

Speech of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand Dr.K.K.Paul at the 5th Convocation of Uttarakhand Technical University (UTU), Dehradun, on November 19, 2016

Shri Harish Rawat, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Yashpal Arya, Minister of Technical Education, Shri B. K. Gairola, Ex-Director General (National Informatics Centre), Prof. P.K. Garg, Vice Chancellor of Uttarakhand Technical University, Distinguished guests, Members of Executive Council, Principals of Colleges, faculty members of the University, dear parents, students, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen. It is both an honour and a pleasure to be here at this graduation and awards ceremony, particularly since it is being held after a number of years.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate the students on this important occasion. The graduation ceremony/convocation is one of the most memorable events in anybody's life. Students all over the world wait for this big day. This day is important for the University as well as the students. The University feels proud, seeing the young boys and girls passing out with flying colours to begin a new journey of life. The students enjoy the thrill and excitement of receiving their degrees and medals. Convocation is also an occasion for parents to take pride in their children.

First of all a point common to all the Universities in the State. I would like to call upon the Universities to encourage creativity and innovative efforts of students and channelise them to carry out programmes/projects of their own. Universities in the state need to raise their standards and ensure that colleges affiliated to them also raise their standards. Teachers at universities need to be more focused on students and studies. Universities must never

become places where sub-standard education is provided. It is extremely important in the context of UTU, as it gives affiliation to a number of institutions. The standards of some of these affiliated colleges have not brought a good name to the University, as such, a very stringent monitoring mechanism is required. Good governance needs competent and ethical leaders. We should develop the students to come on top and become leaders in their chosen fields. Leaders are made and Seeds are sown within the four walls of a class room. Globally competent professional leaders normally come from classrooms, not of mediocre universities and colleges, but of world class. Hence world class universities have assumed significance, and so also their ranking in the world list. Our universities and colleges ought to dream big, think great and show commitment to become world class, they have the necessary capability as also the necessary resources, but we need to work on our vision statement and remain totally focused on grooming our students and taking them to the top. Only if we work hard in a sustained manner can we figure in the University rankings.

My dear Students,

I must remind you that you are the most powerful young generation in human history. You are powerful because you have the most amazing technology at your command which no other generation could even dream of. Please make sure you use this power of technology for innovating and using your ingenuity for the benefit of the society and the country.

Most of you must have already started your career in the field open to you and for which the University has equipped you with adequate knowledge, skills, and attitudes: be it higher education and research, software development, manufacturing, infrastructure development, marketing and sales, or management. Some of you may be thinking of entering into other fields, like administrative services or social work. I am confident that you will do well in whatever career you may have chosen for yourself because the education you have received gives you a wide range of problem solving abilities, creative thinking and innovative skills, all of which are assets in any human endeavour.

The country's economic progress is dependent on several critical factors. The quality of our human resources is among the most important of them. Higher education is the key to making available a large pool of skilled manpower for our nation. Higher education not only decides a student's career prospects, but also shapes his or her personality. Our country's education system is burdened with demands of both quantity and quality. Universities should be able to address the demands of higher education, but along with quantity, we greatly need to focus on quality. Universities today should be able to equip the youngsters with skills and infuse confidence in them so that they can initiate 'Start ups' and become a part of 'Make in India'. After all this is the task of technologists.

In ancient India, Universities, like Nalanda and Takshashila had established themselves as international centres of educational excellence where students from all over the world came and studied. In contrast, many

Indian students today choose to go abroad for higher studies. It is therefore important that the Universities should be able to provide quality education that meets international benchmarks.

Shortage of good faculty is a matter of serious concern. This is also a reflection on the university for not turning out good boys who can become teachers. In a way this is only an outcome of the existing standards, since many students passing out are unable to meet the requisite standards, as merely holding a degree may not be enough. As adequate number of quality teachers are not available, we must tackle the problem by bringing in innovative teaching methodologies, such as technology-enabled and internet learning and collaborative information and communication technologies. Universities of Uttarakhand must aim to include in their curriculum such areas of knowledge which are relevant to the hill state, such as prevention and mitigation of natural disasters, hill farming, harnessing energy, effective use of bio-resources, herbal medicines and infrastructural development. There is a need to motivate research students to work on developing warning systems and prevention of natural calamities like forest fires, earthquakes, floods and landslides. For building roads, we are perhaps still using the same technology as in plain areas. Due to excessive rain in hills, the surface gets damaged quickly. These need to improve through intensive studies and stringent application of standards. This is also the case for landslides and mountain slides.

My dear Students,

Here, I would like to quote the eternal youth Icon Swami Vivekananda “Don't look back—look forward with infinite energy, infinite enthusiasm, infinite daring, and infinite patience—then alone, can great deeds be accomplished.” Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm and there is no substitute for hard work.

Leaving the portals of the University is not the end of your education and learning activities. It is, in fact, the beginning of a new type of learning – acquiring knowledge and skills on the job and developing self-learning skills to remain current and up-to-date in your field of specialization. You will now be spending your time on learning manufacturing techniques, installation procedures, maintenance regimen and other skills of professional practice and would even be required to undergo fresh training whenever the technology changes or advances.

We are now both mentally and technologically prepared to compete globally, ensure high quality of our engineering products and services, take full advantage of our qualified manpower potential and become one of the largest economies of the world.

Globalization has created both an inter-related and interlinked world generating opportunities and also throwing up challenges. Universities now need to develop skills to cope up with these challenges. For young graduates and technocrats, I believe that the sky is the limit.

I am sure that many of you must be planning to become entrepreneurs. One big difference between the opportunities open to graduates today as compared to the graduates earlier is that there is great potential for

getting into entrepreneurship. Try to make an effort to become a ‘job provider’ rather than a ‘job seeker’.

You must intensely aspire for deepening and broadening your knowledge, learn to experience the power within you and be guided by higher values which you believe in. The greatest satisfaction in life lies in giving something back to the society which gave you the scope to be what you are today. I have no doubt that each and every one of you will be very successful. However, make sure you do not forget the less fortunate ones.

I would like to remind you, my young friends, that you have a noble mission before you; to help in transforming India from a developing nation to a developed one by 2020, a goal set up by our distinguished former President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam and endorsed by the Government. You are among the 540 million youth below 25 years in our population of over a billion people. You have the added advantage of being professionally qualified. Technological Leaders of modern India would have to emerge from youngsters like you.

I congratulate the Vice Chancellor, Directors, faculty members, and non-teaching staff of the University on their achievements and wish the University continued success in grooming young men and women to emerge as leaders in their chosen walks of life. Education should be seen as a stepping stone to character building and societal development. I hope that all of will work diligently in future and contribute meaningfully towards nation-building. I wish all of you the very best in life.

Thank You

Jai Hind!