

Address of Prof. Ganeshi Lal, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha & Chancellor of Ravenshaw University at the 10<sup>th</sup> Convocation of Ravenshaw University, Cuttack on 05.02.2019 at 03.30 p.m.

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Chief Guest, Dr. Renu Swarup,  
Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ishan Kumar Patro,  
Distinguished recipients of Degree *Honoris Causa*,  
Members of the Executive Council, the Senate and  
the Academic Council,  
  
Recipients of Degrees and Medal Winners,  
Faculty Members, University Officials, My dear Students  
Invitees, Media Persons,  
Sisters and Brothers .....

Today, another historical event is being recorded in the annals of Ravenshaw as the University holds its tenth Convocation celebrating the accomplishments and achievements of its students. It has been a long and glorious journey of 150 years for Ravenshaw as an institution of higher learning. As Ravenshaw takes another step forward holding its grand legacy it is appropriate to remember Sir Edward Gait, the then Governor of Bihar and Odisha. While laying the foundation stone of the building in November 1919 where Ravenshaw University stands at present, Sir Edward Gait hoped that the mighty monument would one day grow into a university. As Gait's dream has certainly been realized as we celebrate 150 years of Ravenshaw's existence, I feel delighted to address the 10<sup>th</sup> Convocation of Ravenshaw University.

Convocation is part of calendrical academic event in the University. It provides a memorable occasion to celebrate the intellectual and academic quest of the students and their achievements with family, friends and well-wishers as they get ready for the next phase of their professional career.

I extend a hearty welcome to our chief guest, Dr. Renu Swarup, an eminent scientist to this academic celebration. It is a pride that this distinguished scientist of the country has been a major support for women scientists and has been the think tank for bringing in seminal initiatives focusing on the area of women and science, which truly marks a disruptive idea from gender point of view. It is a privilege for the student community and the women students and scholars in particular, and all of us to listen to her world of experiences both as a scientist and a visionary leader committed to the question of women and science.

Today Ravenshaw University, keeping with its thoughtful tradition confers honorary doctorate degrees on Padma Vibhushan Prof. P.N.Tandon, Shri Ananta Mohapatra, and Dr. Nivedita Mohanty, the three outstanding individuals for notable contributions in their own field. I am

happy to congratulate all the recipients and wish they will continue to enrich their profession with exemplary work and devotion.

Seeing the graduating students here is certainly a proud moment for the institution itself and many of us in many ways. It is a moment of celebration for the graduates because this moment exhibits the reward of their meticulous strivings over the period of their studentship. It is also a proud moment for parents and guardians as their dream comes true. Finally, it showcases an achievement for the University because it has been successful in providing higher education to students who will now step into their choices professional career.

Ravenshaw is witness to many historic events in pre-independence era and in the days of freedom struggle momentous events took place in its portals. The trend continues in post independence period with equal vigour. Given that long and vibrant past and the continuing success of Ravenshaw University speaks volumes about the quality of its teaching and the academic ambience. The achievements and impact of the University on education sector cannot be overstated. This institution has opened wide the doors of opportunity to everyone to advance in life. The alumni of this historic institution have fared exceptionally well and brilliantly across the world. Individual success stories indeed abound in diverse areas ranging from business to performing arts to academia, judiciary, politics, social service and much more. They paved the way as pioneers and became role models of lifelong learning. They are proudly identified as Who's Who of Odisha.

I am sure you all will agree with me that studying in the hallowed buildings has been and continues to be a life-changing experience, enabling students with abilities and ambitions to evolve at their own pace and reach positive goals and outcomes.

It gives me immense pleasure to note that Ravenshaw has aptly adopted an agenda for introspecting about its past, present and future while celebrating its 150 years of existence as an idea, as a premier institution of higher learning in the state and the country and a continuous project in progress.

When I read the Bhagwad Gita and reflect upon how God created the universe everything else seems so superfluous'. These insightful words were said by the great scientist Albert Einstein.

How fortunate we are to be born in the land of the Bhagwad Gita. The 5000 years old Indian culture is both ancient and varied. But unity in diversity which is the main mantra of Indian civilization can be seen in its various forms and traditional diversity.

This country is not just an area of land, a conglomerate of states, roads, mountains, forests or water bodies but a principle and abiding by the principle is patriotism. I am sure you are aware of the sacrifices made by our soldiers every moment. As an Indian in heart and soul not even for a moment should you allow these sacrifices to go into oblivion.

As a country, we have advanced in infrastructure, industries, healthcare, education, science, technology and agriculture and we owe these developments to committed Indians whose eyes survey the world but feet are deeply embedded in the culture of this land. The precedent set by such progressive countrymen, is enough to incite you to work with zeal to make India the best in the world.

Dear students, you are a reservoir of energy, creativity and progressive ideas and you constitute a large population of this country yet India is to reach the zenith of development. Why is it so?

Well, it is because there is a difference between what you do and what you are capable of achieving. Recover the Vedanta, the Gita, the Yoga and the philosophy of your country not only in intellect but in your life to connect with the deeper fearless and invincible you and realise and feel the divinity inside you.

Broaden your vision not only for yourself but also for your country and work upon perfecting your actions to achieve the aim of a strong India which leaves an indelible imprint on the world.

Let that surge of patriotic feeling on every time you see the tri-colour brings you to the realization that you are the one, you are the country which is bound to emerge as a superpower with your concerted effort not as 'I' but as we, the Indians because India is your identity.

Dear students, the University has endeavoured to bring you on a journey of experiences which help you to grow and transform. The whole University celebrates with you. We all are proud of your achievements. But there is much more to do, and today marks a new beginning.

I value each student of the Ravenshaw community as a unique individual with unique abilities and opportunities for personal and professional growth. As you set to cross this important threshold in your life's journey, I commend you on your achievement and I wish you to live lives of virtue individually and in community, to be people of humility, people of integrity, people of character. I expect you to transcend the limits of meritocracy, to discover who you are called to be and what you are called to do in this world.

Chase your dreams. Never stop trying. Never stop learning. Never be disheartened with setbacks or failures. Live life to the fullest and give it nothing but your best. Discuss, debate and disagree how much ever you may want, but when it comes to working on the field, fill your minds with the idea that our nation always comes first. The journey of life brings both challenges and chances. May you carry your spirit to snatch the chances and beat the challenges. Congratulations once again on receiving the degree. I call each of you to action, to go out from here, with confidence, with our blessings and best wishes, and make a distinct identity for yourself. May you live a proud life.

Universities today pride themselves for being at the frontier of knowledge. Many inventions which have transformed our way of life originated from universities. A university can grow successfully only when research and teaching mesh together seamlessly - one without the other is incomplete. Therefore, we have to ensure the development of a collaborative environment conducive to learning, exposure to the best international practices and promotion of innovation and creativity. Here I would like to suggest Ravenshaw University to identify any specific area where it has expertise and potential for higher research and develop it to an excellent centre of research attracting scholars from country and abroad.

Great Indian scholar and educationist Bharat Ratna Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya strongly opined that the University is not merely an examining body - it is primarily a "nursery of good citizens". He emphasized the diffusion of scientific, technical and professional knowledge on the one hand and building up of character in youth by making ethics an integral part of education on the other.

It is true that Ravenshaw has over last 150 years come a long way. In its early years, when technology and the flow of information was not yet as widespread as today it remained a shining example for others. Today the landscape is more diverse —a diversity that is indicative of the fact that it is on the right track with reforms at modernizing, adapting and improving the education system. Here I would say that a lot can be achieved when students have the right drive, the right approach and a focused vision to succeed. I wish the University remains committed to the mission of providing quality education and I am sure we will see many more graduates of Ravenshaw University contributing to our state's and country's development and prosperity for many years to come.

I congratulate the Vice-Chancellor and his entire team for making the tenth Convocation a great success. I strongly hope that Ravenshaw University continues to endeavour with full sincerity to attain the pinnacle of excellence and success. With these words, I wish the University, faculty, staff and students great success for the future.

Jai Hind.