

Knowledge and Wisdom

Chancellor/s Address the Occasion of the 6th Convocation of Shri Jagannath Sanskrit Vishvavidyalaya, Puri on 08.07.2011

It gives me immense pleasure to preside over the Sixth Convocation of Shri Jagannath Sanskrit Vishvavidyalaya, Puri. When this holy place of Puri is flooded with devotees from across the globe for the world famous Car Festival this premier seat of learning and research in Sanskrit studies established in the name of Lord Shri Jagannath is holding its Convocation much to the delight of students and scholars. These two days have been very remarkable days in the history of the Vishvavidyalaya. While yesterday it has celebrated its 31st Foundation Day today it holds its Convocation, the most impressive academic ceremony in the calendar of events of a university. Both these occasions symbolize the growth of the Vishvavidyalaya and reiterate its commitment.

Today the Vishvavidyalaya is proud to have Justice Shri P. N. Bhagwati, a legal luminary of the country as Chief Guest. He was a brilliant student in his school and college days and at the same time remained concerned for the freedom of motherland. He participated in National Freedom Movement in 1942. Justice Shri Bhagwatiiji held many important positions in Judiciary including the prestigious post of Chief Justice of India and also in various Legal and Judicial Committees. He has a very distinguished career and has delivered several landmark judgements. He has been very active and vocal in finding ways and means for providing free legal aid and advice to poor and weaker sections of the society. I have known him since 1952 when I joined the Bar. I have great admiration for his legal acumen, pleasant personality and singular contribution to our Jurisprudence. We share the same concern for speedy and cheap justice particularly for the poor. He has always weighed the farthings of the poor in their weight of gold in the scales of justice. He through his judgements has laid down fundamentals for effective legal enforcement of human rights. He introduced Public Interest Litigation in the Indian Judicial System. He with Justice Krishna Iyer introduced Judicial Activism in the country. He is the author of many leading judgments. He is among the great Judges of the Supreme Court of India. I extend

my heartfelt gratitude to Justice Shri Bhagwatiji, who has been kind enough to accept our invitation to grace the occasion and deliver the convocation address. He has just delivered his address. It is indeed very enlightening and I am sure both students and faculty would be immensely benefited from his address. I also extend hearty welcome to all others present here to this august occasion.

Convocation ceremony of any institution of higher learning is as I said little earlier holds utmost importance in the multifaceted character of academic life. This event does not mean merely ritual significance but it is a moment for the students to cherish throughout life and is also a unique and forward step in the life of an institution. Convocation provides a platform for the recognition of brilliance of the present generation and sets precedence for the future. In this sense, it represents a dialogue between the past, present and the future and is ingrained in the spirit of change and continuity.

It is a matter of great pleasure that Shri Jagannath Sanskrit Vishvavidyalaya, Puri established in the name of Lord Jagannath in this sacred place of Purusottam Dham, stands to impart teaching, learning and research on all traditional branches of Sanskrit and Orissan Culture. During the span of three decades, this Vishvavidyalaya has earned glorious reputation in the field of Sanskrit learning in India. This is the third University in India after Sampurnananda Sanskrit University, Varanasi and Kameswsar Singh Sanskrit University, Darbhanga where the teaching of traditional Sanskrit is being imparted through innovative modern methods. It is very heartening that the alumni of this Vishvavidyalaya have disseminated Indian culture and thought in different parts of the country and abroad with distinction. The research scholars and faculty members engaged in exploring the treasures in Sanskrit language and literature have come up with excellent findings and publications. I am happy to note that the Vishvavidyalaya has been giving lot of importance on research and Centre of Advance Research in Sanskrit is helping the scholars in a big way. Today, as many as 33 research scholars have been awarded their Ph.D degree. I congratulate all of them and I am sure they will keep igniting their appetite for knowledge and contribute to the promotion of Sanskrit language and literature.

Since the age of Vedas, India is very rich in knowledge and wisdom. It covers all branches of learning like Science, Technology and even Mathematics proclaiming leadership on all aspects of learning in the world. By applying sixteen Mathematical Formulas, ancient Vedic scholars were able to solve all mathematical problems. During the period of Aryabhatta, Barahamihira and other stars of Astrology much development has been done not only in the field of Astrology and Astronomy but also in Mathematics too. We are proud of Mahamopadhyaya Samanta Chandra Sekhar, a brilliant son of Orissa who was a renowned astrologer and mathematician.

This sacred place of Puri known as ‘Purusottama Kshetra’ has taken leadership in the field of religion, philosophy and new innovation of the culture of ‘Sarva Dharma Samanwaya’ for establishment of peaceful co-existence in India and in whole world under the banner of Lord Jagannath. It removes all kinds of barriers, conflicts and establishes perpetual peace all over the country with an emphasis on morality and humanity.

This Vishvavidyalaya named after supreme Lord Jagannath, stands here with the banner of peace, morality and wisdom. It has a prime objective to enlighten students not only in the language of traditional Sanskrit like Vedas, Puranas etc., but also to focus on modern aspects of researches as in vogue all over the world. It is heartening that Sanskrit is now studied and research is also conducted outside India mostly in European countries. Foreign Scholars are taking keen interest in this regard.

Sanskrit is one of the world’s most ancient languages. It was considered as “Dev Bhasa”, the language of Gods by ancient Indians. It is even said Sanskrit is the mother of all languages and they all owe their vocabulary and form of expression to Sanskrit. The vastness, versatility and the power of expression that Sanskrit possesses can be appreciated by the fact that this language has 65 words to describe various forms of earth, 67 words for water and over 250 words to describe rainfall. Probably one can not find this in any other language. India is proud from where this classical language is originated. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru wrote in his “Discovery of India” and I quote “If I was asked what is the greatest treasure which India possesses and what is her greatest heritage, I would answer unhesitatingly that it is the Sanskrit language and literature and all

that it contains. This is a magnificent inheritance and so long as this endures and influences the life of our people, so long will the basic genius of India continue". It shows the richness of Sanskrit in our life. The sheer volume of Sanskrit literature is immense and it still remains largely unexploited. Relevance of Sanskrit studies and research will always be there and more work needs to be done. In this regard, institutions like Shri Jagannath Sanskrit Vishvavidyalaya have great role to play in preserving and promoting studies and research in Sanskrit.

It is heartening that this Vishvavidyalaya has proficient teachers in different departments who are engaged in teaching and research in Sanskrit. I hope our students will take full advantage of the situation and facilities available here to bring highest glory to this Vishvavidyalaya in India and abroad. I am happy that our students have been doing very well and today they have been awarded with degrees, which is the result of the hard work they have put in. I am equally happy to find that girls are taking keen interest in Sanskrit studies and are doing very well. Best Graduates for last two years have been girl students. Their success will no doubt inspire others. I congratulate our graduating students and I am happy to share their happiness and joy. I am sure the learning they have received from this premier institution will help them immensely as they step out from the portals of the institution to meet new challenges and with their achievement and success they will make their alma mater and every one of us proud. My dear students, always remember the pledge you have taken today on being awarded with degrees and use your ability and opportunity to promote the cause of morality and sound learning. With these words, I express my thanks to Vice-Chancellor and his learned Faculties for holding this Convocation successfully and I urge them to make Convocation an annual event. I pray to Lord Jagannath for bright future of our students and wish Shri Jagannath Sanskrit Vishvavidyalaya to attain greater heights in days ahead.

Jai Hind.