



3rd
Convocation
2010

Address of
His Excellency
Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare
the Governor of Orissa
and Chancellor
of the Ravenshaw University, Cuttack

4 March 2010

Hon'ble Chief Guest and Recipient of Degree Honoris Causa, Dr. B.B. Rathji,

Other Distinguished Recipients of Degrees Honoris Causa,

Shri Chitta Ranjan Dasji,

Shri Prafulla Mohantiji,

Shri P. V. Krishnamoorthyji,

Shri Jatin Dasji,

Shri Pavani Parameswara Raoji,

Vice Chancellor, Shri Devdas Chhotrayji,

Members of the Executive Council,

Senate and Academic Council,

Registrar, Dr. Smarapriya Mishraji,

Recipients of Degrees, Diplomas and Medals,

Members of the Faculty, Staff and my dear Students,

Distinguished Invitees,

Media Persons, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel extremely happy to preside over another Convocation, the third of Ravenshaw University today. Holding this most important and cherished event in the university calendar for the last three consecutive years indicates order and purpose. It is indeed very commendable. As Chancellor of this

University, I extend a very hearty welcome to everyone to this Convocation Ceremony.

It is my great pleasure to welcome our Chief Guest, Dr. Bhakta Bhushan Rathji, an eminent Materials Scientist with vast experience in academics as well as in research. A son of this soil, Shri Rathji has accepted the world as his work place and home. He has been conferred with the prestigious Padmabhusan Award for his significant contribution to the profession. It is a proud privilege on the part of the Ravenshaw University to confer honorary D.Sc. degree to Dr. Rath and the University feels grateful to him for his acceptance of this degree.

I thank Dr. Rathji for his inspiring and enlightening address. I was keenly following it and he has beautifully cited his experience, the present state of affairs at the global level and his vision for the future. I am sure his address will inspire and encourage our young men and women and strengthen their resolve to do something noble for the University and the Motherland.

Today the University is also proud to have inscribed names of outstanding personalities on its scrolls by conferring on them Honoris Causa doctorate degree. Shri Chitta Ranjan Dasji is a versatile genius: a freedom fighter, writer and social worker. Shri Prafulla Mohantiji's life is a saga of the making of an artist, writer, architect and town planner. Shri P.V. Krishnamoorthyji is a cult-figure in the domain of All India Radio and Television. Shri Jatin Dasji is a painter and sculptor of national and international repute. The acceptance of D.Litt. degree by these four distinguished individuals has added honour to this institution. Shri Pavani Parameshwara Raoji is a legal luminary of our country and this University feels honored for his acceptance of LL.D. degree. He has been conferred with the prestigious Padmabhusan Award for his significant contribution to the legal profession. I offer my hearty congratulations

to all the recipients and I am sure that with their indefatigable pursuit towards their goal and their achievements they shall continue to inspire the younger generation. Finding such personalities so close is definitely a moment for the students to remember for a long time.

Let me congratulate the recipients of degrees, medals and award winners for the hard work they had put in to be crowned with this success today. They have proved that it is only the hard work that takes one to the top and there is no short-cut to success. With this success, they have made themselves proud and also made their parents, teachers, relations and friends proud. But it is not the end of the road. It is just the beginning and the expectations are definitely high. When leaving the life in University and entering into a new phase in life which is exciting, full of challenges and opportunities, the foundation they have received here will help in building castles and to stride into the world with optimism and a big confidence in heart. I would like you to create an identity for yourself in the world you enter and bring fame not only to you but also to the alma mater and the country. I wish you all success in life.

I also take the opportunity to congratulate the faculty members and the parents who have worked hard and become instrumental to produce these talented young men and women. Many thinkers of the world are unanimous in their view that a University is characterized not by the magnificence of its building, but by the quality of its students and teachers. A teacher is characterized by the nobility of thought and breadth of vision. Parents give birth to the form of a human being and the teacher instills soul into it. In this way they both hold the key to their success.

Convocation is definitely an occasion for the student community to cherish throughout life. But it is little more than celebration alone. It is also an occasion for the university to reflect first upon its progress and achievements and set new goals and targets for the future. I have listened with interest to the address of the Vice Chancellor. In many ways, it has been a year of growth, achievements and new beginnings for the University. Still many promises are to be kept which have to be looked into with a sense of urgency. I congratulate the teaching and non-teaching communities who have contributed to refurbishing the image of this premier institution.

Ravenshaw College, established in 1868, grew into a University in 2006. As the hub of art and culture of Orissa, it has played the pivotal role in proliferation of knowledge in the State. It has been rightly said that the history of Ravenshaw College is the history of modern Orissa. The College Hall was the venue of the Legislative Assembly of Orissa as a newly formed State and it was here that rules were framed by the legislators to govern. It is very heartening that the University has taken all care so that the heritage hall retains its glorious past and becomes a place of attraction for generations to come. It is worthwhile quoting here the following words of the erstwhile Principal, Shri H. R. Batheja from his wonderful address on 18th January, 1936 on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the College: “And so we have at last a temple of learning, stately in its proportions, which compares not unfavourably with the only other temple – the temple of Jagannath for which Orissa is well known all over India. These twin monuments represent Orissa to the outside world and are a source of just pride to every Oriya.”

This institution has its own reputation to the cause of higher learning and intellectual advancement in the country. If one looks at the alumni or the teachers associated with this historic institution in the past, it is virtually a

who's who of outstanding personalities and legendary figures. It should be a matter of pride for all of you today for being part of a great educational and intellectual heritage.

Let me tell you here that it is not required to excavate history to assess the role and significance of an institution. It is important to what extent the living present becomes synonymous with the illustrious history. There is a time to bask in the glory of the past and there is a time to act, to perform acts that shall constitute memories for the future. And there is a time to regain one's vanishing glory, to set out to create still more glorious history. The touchstone is, to what extent does Ravenshaw University contribute in bringing smile to the poor, in removing dogma, prejudice and superstitions from the masses, in making a corruption – free society and above all in the creation of wholesome human beings? Let the books that are read here, lessons that are taught, experiments that are done, researches that are carried out and projects that are undertaken be not a repository of dead printed pages and of routine exercises. Let them be the source of simulation and progress.

My dear students, just feeling proud to study in such a great institution alone is not enough. It requires on your part to become great in character and attitude while growing up in this sacred environment. Always feel the sanctity of the campus and never allow anyone or create situation that will damage its sanctity and hamper the image. Make the best use of your time in the University and build yourself to carry on the rich legacy of brilliant students the institution has produced in its long history. Then only you can claim yourself to be the worthy successors of your illustrious predecessors.

My dear students, you the youth are the future, dream and strength of the nation. You are the true wealth of the country. Today India is the wealthiest

country in the world in terms of young population as we have 55 percent of the population below 25 years of age. 31 percent of our population are youths. Our young professionals whether in I.T. or other emerging fields are the most sought after at the global level. I always admire youths who promise a lot. I cherish their youthfulness, vitality, energy and enthusiasm. India is great because of the youthful men and women who have been the harbingers of change at different times right from the days of Independence. They love to take challenges and once get convinced, they are sure to achieve it with their spirit and vigour.

Here, I would like the students to motivate their life with realistic goal, to grow within relations of trust and brotherhood and listen to the music of heart in creating a society rooted in the ideals of peace, love and harmony. Raise yourself to be truly called an asset in nurturing democracy and taking care of its ideals. Never let yourself confined to acquiring degrees and certificates only as it is not the meaning of education in true sense. Rather education is the one that enables to realize the duty and responsibility towards family, society and the motherland. So, make yourself a responsible youth of conviction, commitment and character who can build our nation and take it on the path of progress and prosperity. The State of Orissa looks at you with great expectation in removing the two biggest hurdles on its path of development, that is, poverty and illiteracy with your knowledge and active involvement. The State is now passing through a phase of industrialization and infrastructure building. It is in a defining state and you, the students have to transform the possibilities into opportunities and take all advantages to make Orissa a progressive state in the country.

Let the words of Swami Vivekananda inspire you on your mission. He said and I quote “Out of the past is built the future. Look back, therefore, as far as you can drink deep of the eternal fountains that are behind, and after that, look forward, march forward and make India brighter, greater, much higher than she ever was. Our ancestors are great. We must first recall that. We must learn the elements of our being, the blood that courses in our veins. We must build an India yet greater than what she has been.”

With these words, I wish Ravenshaw University continues to live immortal and produces worthy citizens of the country who shall make the place we live in, happier and peaceful. I wish the students a very bright future.

Jai Hind.