

ANNUAL CONVOCATION
5th

Annual Convocation 2009

Convocation
Address by
His Excellency
Shri M. C. Bhandare,
Governor of Orissa

"I have had the privilege to know
KIIT University closely. Driven by
the vision and energy of Dr.
Samanta, it is unique in
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knowledge with social values."

I am sure you will remember this moment and be proud of it for times to come. As you embark on your confident journey towards the next milestone, I hope you will also remember what the society expects from you. Educational degree like the one you have obtained today is not merely a passport to a bright career. They have responsibilities implied in them – responsibilities to your parents, who made all the sacrifices to bring you this far; to your society, progress of which depends upon your contributions and concern, and last but not the least to your alma mater, which will thrive and rejoice on your achievements for all time to come.

On this occasion, I consider myself fortunate to be in the company of some of the remarkable personalities of the contemporary world and my country as well. I am fortunate in the sense that all these dignitaries have come to this magnificent campus of the beautiful State of Orissa.

It is a rare opportunity to be in the midst of eminent writers Padma Vibhusan Smt. Mahasveta Devi, Padma Bhushan Shri Ramakanta Rath, Padma Shri Prof. Sukhadeo Thorat, Chairman of UGC and Esteemed social worker, Mr. Jockin Arputham, whom KIIT has chosen to honour with Honorary Degrees of Doctorate.

I have had the privilege to know KIIT University closely. Driven by the vision and energy of Dr. Samanta, it is unique in synergizing professional knowledge with social values. When I say social values, it implies values which control our actions resulting in the welfare and happiness of others. When the ancient Rishis declared in the Vedas that "Sa Vidya Ja Vimuktaye", Mitrasys Chakshyusa Samikshya-Mahe" and "Basudhaiva Kutumbakam", they created values for generations and hoped if society will tread on this path, the whole world will be united as a family and there will be neither jealousy nor hatred, neither exploitation nor marginalization, neither violence nor deprivation and neither regionalism nor parochialism. Subsequently, Lord Buddha, Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi devolved their time and energy in telling us the same thing. Economic prosperity and social development is fine, but it should not exclude the majority and include a handful few. Growth should include all and as Indians we are proud that our ancient scriptures right from the Vedas to Srimad Bhagabat Gita; and right from Maharshi Valmiki to Kautilya to Gandhiji, our heritage have been preaching the same.



Dr. A. Samanta, Founder, KIIT (2nd from R) with Padma Vibhusan Smt. Mahasveta Devi, Padma Bhushan Shri Ramakanta Rath, Padma Shri Prof. Sukhadeo Thorat and Mr. Jockin Arputham at the 5th Annual Convocation Ceremony of KIIT University.



Of course, growth is life and stagnancy is death. But then should growth be devoid of ethics and morals? You, my dear students, are future growth managers and ambassadors of change. Tell me, should your plans, policies and strategies exclude ethics and morals? I do not think so. Remember, there will always be enormous pressure to make compromises and there will always be external and internal forces which will strive to make you bow to their designs and desires. However, I am optimistic that you will not succumb to temptations and when you do that, millions elsewhere will benefit. Here, I would suggest that engineering and management education should include ethics and morals as part of their curriculum. We are living in an era when our country is metamorphosing into a global giant in many fields, yet millions in remote rural and tribal areas continue to suffer. For these suffering millions, some basic needs of life are still a dream. Women walk miles for a pot of drinking water and institutional delivery is a distant dream for many. Quality healthcare services, education, electricity, etc. are to be provided to many. Rural and tribal India implores young men and women like you to come forward and understand the reasons behind the socio-economic imbalance. My dear students, when a few minutes ago, I raised the issue of including ethics and morals in economic and business strategies, I in a subtle manner was reminding you that all your actions and energies should ensure welfare of these suffering millions.

Dr. A. Samanta, Founder, KIIT University felicitating Chief Guest, Shri M. C. Bhandare, His Excellency the Governor of Orissa at the 5th Annual Convocation Ceremony of KIIT University. Dr. Hari Gautam, Chancellor looks on.

The finest example of a young man clinging to ethics, morals and values and thereby transforming the lives of thousands is Dr. Achyuta Samanta, whose deeds have brought the marginalized into the mainstream. He should be your role model. While the reputation of KIIT as a professional institute of excellence is well known, its social commitment is expressed through its human face –Kalinga Institute of social sciences (KISS), which provides free education and residence to 10,000 underprivileged tribal children from all parts of the State till they are fully equipped with formal vocational training to take on the challenges of the world.

I hope the young achievers, for whom this ceremony is organized, might have internalized value of their alma mater during their stay and study her. I wish all the recipients of the degrees a huge success in whatever field they come from or wish to join in days to come. I pray god to bless them forever and wish they will bring laurels to their institutions and society by their exemplary works in their respective fields.

Jai Hind!