



Centurion
UNIVERSITY

*Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities!*

CENTURION UNIVERSITY

1st
Convocation
2013

Address of
His Excellency
Dr. S. C. Jamir
Governor of Odisha
Visitor of Centurion University

09 November 2013



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Chief Guest of the Convocation, Shri Subroto Bagchi,
President, Centurion University of Technology and
Management, Prof. (Dr.) Mukti Kanta Mishra,
Vice President, Prof. D. N. Rao,
Vice-Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) D. Nageswar Rao,
Invitees, Faculty Members,
Graduating Students and their family members,
My dear students,
Media Persons, Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me immense pleasure to be in your midst today and preside over the first Convocation of Centurion University of Technology and Management in my capacity as the Visitor of the University. This is indeed a momentous occasion. I am pleased to convey my good wishes to Mr. Subroto Bagchi, an accomplished writer in his own right besides being a world-class corporate leader who is the Chief Guest today and has just delivered the First Convocation address. At the same time it gives me great satisfaction to confer awards/ degrees to the first batch of graduating students of this University which has the distinction of the first multi-sector private state University of Odisha. I take this opportunity to extend my

hearty felicitations to them and congratulate their teachers and family members who are the pillar of strength and support behind their academic achievement and success. Needless to say, this is indeed a moment of great joy and satisfaction in their life as their academic efforts bore fruits in getting their much cherished degrees. As they step out of the familiar confines of their alma mater and enter the real world of myriad challenges and boundless opportunities, I am sure the knowledge and the training they have acquired in the institution will enable them to face the world with confidence and emerge successful. The nation has great expectations from our next generation of managers, engineers and other technical professionals to provide effective leadership to the country. Just four days ago India achieved great distinction as another chapter was added to our glorious space mission with the successful launching of rocket to Mars. Our country is poised to emerge as a modern and prosperous nation. So I would like our young men and women to remember that their future is linked to the future of the country. They have an opportunity to shape it. Youth are driven by youthful spirit, enthusiasm and ambition and when ambition is coupled with idealism it is sure to strike gold. For a glorious future, they must have to work hard and contribute to the country's social and economic development. Their deeds will bring glory to the alma mater, the State and the country and to all of us.

Centurion University is the fruition of dedicated efforts of a group of ambitious professionals who made a start from

Gajapati, a tribal dominated and socially and educationally backward district. These efforts are indeed laudable as by setting up this University they have certainly contributed to the expansion and accessibility of higher and professional education in the State and put the district on the educational map of the country.

Growth and expansion in this short span led the University to have five campuses offering under-graduate, post graduate and doctoral courses in the fields of engineering & technology, management and applied sciences in addition to Skill and Vocational Training and Social Entrepreneurship initiatives and its social outreach entity, “Gram Tarang” deserves appreciation. The out of the box thinking is evident from its various social entrepreneurship activities. I am sure more such initiatives and activities will be launched by the University later on. I have the pleasure to visit the University's campus at the outskirts of Bhubaneswar and dedicated the Centurion Learning Tab, a course-specific learning tablet developed by the University much to the delight of students. Though it is in its initial years, the University is able to get an eloquent mention in the United Nations debate on “Right to Education” in the address of the Secretary General to the General Assembly. This is indeed commendable.

A university builds its reputation largely on relevant and innovative courses, quality teaching and incisive research. Our efforts of expanding higher education infrastructure have yielded good results and we even take pride in

having the largest higher education system in the world with over 650 universities, and three million colleges across the country. But a recent survey assesses that none of the Indian Universities finds place among the top 200 universities of the world. Why is it so? Have we sacrificed quality in our scramble for quantity? I believe, this is the most pertinent question you as academics should be asking and seeking an answer for.

The objects of the university can only be realized if the university can continuously revamp its academic programmes so as to enable the students to meet the requirements of the gainful employment and promote principles and ethical norms to guide scientific and technology development and social transformation. The University can prosper by enhancing linkage between culture and development through capacity building, sharing of knowledge and promotion of the free flow of ideas and universal access to information. I sincerely hope that Centurion University of Technology and Management will continue to get focused on successful dissemination and advancement of knowledge, wisdom and understanding through its innovative methods of teaching and actionable research. All out efforts are to be made to promote education in accordance with Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to improve the quality of education through diversification of contents and methods. Let CUTM chart its own path through the process of evolution and transformation to achieve its very mission and make a mark.

We have a vision to take India forward in every respect and make it a developed nation. Education has been recognised as the most important tool for transformation of a society - socially, economically and politically. When it is higher education the role is immense. In the rapidly changing today's world when scientific and technological development and innovation resulting in unprecedented progress in human society and influencing every sphere of activities, education and skill development gets maximum focus to match the demand for energetic, high quality and trained human resources who are capable to meet the present day requirements. Higher education has to play a significant role in meeting this demand.

However, I would like to quote the words of Swami Vivekananda on education which are most appropriate here. He said, "Education is not the amount of information that is put in your brain and runs riot there undigested in your life. We must have life-building, man-making, character-making and assimilation of ideas." The Father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi believed that to create a truly educated individual, one has to train the mind to think, enable the hands to acquire skills, and open the heart to human ethics.

In this context the role of teachers is important. A successful teacher is one who maximizes the interest of the students not only in academic but also in other activities and the one, whose knowledge is handed down to students to make them more successful and earn more fame than themselves. I am sure the teachers present here

will raise themselves as role models for students to emulate.

The idea of a University calls for universal knowledge and comprehensive development. Therefore, a teacher has to do a lot more with the students, and for the students, than merely teaching. My dear students, you are well trained, well educated and are fully equipped to contribute to the upliftment and all round development of society in general and Odisha in particular. Education does not mean only acquisition of degrees and certificates. It means more than that. It aims to bring out the responsibility and the concern for the society and the fellow citizens. Here I am reminded again of the words of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, who said. "Real education consists in drawing the best out of yourself. What better book can there be than the book of humanity?" The aim of education is the knowledge not only of facts but also of values.

The teaching should have a real time impact to generate a real interest and love in our work, and more than that a self-propelling joy and happiness in our enthusiasm to contribute meaningfully to the society. If a University can teach that to young men and women who subject themselves to study and to prepare themselves for the battle of life and challenging day to day life, then I am convinced that a university has accomplished its mission and conferred a more lasting benefit in the young minds, than helping them to pass bookish examinations and lead a routine life.

Odisha is a state with rich cultural heritage and it is richly endowed with natural resources. But it is great irony that the State continues to reel under the economically backwardness. Poverty and illiteracy continue to be the biggest hurdle on the path of development and progress. I appeal to the students and faculty members to launch a mass based movement by organizing camps at least fifteen days a year for motivating and teaching children in villages and tribal areas, emphasizing not only on their literacy and education, but also insisting on 'no drop outs' particularly among girls. We must enhance the face of our education. I also suggest to the students to spare a little of their time towards society by involving in several activities so as to bring smiles on the faces of poor, needy and less fortunate brethren.

Let the CUTM enable young minds to be sensitive to human values, ecology, and social ethos and become good human beings. I am confident that in the years ahead, the state of Odisha will get a boost on its journey of progress and prosperity from the contributions of this University and its alumni. I wish the students all success and the University to attain new heights in days ahead.

Jai Hind!

Dr. S. C. Jamir

Governor of Odisha

Visitor of Centurion University