



XIX Convocation address of
Shri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
the Hon'ble Governor and Chancellor of
Sri Krishnadevaraya University-Anantapuramu
on April 24, 2021

Today's Chief Guest and Orator Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy, Secretary, Department of Defence, Research & Development and Chairman, Defence Research and Development Organisation, Prof. M. Rama Krishna Reddy, Vice Chancellor, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Learned Members of the Executive Council and Academic Senate, Deans of Faculties, Teaching and Non-Teaching staff, beloved young graduates, proud parents, members of the print and electronic media, ladies and gentlemen. A Very Good Morning to you all!

It gives me immense pleasure to be part of the 19th Convocation of Sri Krishnadevaraya University in the capacity of Chancellor of this esteemed Institution. The growth of Sri Krishnadevaraya University was envisaged with a view to promote equity and accessibility, relevance, quality and accountability to redeem the backwardness of the Rayalaseema region through a massive contribution to education, which can bring about key social and economic change and emancipation. I am glad to know that the University has been striving relentlessly to achieve this objective for over four decades.

On the auspicious occasion of this Convocation, I would like to congratulate all the graduating students, their parents, faculty members and administrative staff. You have certainly demonstrated the commitment, creativity and talent needed to succeed in your chosen career. I sincerely hope that after the recognition of your academic feat, your hard-earned knowledge enables you to lead life in the best possible way.

My special Congratulations to today's Chief Guest and Orator Dr G. Satheesh Reddy for receiving the coveted degree Doctor of Science (*honoris causa*) from Sri Krishnadevaraya University. Dr Reddy, who is well known for significant contribution towards indigenous design, development and deployment of diverse Missiles & Strategic Systems, richly deserves this honour. Dr. Reddy is also known for his sustained

efforts in advancing the cause of development of Aerospace technologies and Industries in India.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has taught us that change is inevitable and the opportunities created will lead towards a better tomorrow. It has worked as a catalyst for the educational institutions to grow and opt for online platforms with digital technologies, which have not been used before. The education sector has been fighting to survive the crisis with a different approach in facing the challenges posed by the pandemic.

As Swamy Vivekananda said *"We want education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one's own feet"*.

This generation of students are really fortunate that the 34-year-old Education system undergoes a major reform with the introduction of National Education Policy 2020 by the Govt. of India. The National Education Policy 2020 is expected to usher in a new era in Indian higher education system. These sweeping reforms will surely bring about a fundamental change in the country's education landscape. One big point that the new Policy aspires is to move towards a holistic education and not just textbook learning. The NEP 2020 is considered comprehensive, vibrant and flexible, and would help shape the younger generation into one that has a sound ethical base and a strong sense of social responsibility.

Under the new policy, the complexity and challenges of the Indian higher education system, have been identified with honesty and clarity. It envisages an approach to bring about the extraordinary potential of human resource development and a comprehensive shift in the use of demographic dividend. The policy will help in recognizing, identifying, and fostering the unique capabilities of students by sensitizing teachers as well as parents to promote their holistic development in both academic and non-academic spheres. The fact that, it aims to build a knowledge-

based future education system is a proof of the change we hope to achieve.

Success in our global and collective future will depend on the students of today using latest technological skills to develop innovative solutions to key societal issues. Entrepreneurs, in turn, are individuals who transform these innovations into economic goods using financial and business acumen. Realising this, Govt. of India has brought in the National Innovation and Start-up Policy 2019 for students and faculty of Higher Education Institutions. This will serve as a guiding framework to enable the institutes to actively engage students, faculty and staff in innovation and entrepreneurship related activities. Entrepreneurship education delivered on a foundation of 21st century skills, within educational institutions, is necessary to drive innovation and therefore the economic health of any region.

Govt. of Andhra Pradesh with its proactive approach has been equally active in introducing reforms in the education sector, resulting in the early implementation of both the key policies from the current academic year itself.

I am glad to know that in tune with National Education Policy-2020, the university has introduced Four Year Honours degree programme from the academic year 2020-21, with an exit option to students after third year.

I am happy to learn that Sri Krishnadevaraya University is endowed with excellent track record in terms of teaching, research and extension activities. The infrastructure has been very well augmented using the RUSA funds. The University stands out in the NSS activities serving the local communities. The University is proud of its recognition by NITI Aayog, Govt. of India by establishing the prestigious Atal Incubation Centre in the University catering to the entrepreneurial eco-system in the state of Andhra Pradesh. No other University in the state has such a world

class start-up incubation facility and this university is among the top few Universities in the country to get the recognition.

It is heartening to note that the University Botanical garden is a hub of diverse species with 552 plant species with diverse fauna and the Miyawaki plantation with 162 plant species, is the highest species-diverse in the country.

My special appreciation to all the medal winners as a mark of their academic excellence. Hearty Congratulations to each and every one of you on this occasion of your graduation, and as you leave this ceremony with Testamur in hand, it is a time to rejoice your achievement.

My advise to all the students is that the purpose of Education is all about training the mind to think. The quality of your life depends upon the quality of your thought. Critical thinking can help you to question your decisions and to look at yourself and the people around you in an objective way. It enables us to think in an open minded manner outside the box and foster the ability to solve problems.

Finally, it is apt recall what former President of India and great philosopher Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan said about education:

"The aim of education is not the acquisition of information, although important, or acquisition of technical skills, though essential in modern society, but the development of that bent of mind, that attitude of reason, that spirit of democracy which will make us responsible citizens."

I am sure all the graduating students of this convocation would emulate the above and be the responsible citizens in using the skills acquired by them to contribute to the national development and to stand in a good stead.

I thank you all and wish every one of you success in your life as proud alumnus of Sri Krishnadevaraya University.

Jai Hind