable. Our young men and women are not lacking in spirit and effort. They are required to accept the change and never be afraid to try again in case of failure. They just need a little encouragement and guidance to their thinking and understanding to move forward and achieve their goals. I would suggest the University to equip students with right knowledge and attitude to accept the change and strive for excellence and stay ahead of others.

Globalization has created both interrelated and interlinked world generating opportunities and also throwing up challenges. Universities are now developing skills to cope up with these challenges. For the young graduates and technocrats, I believe sky is no more the limit. If they dream high and act with determination and conviction they are bound to get the reward. Say it reward or recognition, it never comes if you work aiming to get that but it follows if you work with devotion and without even thinking for that.

We are now in a 'Knowledge Society' or 'Gyan Yug' where knowledge power is superior to physical power and it has become the most important factor determining the standard of living more than anything else. Today's most technologically advanced countries are truly knowledge based. For India to thrive in the global knowledge economy, it is imperative to create wide base of knowledge individuals who can convert knowledge into wealth for social good and development with creation and deployment of knowledge in all sectors. The country today needs a combination of technology, innovation, leadership and inspired workforce to reap benefits of knowledge society. The famous philosopher Francis Bacon said, "Knowledge is Power" which is the secret of success. Students must develop their skills in technology and its varied applications to contribute significantly to

transformation of India. In this context, KIIT has a key role to play. On this occasion, I would like to urge upon all concerned as well as the faculty members and University administration to work hard to make our students well equipped to create a better world to live in.

My dear students, you are the youths of this country. You must feel proud that youths of India are now marching ahead and recognized as the best in the world in several sectors for their knowledge and expertise and do not forget their glorious achievements in sports arena. India is a young country with about 55 percent population between the age of 25 and 30. While all advanced countries have an ageing population India with a young population is all set to lead the world. You are the strength of the nation, you are the wealth of the nation and dream of the nation. I have no doubt in my mind that all of you who are moving to the real world of building tomorrow's India, would find the task fascinating and make a difference to the society, from where you came to join your institutions, through your creativity, dedication, hard work and above all with a clear vision for the future. I would like you to drive away poverty and illiteracy, the two ugly spots from the beautiful face Orissa and when these two will be removed Orissa will shine with all its glory and splendour and become one of the developed states of the country.

With these words, I have great pleasure to be on this joyous occasion and wish our young men and women all success in their every endeavour and very bright future. I wish KIIT University to attain great heights in days ahead.

Jai Hind.