

THE SIXTH
CONVOCATION
28th February, 2018

Address of the Chancellor
Dr. S.C. Jamir
Hon'ble Governor of Odisha



UTKAL UNIVERSITY OF CULTURE
BHUBANESWAR



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CONVOCATION
At Sanskruti Vihar, Madanpur, Bhubaneswar
On 28th February, 2018

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kamal Kant Misra,
Distinguished Guest, Padmashree Pandit Bhajan Sopori,
Director, Culture, Shri Bijaya Kumar Nayak,
Recipients of Honorary D.Litt,
Members of the Academic Council and
the Board of Management,
Registrar, Dr. Suman Das,
Recipients of other Degrees and Gold Medals,
Invitees, Family members,
Members of the faculty, staff and students,
Representatives from Print and Electronic Media,
Ladies and gentlemen

I am delighted to preside over the Sixth Convocation of Utkal University of Culture. Today realises a long cherished dream as the University holds its Convocation on its permanent campus for the first time. It is a historic moment for the University and it surely delights every stakeholder of the University. I am happy to extend you all a hearty welcome on this momentous occasion.

Convocation is a special occasion for students and for a university. It is a celebration of success and achievements of students. The occasion is marked with joy and excitement. For students, it is joy because of accomplishing a degree after years of hard work and joy for university because of sending out another batch of students equipping them to meet the outside world and show their mettle. For students, it is mixed emotions as they are on a new journey of life. Utkal University of Culture is sending out another batch of students preparing them to preserve and promote our rich culture and traditions.

On this special occasion the University is having a legendary cultural icon of the country as distinguished guest. A musical genius and Padmashree awardee Pandit Bhajan Sopori has remarkable contribution to Indian classical music and culture and is a pioneer in popularising the Santoor as a solo instrument. I am happy to welcome Pandit Bhajan Sopori to our midst and also congratulate him on receiving the Degree of Honoris Causa from this University. I am sure his address would be of great value to students and faculty members to stay devoted and dedicated to promotion of Indian culture. I am also equally happy to congratulate the other distinguished recipients of Degree of Honoris Causa. All the recipients of today have been outstanding in their respective fields and have set a benchmark. They remain an inspiration to the younger generation. I wish our students would strive to emulate them.

As I said, convocation is about celebration of successes of students. I am happy to share the joy of graduating with our young men and women on receiving their degrees today. I share their pride and congratulate them. I also congratulate the family members and the faulty members for whom it is most satisfying as they make it to this day.

Dear students, the degrees you have received certify your expertise in a specialized field of study and the creative skills that are the mark of the university graduate. So, make the best of your degree as you now have all the advantages of a university education. Our warm congratulations for all you have achieved at this University and our very best wishes for your future careers and happiness.

Utkal University of Culture is first and foremost a centre of scholarship; a place where the study of culture is refined and passed on through research and teaching. 20 years ago, commitment to study of culture was duly expressed in the establishment of this University in this culturally vibrant State of Odisha. It is a State where one finds imprints of rich culture of the land in the artist's art, in the grace of Odissi dance, on the walls of temples displaying brilliant temple architecture to just cite a few. During the period the University has grown with the introduction of many new and exciting courses. Creation of new and permanent campus in Madanpur has been a great step to take a big leap. These developments typify the University's mission: a concern not simply to advance institutional interest, but a commitment to transform it to a world class university.

During the 19th foundation day celebration of the University I had urged upon the University to maintain its unique feature and ambition. After all, continued ambition is essential for future success. But with finite resources the University must focus on its strengths if it is to be a great rather than just a good university. It has to clearly explain what is truly distinctive about research, its graduates, its influence and impact. International recognition and engagement is an increasingly important measure of the success of the University. World-class research, which includes discovery of new knowledge and its application, is fundamental to this unique University and it is the main driver of its international reputation. I understand that a large number of students have registered themselves for Ph.D. and M.Phil programmes in different departments of the University. This will undoubtedly enrich the academic

ambience of the University. The University must be active, establishing partnerships with premier educational and cultural institutions. We aspire to be in the top 100 universities in the world. Our popularity with international students is one reflection of our growing global reputation and we must continue to do that creating a truly international campus.

Culture is a way of life. Or more accurately how you live your life. Cultural heritage is a way to catalogue how the past ways of life flow into what they have become today. So yes cultural heritage is a form of history. But rather than focusing on dates and facts, cultural heritage focuses on intellectual and spiritual humanity.

The heritage consists of culture, values and traditions. Cultural heritage implies a shared bond, our belonging to a community. It represents our history and our identity; our bond to the past, to our present, and the future.

Moreover, cultural heritage is not only limited to material objects that we can see and touch. It also consists of immaterial elements: traditions, oral history, performing arts, social practices, traditional craftsmanship, representations, rituals, knowledge and skills transmitted from generation to generation within a community. Intangible heritage therefore includes a dizzying array of traditions, music and dances.

Cultural heritage passed down to us from our ancestors must be preserved for the benefit of all. In an era of globalization, cultural heritage helps us to remember our cultural diversity, and its understanding develops mutual respect and renewed dialogue amongst different cultures.

Our country has rich cultural traditions. In spite of diversity, the nation remains culturally united. Our values and attitudes are greatly moulded by our rich 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 artists and litterateurs represent the society and are the social educators and teachers. Hence, on this occasion when so many artists are graduating, I call upon them to be constructive, creative and always be guided by our rich cultural tradition.

So, young men and women of the graduating class, I hope you identify with the University's commitments to make it big and glorify its worth. I hope you will always continue to think deeply about the world, the society you share, to think deeply about your place in a world of cultural diversity and the need to build partnerships that create sustainable peace and development; to think deeply about ways in which to engage, where you can be most effective as students of culture.

To conclude, I wish you both students and University well as you go on, and making an identity and enriching our culture. My very best wishes for your future success and happiness. Congratulations again to you all. I wish Utkal University of Culture establishes itself as a premier centre of study and research in the coming days and attains new heights.

Jai Hind.

UTKAL UNIVERSITY OF CULTURE

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