

The Road Ahead

Chancellor' Address at the Third Convocation of Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology, Burla on 06.08.2011

It gives me immense pleasure to preside over the third Convocation of Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology, Orissa. Uttering the name of this University fills the heart with a sense of pride as we are reminded of this great hero of the soil after whom this centre of higher learning is named after. Veer Surendra Sai had shown exemplified courage, daringness and strength to fight against the British rule. In a University where so many young men and women have come to build their lives Veer Surendra Sai is a perfect role model for our professionals in-making to dedicate their life to the cause of motherland. They have a real life hero from whom they can draw inspiration to achieve excellence and work for the society they live in. I pay my homage to the memory of this brave son for whom we all are and will continue to feel proud.

Convocation is an important academic ceremony in a university which involves everyone from university administration, faculty to the students to take pride in the glorious journey of the university as it sends out students equipping them with knowledge to serve the society. It is also the proudest and memorable moment in the life of students which they love to cherish throughout life. So, convocation should be held regularly to the delight of every one and more particularly our young mass for whom this event means a lot. The occasion brings cheer and a great amount of satisfaction as the University previously University College of Engineering is holding its third Convocation. I congratulate the Vice-Chancellor and his team for keeping a good tradition of holding convocation regularly and it shows the commitment to the cause. I expect this tradition to continue in future as well. I take this opportunity to extend warm welcome to you all to this academic ceremony.

Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology is proud to have a great mining expert Shri Nirmal Chandra Jha, Chairman, Coal India Limited as Chief Guest on its third

Convocation. Recipient of “National Geo Science Award 2009” for his outstanding contribution in the field of mining technology, Shri Jha has rich and varied experience having served in different key posts in coal industry and played a pivotal role in successful introduction of many mining oriented initiatives. On behalf of myself and the University, I extend him a very hearty welcome. He has just delivered his address and I am sure our young men and women must have found it enlightening and inspirational as they prepare themselves to the great task of nation building.

On this joyous occasion of the University’s third Convocation, I feel very happy to congratulate our students on their success. Years of intensive study have at last given sweet result as they become the proud recipient of degree and medal. Seeing the achievement of their children the parents must be feeling very happy and proud as their cherished aspiration turns into reality. I congratulate the parents of students graduating today and share their joy. My dear students, as you turn the page of an important chapter of your life and step into a world which is exciting with opportunities and challenges, you should always believe in yourself and make the best of the education received here to your advantage. With your success you have promised a lot and let this success be the beginning to achieve many more successes in life. I want each of you to be a burning candle to light many candles with your knowledge and spread the spirit of your alma mater formerly University College of Engineering, Burla which is the history of growth and development of technical education in the State of Orissa.

Dear students, you are graduating at a time when India is emerging as the fastest growing economy in the world. Our economic growth has been quite impressive and consistent as well. Our technological advances in sectors like Information Technology, Space Technology have drawn attention of the world. Looking at the rising growth rate I am confident that you will be able to see India becoming a great developed nation and I would like you as future professionals to script the growth of emerging India.

The present global trends reflect that it is the power of technological advancement that will dominate in the years to come. It is the technology which will play a dominating

role to make India a developed nation. If India and Orissa have to keep pace with the ever changing global scenario we have to ensure that we have the ability to use the technology and harness it to our benefit. Our technical institutions have great responsibility to prepare our students into skilled and technical professionals to meet future challenges confidently and successfully. VSS University of Technology, Burla continuing with core values and ethics of University College of Engineering, the premier engineering institution of the state today boasts of imparting technical education at par with the best in each of the existing disciplines. It has produced successful alumni who have not only excelled in their profession but also contributed to the development and growth of the state and country as well. I am sure VSS University of Technology, Burla with its rich heritage will continue to enrich the present and shape the future.

Today we live in a 'Knowledge Society' or 'Gyan Yug'. In this era of explosion of knowledge, one has to continuously strive to keep abreast of latest developments and expand the horizon of knowledge. Both technology and innovation are fundamental to build knowledge economy. VSS University of Technology has a very important and strategic role to play in this direction. Today engineering education sector has been growing at a fast pace in India and it has been in great demand among the young generation. It is no doubt a healthy sign as we will be having more engineering professionals to propel the process of growth and development of the nation. But at the same time it is important to have a curriculum designed from time to time to the demand of present time. There is a need to incorporate emerging changes in the disciplines concerned.

We feel proud of our students passing from our institutions and universities who are doing very well worldwide but at the same time we face shortage of employable manpower in most areas. The biggest challenge before us is to equip our students with employable talent and skill to take advantage of these opportunities. Here the design of curriculum is important. I also feel that industry-academia collaboration is very important to the development of human resource. Our universities should be more sensitive on the matter and invite industries and corporate houses to equip our young men and women with

modern knowledge, skills and techniques and enhance their productive capacity. There has to be more involvement of industry if we have to convert our large youth population into human capital. For this, we require vigilant planning and effective execution machinery.

Research is another aspect on which we have to give more attention and introduce research orientation programme for students. I believe the most important part of education is to develop the capacity of critical thinking that ultimately leads to power of innovation. Research enhances the capacity of critical thinking. Students are required to work with the faculty in their research project so that they develop interest towards research activities. After all, research leads to new findings and knowledge and it is because of the results of research we are benefited in different sectors. Our former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam said, "It is through the process of innovation that knowledge is converted into wealth." Universities must be the provider and facilitator of research. So, research work should be given importance at university level and for this, our students need to be encouraged more by the faculty. The universities doing more research are finding themselves at the forefront in academic sphere and are treated as the best. I would like to urge the VSS University of Technology to take the lead and develop required infrastructure and get funding from different sources like UGC to take up research activities in more number. Technology must move from the portals of universities to the field. It is a challenge for our young students to have the ability to innovate with responsibility and to develop with sustainability

Orissa is a beautiful state. In terms of culture and tradition it is the richest state in the country, we have been blessed with huge deposits of minerals, we have also plenty of human resource yet it is not that developed as it should be. It is indeed a great challenge to turn things into our favour. We have to first get rid of poverty and illiteracy, the biggest hurdles on our progress and development. It is poverty that leads to illiteracy but literacy drives away poverty. I am very happy that our students under Gyanloka programme launched by me have been working with determination to enhance literacy rate in the State.

When our young men and women have taken this cause, I am sure they will soon

be successful in making Orissa a fully literate State. When I am talking of our youth, it is their youthful energy and vigour which makes the difference and when they are convinced to a cause they are bound to achieve it. My dear students, you are the youths of this country. You are the dream of India, you are the strength of India and you are the future of India. You have to be the force that will propel all round development of India which is young India compared to other countries with 55 percent of its population below the age of 25 years.

Today I am addressing the future engineers and professionals who have to meet the challenges in transforming Orissa to a progressive and developed state in the country. Orissa is now passing through massive industrialization and it has become an investor-friendly state with big industries coming to Orissa for setting mineral and coal based industries. It is the time to take advantage of the situation. I am sure our young engineers will rise to the occasion and establish themselves as leaders.

For our young graduates, the road ahead is long. As they are going out to a world where they will be working with community they need to realize that an engineer's job does not involve mere technology, it involves people. An important part of the job is to find solutions with effective utilization of resources available at hand because in the practical world one will often meet resource constraints. It is a great challenge to use resources and create best product with less pressure on our ecology. One has to find out innovative means of handling mining and engineering solutions to sustainable development.

Amidst all these what is important to become a successful professional is discipline and character. Without these everything will be meaningless. So, our students as they grow up in the campus must adhere to discipline, harmony and character. The campus should be peaceful for studies and students should concentrate on studies, be cordial and friendly to each other and may enjoy every moment of their stay in the university. Let the VSS University of Technology continue to stress upon strong academic foundation and simultaneously strive to improve the personality of its students and make them aware of the responsibility towards society.

With these words, I have great pleasure to be with you all today and wish our students very bright future and the University to scale great heights in days ahead as a premier centre of technical education and research in the country.

Jai Hind.