

Tradition and Culture

ADDRESS OF HIS EXCELLENCY, SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE, GOVERNOR OF ODISHA AND CHANCELLOR OF UTKAL UNIVERSITY OF CULTURE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 3RD CONVOCATION AT RABINDRA MANDAP, BHUBANESWAR ON 04.01. 2012 AT 04.00 P.M.

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to preside over the 3rd Convocation of Utkal University of Culture. This Convocation Ceremony has certainly brought cheers among all and particularly among the students who have great expectations of this memorable day in their life. As the Chancellor of this University, I have great pleasure to extend my good wishes to all present on this occasion. I congratulate the Vice Chancellor and his team for holding this Convocation Ceremony much to the delight of students, faculty members and others as well. I am sure the University will make every effort to hold convocation regularly and ensure that students get every opportunity to enjoy their happiest moment.

Today, Utkal University of Culture is proud to have a worthy son of the soil, Shri Lalit Mansinghji as the Chief Guest on its 3rd Convocation Ceremony. It is my great pleasure to extend him a warm welcome. Being influenced and guided by his illustrious father Late Dr. Mayadhar Mansingh who was a great poet and academician, Shri Lalit Mansinghji has groomed himself accordingly and rose to eminence as he went on to serve in different key positions in the country and abroad like Foreign Secretary of India and India's Ambassador to USA with distinction. But above all, he has distinguished himself as an Odia who has never forgotten his duty and responsibility towards his motherland. Be it in the fields of administration, social service or culture he is always at the forefront to serve and contribute his best. He is even closely associated with many socio-cultural organizations of the State. On many occasions, that I got to interact with him I find myself greatly impressed with his

concern for the development of Odisha, preservation of Odisha's rich cultural heritage and mostly with his humbleness which is becoming very rare. Shri Mansinghji has just delivered his enlightening address where he has clearly highlighted the ever importance and relevance of culture for development and the role of this unique university towards preservation and promotion of our rich cultural values. I profusely thank him for his words of wisdom and I am sure our young and upcoming artists and faculty members will be immensely benefited and inspired from his address to work dedicatedly to preserve this precious heritage.

Utkal University of Culture has made the 3rd Convocation Ceremony memorable by conferring degree of *Honoris Causa* on outstanding individuals in the fields of performing art, visual art, music, dance, literature, etc. All of them have carved a niche for themselves in their respective field and they have achieved it because of sheer determination, hard work and strong desire to excel. They are inspiration for our younger generation. It is indeed a privilege for our students to find these distinguished personalities so near which I am sure they will cherish it throughout life. I congratulate all the recipients of Degree of *Honoris Causa* and wish they will continue to enrich the cultural ambiance with their significant contributions and receive many more distinctions in days ahead.

Convocation is an important event for both the University and its students. It is a splendid academic ceremony that generates lot of enthusiasm, excitement and joy. I am happy that the Utkal University of Culture is today awarding degrees to graduates and post-graduates belonging to the last four years. Here, I am seeing the same excitement and joy on the faces of our graduating students on receiving degrees and medals before their teachers, parents, relations and friends. I am happy to be with them on this joyous occasion. I take this opportunity to

extend my hearty congratulations to all of them and also greetings to their teachers and family members.

Dear students, as you embark on new journeys in the world outside the portals of your university you will certainly face various challenges and find new situations. But I am sure you will apply knowledge that you have acquired studying here to your work successfully and overcome the challenge with courage and confidence. Do bear in mind that there is no short cut to success. Success can only be achieved through hard work. Character and discipline are two important qualities of life. Swami Vivekananda had said “Give me one hundred youth of character and I can change the face of this country”. Our young men and women should always strive for character and discipline and believe in hard work which will lead them to achieve success.

As Indians we feel proud of our rich culture and tradition. Of course there are diversities but throughout history India has been culturally united. Our culture is the cumulative result of centuries of evolution and continuous synthesis. Our values and attitudes are greatly moulded by our rich culture. It is said that a cultured mind has its doors and windows open while a closed and prejudiced mind betrays lack of culture. As the students of culture, there is a lot of expectation from you to lead from the front and set a high tradition.

The artistes and litterateurs are the torchbearers of the society. They represent the society and they also act as social educators and teachers. The chisel of a sculptor, the brush of a painter and the *ghungru* of a dancer can make and unmake a society. Similarly, the pen of a writer is very important in building opinion. Hence, on this occasion, when so many artists are graduating I call upon all of them to be

constructive, creative and always to be guided by our rich culture and tradition.

Utkal University of Culture, the first of its kind in the whole country, has a prime objective of promoting education, research and training in various spheres of culture for the advancement of knowledge and for the betterment of the society. Through its affiliated colleges it is imparting education on various courses including traditional culture studies and even there are courses on Buddhist Studies, Women Studies, Social Work and Fashion Design. It is heartening to find large interest among the girl students towards these studies and they are also doing well. Even I find that there are as many as 23 women gold medalists among total gold medal winners of last four years. I congratulate them and am sure many will follow their examples and come forward to study various branches of studies on culture. There are also Ph.D degree recipients today. But we need to encourage more research work to explore new things and arrive at new information. The University will surely look into this aspect and develop infrastructure accordingly. The University must continue to be the leading contributor to scholarship relating to art and culture. It must develop a user friendly relationship with the artists and artisans of the State for mutual betterment. It has to take up the challenge to produce qualified and trained individuals who are sensitive to the needs of society. There must be a healthy relationship between the senior artistes and the young graduates. This will not only benefit both but also help the cause of art and culture.

Odisha is culturally the richest State in the country. Odisha's cultural heritage emerges as an almost sublime synthesis of harmony

and stimulating creativity. The scenic and serene beauty of the State makes it one of the most beautiful and attractive States. The gigantic monuments, temples, beautiful sea beach and wildlife attract thousands of tourists year after year. Let us preserve and add to Odisha's glory and greatness. Let us act as catalysts towards the furtherance of the age-old glorious tradition of Odisha. I am sure Utkal University of Culture will meet all expectations and attract more and more young men and women and establish itself as a premier centre of studies on culture in the country.

With these words, I have immense pleasure to be with you all today. I hope your good will and support for Utkal University of Culture will continue in future as well. I wish the students very bright future and the University all success.

Jai Hind.