



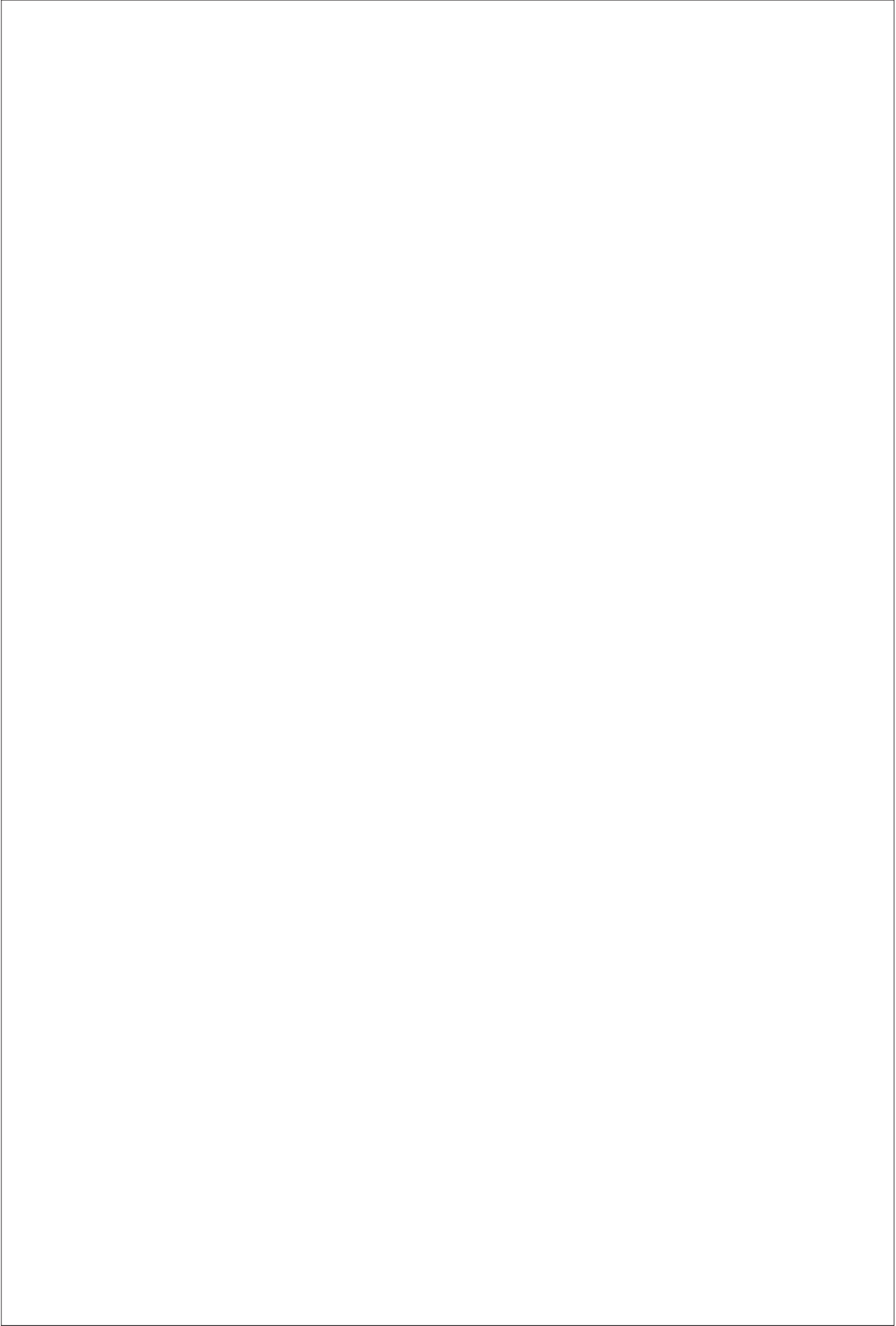
*3<sup>rd</sup>*  
*Convocation*  
*2010*

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Citations

Award of Degrees  
*honoris causa*

4 March 2010



## **Pavani Paramaswara Rao**

Citation for the Degree, Doctor of Law, Honoris Causa

You have been a highly acclaimed lawyer, an expert in jurisprudence, and a judicial activist of honour, fighting for justice for a prolonged period of nearly four decades.

Enrolled as an advocate on record in the Supreme Court of India, in the year 1969, you were elected as the President of the Bar Association of Supreme Court of India, the most prestigious body of lawyers in the country in 1991. To add to it, you are now the Vice Chairman of the Interim Board of Management, Supreme Court Bar Association since January this year. This is a testimony to your organizational skill and quality of leadership.

Your time at the Supreme Court is a long saga of many memorable legal episodes, constituting instances of judicial and professional excellence. Soon after the demolition of Babri Masjid in 1992, when the President's rule was imposed in four states held culpable, you astutely defended the union proclamations challenged in the Supreme Court against formidable opposition lawyers. You conceived, developed and presented the arguments of democratic secularism, which is a part of the fundamental structure of our constitution.

The interpretation of the Constitution of India has been your forte. You had stood up for the student community and piloted their fight against the evil of capitation fees in educational institutions. You had procured the legal mandate for government intervention in admissions to professional courses with the sole motive of preventing exploitation of students. All these have made you very distinguished in the vast crowded field of Indian lawyers.

Legal practice apart, your acumen has been manifest in activities of legal bodies and associations and in writings on constitutional law. You have been a member of the management of bodies such as Indian Law Institute, National Judicial Academy and National Law School. In addition to your seminal contributions to well-known books and journals, you are the distinguished co-author of the famous book 'Emergence and the Law'.

In recognition of your life time achievements, the Union Government had bestowed on you the prestigious Padma Bhushan Award in 2006.

Pavani Parameswara Rao, a forefront name in the lawyers circle in India, it is with utmost enthusiasm and respect, Ravenshaw University lauds your invaluable contribution to the development of law in India, and confers on you the degree of Doctor of Law, Honoris Causa.

## **P. V. Krishnamoorthy**

Citation for the Degree, Doctor of Literature, Honoris Causa

In the world of Indian broadcasting, you are a living legend. Your fortuitous appointment as the Station Director of All India Radio at Cuttack in 1950s ushered in what can be arguably the golden era of Cuttack Radio, and magically changed the existing cultural milieu.

Your influence on the cultural life of Cuttack was unsurpassed. We are beholden to those glorious years during which you nurtured and promoted such legends as Akshaya Mohanty, Bhubaneswari Mishra, Balakrushna Das and a long list of talents who later on gained national and international repute, such as Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra, and one whom you particularly groomed, Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia.

Your contribution to preserve the rich folk and rural tradition of Orissa is incomparable. Without doubt you are the one, whose single-most influence made Radio a listening habit in every educated home. Countless teachers and students of Ravenshaw were beneficiaries of your cultural initiatives in those halcyon days of Cuttack Radio. Icons like Dr. Harekrushana Mahatab, former Chief Minister and Dr. Prana Krushana Parija, one of the makers of modern Ravenshaw, were your personal admirers.

Your career is rich and influence pervasive. You revived the dying form of Oriya Yatra or Opera, and gave respectability by broadcasting them with great flourish

and fanfare. You fashioned in your own hands, the rise of Akshaya Mohanty the musical genius of Orissa who was your protégé. Your association with Kelucharan Mohapatra and Bhubaneswari Mishra led to magnificent production of dance dramas. You collected rare tribal music from the hinterland of Orissa. You taught the value of cultural networking by relating yourself to Kala Vikash Kendra and National Music Association of Cuttack. Your orchestral composition ‘Palishree’ and melodious music for that unforgettable duet of Talat Mahemmod and Nirmal Mishra, ‘Nirola e rate’ are still hummed and remembered after half a century.

In brief, you made the All India of Cuttack a buoyant and dynamic fulcrum of all cultural activities of the state.

PVK, as you are fondly known to your friends, the tireless foot soldier for the assertion of local cultures, as the head of the only Radio Station of Orissa in 1950s, your impact was deep and monolithic. In recognition of your immense contribution and commitment to culture, and in admiration of how you bear your advancing years with great grace and elegance, describing yourself ‘as a young man of 89’, the Ravenshaw University is elated and humbled to honour you by conferring the degree of Doctor of Literature, *Honoris Causa*.

## **Chitta Ranjan Das**

Citation for the Degree, Doctor of Literature, Honoris Causa

Born in 1923 in a village in Jagatsinghpur district, you discontinued your studies at Ravenshaw College to take part in the Quit India movement and were jailed for engaging in anti-British activities.

Educated at Santiniketan and Denmark, you dedicated yourself to the task of experimenting with innovative ways of educating the young in Orissa. As an inspiring educator at the jungle school set up by Nabakrishna Chaudhury in the fifties at Champatimunda, you strove to broaden the intellectual horizon of your students by nurturing their creativity and exposing them to new ideas and challenging them to look at the world critically.

Your writings tirelessly interrogated ossified conventions, intellectual complacency, accepted dogmas and urged your readers to explore possibilities of weaving a new fabric of human relationships based on truth, honesty and compassion.

A polyglot, you have translated the works of major western and eastern authors and enriched Oriya literature by introducing into it new styles of thought and sensibility.

In your hands, the essay was transformed into a powerful instrument of analysis of social and cultural institutions and individual conduct.

In times of moral and social crisis yours has never been a counsel of despair offered from an ivory tower. Your public speeches and newspaper articles have eloquently expressed an abiding faith in the power of man to reshape his destiny through courage and commitment.

You have received several prestigious awards in recognition of the strength and richness of your thought.

Chitta Ranjan Das, the master essayist of the portraiture of life and society, and indefatigable reformer, the Ravenshaw University bows down to you with utmost respect, and in pride that is natural for the alma mater at the home coming of a student of 1941 vintage, resident of West Hostel, Room 43, now a fountainhead of wisdom, and confers on you the degree of Doctor of Literature, Honoris Causa.

## **Prafulla Mohanti**

Citation for the Degree, Doctor of Literature, Honoris Causa

You are a painter, author, dancer, architect and town planner of repute. What delights us most today is that you are a Ravenshavian.

You came to Ravenshaw in the year 1949, from the remote village of Nanpur, then a part of Cuttack district. Sixty long years have gone by, but the pining for the village has not mellowed. The umbilical chord has not snapped. Recently, when a rail road was proposed to run through the village bifurcating it, you protested hard as if a dagger was drawn on your body.

After Ravenshaw, you went to the prestigious JJ School of Arts at Bombay, graduated there in Architecture in 1960 and then sailed to England to join the University of Leeds for postgraduate studies in Town Planning. As a professional architect and town planner, you became a member of the Royal Planning Institute.

Isolation, and longing for the village, made you a painter. The dull, staccato apartment in East End, London was killing. You painted the village motifs, and the icons your mother worshiped, for your repose under stress. The explosion of creativity led to a huge body of painting, playful, wistful, meditative, and still not exhausted after 70 one-man exhibitions all over the

world. They are prized possessions in numerous galleries including the British Museum and the gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi.

Wherever you went, your village moved within you. It is not surprising therefore that your first book 'My Village My Life' published by Davis-Poynter in 1973, earned esteem and was widely translated. Your other books, 'Through Brown Eyes', 'Indian Village Tales', and 'Changing Village Changing Life' have equally prestigious publishers like OUP and Viking. You are a rare specimen of an Oriya villager who taught himself to read and write in English.

You are one of the finest example of how East and West blend together. You live and work in London but your heart is always in your village where you return unfailingly every year.

Prafulla Mohanti, Iris Butler wrote about you years back that it may not be too much to claim that you are the William Blake of Contemporary India. The Ravenshaw University salutes you, and with utmost respect and pride confers on you the degree of Doctor of Literature, Honoris Causa.

## **Jatin Das**

Citation for the Degree, Doctor of Literature, Honoris Causa

You have been painting for 50 years. For as many years, you have been an identifying face for Oriyas in the country and overseas.

Your exhibitions are numerous, and your participations are many. You have traversed the path to Universities and museums abroad to talk about art and architecture. Your work in oil, watercolour, ink, graphics and conte, and whatever medium you have chosen, has been praised and raved about. They have been lavishly auctioned by Sotheby's, Christie's, and Osian's.

The sheer quantum of your work, and their variety has made you legendary. You come across as an innovative artist who always tries to find new ways of articulation.

You are an institution builder. You have set up the JDCA, a tribute to your home state to nurture art of all kind, visual and plastic, traditional and contemporary. The JDCA film forum, an offshoot of the main body has done three wonderful annual film festivals.

Your creativity has many facets. You do Fresco and Steel installations, Etching and Lithography, design postal stamps, and create Façade Murals. The murals at LBS National Academy of Administration, the Chelsea Arts Club, London

and the more celebrated one, ‘From Mohenjodaro to Mahatma Gandhi’ at the Parliament House, Delhi write the edicts of your glory. Your quiet quest of 26 years has now resulted in world’s biggest collection of hand fans.

Whatever you do bears imprint of your craze for details. From card design to the dinner menu, from guest list to attire, from art work on the brochure to press briefings, from a hard day’s work to the evening’s repose, your handiwork is uplifting.

Jatin Das, your work on the majesty and subtleties of human body is wonderful to behold and your many-splendoured talent has earned you the reputation of being a one man army in the fiercely competitive world of art and innovation.

It is with utmost enthusiasm and respect, Ravenshaw University confers upon you the degree of Doctor of Literature, Honoris Causa.

## **Bhakta B. Rath**

Citation for the Degree of Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa

You are an alumnus of Ravenshaw College of 1950's. It is incredible that a young man from an humble middle class background in Orissa but with a vision to make a place for himself in the wider world, would get all his dreams fulfilled and would be in the exalted position of Associated Director of the famed Naval Research Laboratory of the US navy, an institution set up under the supervision of the legendary Thomas Edison. This is today one of the largest multi-disciplinary research laboratories in the world with a budget of over 1.2 billions. All this has happened by your sheer perseverance and hard work.

After graduating with Physics & Mathematics from Ravenshaw, you went over to the Michigan Technology University for M.S. and thereafter obtained a Ph.D. from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Metallurgical Engineering. You served the Washington State University as faculty; Edgar C. Bain Laboratory and McDonnell Douglas Research Laboratories in St. Louis as senior scientist; alongside, you were also invited as Adjunct Professor at Carnegie-Mellon University, the Colorado School of Mines and by many other reputed universities.

At the Naval Research Laboratory you served as the Head, Physical Metallurgy Group and of the Material Science Division prior to the current position. You are now engaged in directing cutting-edge research in fields as diverse as bio-molecular science, super conductivity, new energy sources as methane hydrates, and nano-technology. Your group includes world renowned scientists such as the 1985 Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry, Dr. Jerome Karle.

You have been internationally acclaimed for your original work in solid state transformations, grain boundary migrations, and structure property correlations in materials. This has earned you over 140 papers, and a large number of patents.

Your awards and honours are legion and are spread in various countries. Recently you have been honoured with Padma Bhushan by the President of India. In the USA, you have received numerous prestigious awards for research; two of the list are the NRL award in 2004 and Fred Saalfeld award in 2005, both for outstanding Lifetime Achievements in Science. You have served as the President of the American Society for Materials during 2004-05, the first of Indian origin to get this unique honour.

Dr. Rath, you have made your country proud through your contribution to original research and in managing world class research teams. The community

of Indian science and technology would remain ever indebted to you for promoting excellent collaborative research between Indian and American scientists.

You have in every sense, epitomized Ravenshaw's cherished core of values of excellence, leadership and truth. We are elated and humbled in conferring upon you, the degree of Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa.

