

Speech for Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand Dr. K.K. Paul for the Convocation of Graphic Era Hill University on Feb 25, 2017

Chancellor Prof. Dr.Kamal Ghansala,
Prof. Dr. Sanjay Jasola, Vice Chancellor,
Prof. Dr. Babu, Vice Chancellor Graphic Era University
Members of the Board of Governors,
Board of Management
Members of the Academic Council,
Guests,
Dignitaries,
University faculty,
Students,
Representatives from the
Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure indeed to be here on the first convocation ceremony of Graphic Era Hill University.

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 and its faculty feel 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.

I have been informed that this University is the first one in Uttarakhand which has offered a variety of new courses. It has been a great help for the students of this region that they could take up the course of their choice, in their own state, and did not have to migrate.

Any country's progress and development is largely dependent and determined by the quality of its human capital. This is also true of all of us. As such, education will always have to play a decisive role in shaping the destiny of our nation.

Long back, the great Greek Philosopher Plato had said :

“The direction in which education starts a man, will determine his future life”.

The aforesaid saying is even more relevant today than it was earlier. Not for nothing, it is often asserted that true education builds the individual character, which in the ultimate eventuality lays the foundation of the State. It is the need of the hour that universities should promote learning in the true spirit. They should offer knowledge and skills needed to succeed as professionals and the values and sensitivity needed to become responsible citizens of the world.

I am told the kind of facilities this university is providing could be very useful in these times, when technology has become an integral part of our lives. The teachers here have written around 300 research papers for which they have received motivation and appreciation from the university. It is also the most important duty of the teacher to keep the students motivated. It is well recognised that, a scientific temper, which takes one's imagination beyond the realm of grades and classroom, is essential in our students. Our institutions must fire the power of imagination of their students. The teacher must motivate and encourage the taught to think beyond books. They should question concepts and accept a proposition only after mental investigation. Teachers have to encourage inquisitiveness amongst the students. Their questions should be welcomed so that they can think and become creative. Students must have a grand vision which they can, through research and inquiry, translate into reality.

Today, when every new step taken becomes almost redundant within no time, there is a need for a greater battle of ideas. It is good to know about various initiatives taken up by the university. This university, I am told, has taken the lead to make MOOC, (Massive Open Online Courses) mandatory for 6000 students. We are now in an era when technology is revolutionizing our lives. The challenge is to use technology right. Utilisation of technology in an innovative manner is important. Everyday new inventions are not possible, but innovations

are – how to simplify work, how to make it more efficient ? This can be learnt only through imparting and encouraging creativity.

Accordingly, teaching pedagogy has to be refined, curricula up-dated regularly, an inter-disciplinary approach adopted and evaluation mechanism has to be reformed. To make the faculty up-to-date in their field of knowledge, faculty recharge programmes must be conducted. Think in terms of teacher's retreats or summer schools. To pursue excellence, core competencies must be identified and centres of excellence nurtured. Research and creativity has to be encouraged. Research work should be published in peer reviewed journals. This would differentiate a college from a University. In Universities, we create knowledge through research. We have to realise that ultimately, research leads to new technologies and technology leads to development.

Competent and committed individuals are necessary to build the country of our dreams. Our universities must produce men and women of character and integrity. The role of the teacher and the University thus assumes importance. Mahatma Gandhi had said and I quote: *“Real education consists in drawing the best out of yourself. What better book can there be than the book of humanity? (unquote)”*.

While it is important to have a scientific outlook, but at the same time, we must value our value system and compete with the world, but never forgetting what our civilization has taught us, and what are the essentials of Indian culture. Having said that, we must also realise that there is no time to loose otherwise we may be left behind in the race for development.

We have had in the last two or three decades a whole list of private educational institutions that have come up and are doing well. We need a system of education that is based on positive methods of teaching and learning, which encourages self-reliance. A time has come when youth must realize this, and grow out of the habit of seeking government jobs alone, this sector having only a limited capacity to absorb people. There are opportunities in the private sector that are waiting to be seized. So that the youth can find their potential with ease, students must be encouraged to work for the society, while in the University. The Campus can be made a smart campus and villages can be adopted, neighbourhood can be encouraged to remain clean. Such activities will give the youth a new angle to their life and introduce a feeling of working for the society.

My dear Students,

The eternal youth Icon Swami Vivekananda had said: “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.

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’.

As of today, computers already do most of our arithmetic, check our spelling and grammar, draw our blueprints, gather all sorts of technical data, calculate probabilities, monitor market trends, and so on. Machines can do so much of this because most of these tasks require little or no genuine creativity, sense of values, sense of purpose, sense of connectedness with humanity, or love, or joy, or wisdom. If humanity were entirely replaced by machines, then there would be no need for knowledge of the humanities. But so long as human beings exist, and so long as human beings make decisions, humanities would continue to remain important.

All those who are passing out from this university, I think will pass out with a great sense of responsibility. Some of you may go into higher education and others may opt for careers. For those who are going to initiate their careers now, let me just give them a piece of advice- the world now has started respecting talent, brilliance, than ever before, in every profession , be it academics, be it law or the medical profession.

This is an era of specialization, transformation, innovation, automation coupled with immense competition. Many great achievements have been made possible because of individuals or institutions possessing the right depth of expert domain knowledge, innovative approaches, and a high degree of professionalism, leadership and unique models of management.

In any society you will find crowds of people with degrees from reputed institutions. But that space for excellence on top is always vacant, there is always space at the top. Those who embark on their careers now will have to understand that the world now has much higher levels of excellence that it ever had before.

The world respects excellence more than ever before. Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life as well as your ticket to change the world. But for this a lot of hard work is required.

Dear students, apart from education, you possess energy. Try to channelize it in the right direction. While on your journey towards success, always remember that success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty, and persistence. My best wishes to the graduating students. I am confident that you all will continue your learning process in life by constantly upgrading your skills, acquiring new knowledge and improving your own lives, contributing to the society and the future of the country.

Thank You

Jai Hind!