

Convocation Address to be delivered by His Excellency Shri Murlidhar C. Bhandare, Governor of Orissa, India at the Graduation Ceremony of the University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba, Australia at 10 AM on September 11, 2010

I am glad to be here in Australia, a land of breathtaking natural beauty which one finds in its soaring mountains, rolling grasslands and enchanting creeks. I am really overjoyed to be here in this beautiful country, aptly described by the great Australian poet, Graeme King as the “timeless paragon of nature.” It reminds me of the landscape of Orissa, celebrated in the memorable lines of one of the great Oriya poets, Dr. Mayadhar Mansingh as a “land gloriously clothed in the eternal greenery of lovely woodlands.”

I am happy to be here at Toowoomba, which is popularly known as the Garden City of Australia. The city, as you all know, is famous for its Flower Festival, held in September every year. I am told that many of the city's major parks and gardens are especially prepared for the Festival, which also includes a prominent Home Garden Competition. I heard that people from other places visit the city during the festival.

It may not be out of place here to tell you that Orissa, the State I serve as its Governor, is also a place of tourists' delight.

Every year, visitors from almost all parts of the world visit this land of incredible beauty, where waves of the sea breaking on its coast cast a magic spell on the mind and the forested hills and green valleys weave a world of dreams; where exquisite temples, historic monuments and rock-cut caves speak volumes of the magnificent art and rich culture of an ancient race. The sculpture on the walls of the Sun Temple at Konark is sheer poetry on stone. I take this opportunity to invite you all to visit this beautiful State at your leisure and convenience.

Toowoomba is also a prominent centre of education. The city has great educational institutions which attract students from all over the world. I came to know that your university has approximately 27,000 enrolments, including over 7,000 international students representing more than 100 nationalities' pursuing studies in several streams -- arts, science, engineering, law and business studies. This is really a place where young men and women coming from different cultures learn together and interact with each other. Indeed, a fine example of togetherness and harmony.

The Faculty of Business, which is holding its Graduation Ceremony today, is the largest Faculty in the University and prides itself on providing the highest quality business education through its four academic schools: Accounting, Economics and Finance; Information Systems; Law and Management and Marketing. I am glad to be here with you for your Graduation Ceremony.

Today, management education across the globe is becoming more and more challenging, particularly in the wake of threats posed to the business world due to unpredictable market situation and rapid change in technology. The onus now lies on B-Schools and professional institutions, those championing the cause of new age education to transform the obstacles into new possibilities and opportunities. While grooming the future action leaders and next generation management professionals, the University must infuse in them the spirit of down to earth entrepreneurial humility and a deep-rooted concern for its stakeholders. Simultaneously, it is to be seen that students acquire skills of decision-making, time management and technical knowledge in order to make resource optimization the central aspect of managerial function. The future managers should not only be good managers but also good

motivators who should lead by example. By understanding the consumers' needs they can build an organization, an industry and the society at large.

The demands of the knowledge society that we live in compel us to rethink the way we have conducted our business so far and chalk out strategies for the future. Now, in a more competitive climate, the responsibilities of the business organizations and the managers have become much greater. The kind of world that we are moving into is essentially a world in which it will be hardly possible for a country to reach its optimum economic potential if it is not able to compete with other countries. In a climate of globalization and liberalization, the key now lies with effective management practices based on application of technology.

However, effective management practices are not enough. They must also be efficient. That is, the firms must be able to fulfill the organizational goals and do so on time by using resources available as judiciously as possible. The management must also keep in mind that while making profit it should also give back to society from which it has received all its resources. The firm must aim at helping the disadvantageous sections of the society; this is

known as Corporate Social Responsibility. It can be done by opening schools, healthcare facilities, etc. Thus, while trying to run a successful business organization we must remember that maximizing wealth is not the only objective.

Now, let me speak a few words to the graduates of Law. I was a student of Law and I have practiced in the Bombay High Court and the Supreme Court of India for two years short of six decades. I know that there is a lot in common between the legal systems of our two countries. As former colonies of the erstwhile British Empire, both Australia and India inherit, to a great extent, the basic tenets of the British judicial system. India has a written Constitution which upholds democracy, rule of law, human rights, equality and development. It promises to secure to all its citizens justice, social, economic and political; liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; equality of status and opportunity and to promote among them all fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation.

Law is a noble and learned profession. A lawyer wears a gown which has a pouch. In old days, no lawyer asked for a fee. A client used to put some coin—a penny or a pound -- in the pouch.

A former Chief Justice of Bombay High court, Justice M.C. Chagla used to remind us that the court must weigh the farthings of the poor in their weight of gold. Mr. Viswanath Shastry, one of the topmost lawyers of Supreme Court of India, used to travel by train and walk to the Supreme Court. Once he appeared for a client who, by winning a case, earned millions. The client signed a blank cheque, placed it before the lawyer and requested him to fill in the amount. But Mr. Shastry charged only the standard fee of Rs 1680 a day multiplied by the number of days he appeared for him.

One has to decide whether to fill one's heart or one's pocket. As a lawyer, I have no regrets for appearing for the poor, because my profession filled my and my wife Sunanda's heart fully, without an iota of feeling that we have missed something in our life. Our young graduates must remember the three 'i's for a lawyer: independence, integrity and industry, and the five 'c's for a judge—character, caliber, compassion, courtesy and not the least, common sense. The root of the matter combines commonsense with learned reasoning.

Now, a few words about human rights. It is the sacred duty of all, especially the youth, to see that in today's world human rights

are protected, promoted and not violated. Humanity today is languishing in a culture of violence and hatred instead of basking in the sunshine of peace, tolerance, harmony and brotherhood. There are instances of violation of human rights in different forms at different places. Attacks on human rights take place even today. The terrorist attack on my city of birth, Mumbai on 26th November 2008 is a recent case of brutality against innocent civilians. I recall an incident that rocked a crowded market in Delhi two years ago. A 10 year old boy picked up a plastic bag which was dropped by two men on a motorcycle and shouted, "Uncle, you dropped something." Immediately afterwards, the bomb in the plastic bag exploded and the boy's head was blown off.

Terrorism poses a serious threat to peace, democracy, human rights, security and development. It pulls down the pillars of democracy and destroys the most fundamental of all human rights—the right to life, particularly that of innocent people. Terrorism, by its very nature, denies all that is legitimate in a civilized society and threatens its very existence. It undermines the very foundation every civil society. It replaces the civilized law by the law of the jungle and results in violence and bloodshed.

The forces of violence and terror can be defeated by the power of peace and goodwill. Peace initiatives can bring a solution to the problem of violence. We must understand the genesis of this evil. What is stated in the Preamble of the UNESCO Constitution is particularly apt in this context: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed." Poverty, hatred, discrimination and lack of sensitivity -- all contribute to the nurturing of such evils. The best remedy lies in eradicating poverty and in bringing the entire mankind into the orbit of peace, prosperity and progress, ensuring for every citizen a life of equal dignity. I take this opportunity to call upon the youth to work for the removal of the ugly spot of poverty from the beautiful face of Mother Earth and to fight all forms of terrorism in order to establish a peaceful society.

Rapid growth in technology has transformed the whole world into a global village. There are about 7 billion people living on this planet professing different religious faiths and speaking hundreds of different languages. Their food habits are so different; so also their dress. Yet they are all human beings, possessing the same

human values of love, kindness and goodwill. We must cherish the values of this unity in diversity.

A university plays a vital role in giving the right ideas to the youth, thereby shaping the destiny of mankind. I am reminded of the words of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, a great visionary and the first Prime Minister of India, who once said, “A university stands for tolerance, for reason and for adventure of ideas. It stands for the onward march of the human race towards even higher objectives.”

Dear students, I take this opportunity to congratulate you all for having been admitted to the degrees and diplomas of this great University. I am confident that you will serve your society with wisdom and courage. I notice the brightness in the faces of my young friends sitting here. I am sure they will work with responsibility and dedication to make the world a place worth-living. I wish them all a very bright future. Once again, I thank the University authorities for inviting me to this Graduation Ceremony.