



Centurion
UNIVERSITY

*Shaping Lives...
Empowering Communities...*

CENTURION UNIVERSITY

4th
Convocation
2016

Address of His Excellency,

Dr. S. C. Jamir

the Governor of Odisha
and Visitor of the Centurion University

26 November 2016

CENTURION UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY & MANAGEMENT
PARALAKHEMUNDI, ODISHA.



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Chief Guest of the Convocation, Mr. Anthony Bohm,
Convocation Speaker and Guest of Honour,
Shri Ram Servapalli,
Distinguished Guest, Prof. Ragnhild Lund,
President, Centurion University of Technology and
Management, Prof. Mukti Kanta Mishra,
Vice President, Prof. D.N. Rao,
Vice-Chancellor, Prof. H. Panda,
Registrar, Prof. Ashok Mishra,
Members of the Board of Governors,
Graduating Students and their Family Members,
Invitees, Students and Members from Australian
Universities,
Faculty Members, Staff and dear Students,
Media Persons, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to address you today on the Fourth Convocation of Centurion University of Technology and Management in my capacity as the Visitor of the University.

Convocation has the deepest and most intimate meaning for students. It is special because it relates to excellence and success. Graduation is a very noteworthy milestone in the lives of students. I would like to begin by congratulating

our graduating young men and women on their hard work and the success they have achieved. By receiving their cherished degrees today, dear students, you have proved that you learnt the lessons well.

While sharing your moment of joy let me thank those who supported you directly or indirectly to ensure that you achieved your cherished degree and lead you to this special day - your parents and guardians, friends, faculties and other staff at the University. As you embark on the next stage of your journey, I encourage you to make good of your potential and strength that you have shown during your years of studying.

The University is privileged to have distinguished personalities like Mr. Anthony Bohm, Mr. Ram Servapalli and Prof. Ragnhild Lund on this august occasion. I am sure their very presence and the address delivered by Mr. Servapalli will inspire students to strive for excellence with dedication and commitment. Besides, we also have students and members from Australian Universities today. Their presence will help in our endeavour for better student integration and educational exchange programmes.

It is true to say that the contest for pre-eminence in the 21st century will be won on the campuses of the world's universities. In this context, we find ourselves wanting as no single Indian institution is in the list of top 200 institutions of the world till Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and IIT, Delhi figured in the QS World University Rankings of 2015-16 to the great delight of Indian academic community. It is true that the ranking scene is beginning to change as a result of several pro-active steps.

The challenge now lies in concentrating and promoting quality education, research and innovation strongly in our universities. The research work of universities enriches teaching and learning, creating path-breaking scholarship that expands students' ability to tackle with the most current and pressing issues. For an academic, teaching brings enormous satisfaction but research is an activity that fuels creative energy and enriches the intellectual life of a university. Teaching and Research are inseparable. Research is not only critical to economic and social development of society, it is also critical to the mission of our universities. Therefore, for a university it is important to nurture a spirit of innovation and inquiry in young minds and encourage them to research activity and to aspire of becoming an innovator to tackle challenges. It is said, 'innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower'.

Let me draw your attention on another serious challenge before all of us and before the country. A day hardly goes by without discussing on the serious shortage in skills that our country experiences and how this impacts on our abilities to deliver services or meet the demands of our growing economy. Some are blaming the curriculum and career offerings in our schooling system and universities. Some blame the inability of our workplaces to plan for future needs of the skills. In the process, new definitions such as priority skills, growth skills, critical skills and so on have emerged and add to the confusion. In the context of these developments it is badly needed to develop appropriate strategies to deal with problems of acute skills shortage. Importation of skills is a temporary measure; it may sound attractive but is not sustainable in the long term.

I believe that it is critical that we forge and develop initiatives and strong partnerships in order to meet current skills demands and to address future socio, economic and individual aspirations. I am pleased that Centurion University is a step ahead with its focus on skill building and vocational training through the School of Vocational Education and Training since its inception in 2010. I am told that under its Social Entrepreneurship Outreach endeavour, Gram Tarang Employability Training Services has trained over 70,000 youth across its centers in a number of States besides Odisha and is working towards an overall mission of making one lakh youth employable annually. I congratulate the University as the skilling activities at Gram Tarang won accolades from National and State Governments and from important international institutions. I wish its skilling programme will continue to benefit many in days ahead and help bridging the gap.

Ladies and gentlemen, technological change in the workplace occurs at such a rapid pace, that any given state of preparedness can be obsolete with the years. Knowledge and information are no doubt important, but on reality check we lack skills and innovation. Dear students, there are some important lessons to learn from this. Firstly, pure knowledge is worthless – skills and ideas are everything. Unlike an oyster which provides a safe, nurturing and stable environment for the pearl, the world is ever changing, unstable and unpredictable and we must change with it. The skills and competencies of today will be redundant in two to five years time. Hence as you graduate today, you must make a personal pledge to constantly up-skill yourselves, study further to expand your know-how's.

The second lesson deals with passion – passion for your profession – passion for your community – passion for your state and country and passion for your world. Passion gives you the energy to keep growing and the means to enact healing change.

Thirdly, I would like you to learn from your mistakes. Never be afraid of mistakes. If you are not making mistakes, then you are not doing anything! Mistakes are proof that you are trying. When you hear about glaring successes, you only see the glamour of the projects that ended successfully without peeling back and examining the plethora of risks and at times failures. These failures have been the biggest education to transform failure to success.

Being students of technology and on the threshold of your careers, I urge upon you to know that technology is growing and you have to work hard to keep abreast of it and secondly, you have the magical opportunity to create the right technology. So I emphasize on learning that must not stop after you carry away the degree or diploma today. Learning goes on wherever you are and whatever you are doing. You must continue to learn new things and that is what will lead you to all kinds of achievements. Eagerness and a commitment for new knowledge is what you need to cultivate in order to be abreast of this new world. Just as you upgrade computer programmes and so on, you have to upgrade them all the time.

Dear students, the world that you are entering is more complex and challenging. You are graduating in the most amazing of times, when being young and educated presents you with immeasurable opportunities brought on by

amongst others the fleeting speed of technological advancement, fast emerging economy with transformative changes as India looks to establish its rightful place in the world.

Life is like a large piece of marble and you are the sculptor. The mind, will and skill of a sculptor decide the shape of this marble. Likewise, your mind, will and skill will help shape your life. Do not allow circumstances to restrict your dreams! Learning does not end when one leaves institution. You must strive to improve and excel, no matter which pathway you are going to take. With the advantage of having your education at this University, coupled with hard work, positive attitude and knowledge, your dreams will take you as far as you can imagine. Do look for the opportunities that hide behind adversities, as there is always another way of looking at the world. Please remember that no situation is permanent and you have only started the long journey that can only be sustained through hard work. I look forward to your continuing this journey and to seeing all of you become successful as entrepreneurs or in your chosen vocation in the years to come.

I note that Centurion University has set up its three constituent campuses mostly in remote and tribal districts like Gajapati, Rayagada, Bolangir. Each year hundreds of students join programmes at the University in the honest belief that it could build a brighter future for them. Therefore, the responsibility to help them realize their dreams is enormous, not only because each dream is precious, but also because their futures mesh with the desired future of the State and the country. Universities of Technology cannot function in isolation because they are integral component of

the Indian economy. As a University of Technology in the 21st century, I urge upon you to strive and be dedicated in sending out students with: the learning ability to make knowledge useful, to work in a team, integrate skills commitment to sustainable development and high ethical standards. In short, the output that is your students find their usefulness as input for the industry of India and of the globe.

My very best wishes to students and to the University.

God Bless you.

Jai Hind.

Dr. S. C. Jamir
Governor of Odisha
and Visitor of the Centurion University

DR. S. C. JAMIR

Governor of Odisha

Dr. S. C. Jamir, son of Senayangba Head Dobashi of Mokokchung district, was born on October 17, 1931 at Ungma village.

He was appointed as the Governor of Goa on 17th July, 2004 and served in that capacity till July 2008. He held the additional charge of Maharashtra. He was then appointed as Governor of Maharashtra and sworn in on 9th March, 2008 and served till 22nd January, 2010. During this period, he held additional charge of Governor of Gujarat from 24th July, 2009 to 26th November, 2009.

In recognition of his distinguished public service Dr. Jamir was conferred with several awards prestigious such as Rashtriya Ekta Puraskar by the Committee for National Integration, National Citizen Award, "Arch of Asia" at Bangkok, Distinguished Leadership Award titled Man of the Year 1998 by the American Biographical Institute, USA. He was conferred Doctorate of Divinity (Hon Causa) by the University of Serampore, West Bengal and Doctor of Literature (Hon Causa) by Nagaland University.

The hallmark of Dr. S. C. Jamir's life has been his dedicated work for the unity and integrity of the country, peaceful solution of the Naga political problem with honour and dignity. His life was attempted four times by the anti-national elements for his steadfast stand for the unity and integrity of the country.

Dr. S. C. Jamir is married to Imkonglemla and now they have four children and twelve grand children. He is a forceful speaker, a prolific writer and above all a value based statesman. His hobby is reading books. He is a sports lover and even now he plays badminton.