



**Centurion**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
*Shaping Lives...  
Empowering Communities!*



# 9<sup>th</sup> CONVOCATION

26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021

Address of His Excellency,  
**Prof. Ganeshi Lal**  
The Governor of Odisha  
and Visitor, Centurion University

**CENTURION UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT  
ODISHA**

(ESTD. VIDE ODISHA ACT 4 OF 2010 & u/s 2 (F) OF UGC ACT, 1956)



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ADDRESS OF HIS EXCELLENCY,

**PROF. GANESHI LAL**

THE GOVERNOR OF ODISHA  
AND VISITOR, CENTURION UNIVERSITY

26 NOVEMBER 2021

Chief Guest of the Convocation,

His Excellency, The Australian High Commissioner to India,

**Mr. Barry O'Farrell, A.O.**

President, Centurion University of Technology and Management,

**Prof. (Dr.) Mukti Mishra,**

**Vice-President, Prof. D. N. Rao,**

**Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Supriya Pattanayak,**

Registrar, Prof Anita Patra,

Guests from the Australian High Commission,

Invitees, Faculty Members, Staff,

Graduating Students, PhD Scholars, and their family members,

Media Representatives, Sisters and Brothers

My dear students, ....

I am delighted to preside over the Ninth Convocation of Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) in my capacity as Visitor of the University. Every convocation is a milestone bringing joy to every stakeholder of the university and especially to students who graduate fulfilling an ambition and making parents, teachers, friends and well-wishers feel proud over their success and achievement. It is indeed a momentous occasion as the university renews its mission towards society and country.

I convey my hearty felicitations to all the graduating students, PhD Scholars, their teachers and parents who have been the strength behind their achievement and success.

Dear students, in these times of COVID 19 pandemic, the significance of a convocation is greater than ever. I am extremely pleased that the University is determined to ensure that you all graduate on time this year, by conducting your classes and exams online. I know that the future poses many challenges, but it also holds several opportunities.

While being committed to the profession and working with passion and conviction, you need to be patient and empathetic to all around you as the pandemic impacts us all in many different ways. You should therefore remain grounded, respond to others and the situation you are in with compassion.

Dear students, the world has changed. You have enormous responsibility to show us not how to put the pieces back together again but how to create a new and more evolved normal, a world more just, kind, equitable, empathetic, gleaming and creative whole. We need you to do this because the pandemic has exposed the inherent and systemic inequities that have defined life and living for too many, for too long.

You have the power to stand up, fight and create appropriate conditions that will make a healthier society. This moment encourages you to use your education to begin to heal our afflictions, to apply the best of what you have learned in your head and felt in your heart. The crisis might have encouraged you to think and opt for a particular career but remember that we are needed to be ready to deal with any ambush by unpredictability and uncertainty.

We all live with and love to have dreams which you can say your mission in life. Dreams are a great test of our lives. A dream tests your resolve. Dream is something that will not let you sleep. And it will motivate with new energy and vigour to overcome every obstacle on the way and move forward.

My dear Centurion Class of 2021, pursue every ambition, go as far as you can possibly dream and be the first generation to embrace a new responsibility, a responsibility to rebuild your community, rebuild the trust and rebuild the country out of the scars and trauma.

Just remember, no one else defines you but you only. What other people think of you is never as important as what you think of yourself. Be true to yourself. You are unique. You create your own identity. Don't need to copy anyone. Your perseverance and your tenacity are what people will remember. Failure or success is part of life's journey, but it is important how you get up, and never let failure to dominate you. The other important lesson which is extremely



difficult that is to learn to celebrate failures. Yes, we do say failure is the pillar of success but I say the first step is to learn how to celebrate the failure and then only it can be the pillar of your life's trajectory.

Another important thing is how to deal with rejection. Why I am saying this is because in life you will come across such situation. In the post Covid world, rejection shall be the reality and routine not just an aberration. It leads to negative impacts like despair and insecure thoughts, and often pushes us to non-cognitive depression. And one has to be very careful. The best way to get out of this is to learn embracing rejection, irrespective of the source. Just like success is never permanent, and the sooner, you can embrace rejection, the sooner you get through it. So, my advice is to develop the skill to deal with rejection.

I am sure you are proud of your achievements, and I hope you are eager to get to work so that decades from now when you take a look around a sense of happiness and satisfaction would fill your heart that you left things a little bit better than you inherit them.

We are separated in ways we have never experienced and facing a world that will never be the same. So, I am not going to ask you to come together. I am going to ask you to demand better together. Be selfless in life and you will find to be the happiest person.

I know first-hand the power of a movement led by and for the next generation. You are that next generation. Take the torch and leave your mark. Put your stake in the ground and build the future that you want, and you believe in and fight to do it.

The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 mandates Higher Education Institutions to promote the public good through providing opportunities, fostering global development, increasing awareness such as clean air, clean water, clean energy, clean environment, fairness, peace and harmony; and in being efficient and optimal in use of resources for the well-being of mankind.

I am quite pleased to note which is noteworthy to reiterate, that Centurion University has been practicing vocationalisation of higher education and operating through its constituent campuses since its inception which is now envisaged in the NEP.

It is heartening that Centurion University with its efforts aligns itself with the goals of the NEP and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It is a matter of pride that the University has been awarded District Green Champion Award by Ministry of Education, Government of India.

I know through my various conversations with your President Prof Mishra, that Centurion University is always aiming at creating positive social impact. You all as graduates of Centurion University should aspire to be responsible citizens and nation builders. Mahatma Gandhi said and I quote "Education is the realisation of the best in man – body soul and spirit. Education must be based on Ethics and Morality". (Unquote)

Centurion University has been successful and a pioneer in implementing action-learning with 'hands-on-knowledge', 'practice-linked pedagogy' and 'experience-based learning' while ensuring the ecosystem is integrated, inclusive and aspirational. Active involvement of Centurion University and its social outreach entities under Gram Tarang in the National and State missions of Skill India, Make in India, Startup India, Startup Odisha, Digital India, Financial Inclusion and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is highly commendable. I am sure Centurion University would further excel in the path of contextual, appropriate, skill based and meaningful higher education in the Country.

Further, the continued efforts of the University in supporting the Government of Odisha during these difficult times of COVID 19 pandemic are highly commendable. The University had helped to establish the COVID Hospital, returnee quarantine centers and providing accommodation to health professionals in its Campuses at Paralakhemundi and Gajapati shows the social core values that the founders of the University demonstrate. The effort of the University to have on-campus vaccination drives for all its students, staff, faculty, contract workers and surrounding communities in Gajapati, Bolangir, Rayagada and Jatni Campuses is laudable.

Every opportunity starts with a vision of what is possible and how that possibility can make the World bit better. My dear students, I urge you to learn some very valuable lessons from such initiatives

and be a citizen with responsibility, empathy and commitment to the community.

With these words, I wish the graduating students all the success in life and the University to attain new heights in coming days.

Jai Hind

**His Excellency**

**Prof. Ganeshi Lal**

**Governor of Odisha**

Prof. Ganeshi Lal was sworn in as Hon'ble Governor of Odisha on 29th May 2018.

Prof. Lal was born at Sirsa, Haryana on 1st March, 1942 and holds a degree in English Honours. He further went on to gain a post-graduate degree in Mathematics. He was brilliant in studies and stood First Class First in FA, BA and MA Class and was a Gold Medallist.

After completing his education, he joined academic profession and served as Professor in different Government Colleges in Haryana between 1964 and 1991. Since 1962 Prof. Lal is actively associated with Rastriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and held posts in Hisar, Rohtak Wing of RSS.

On his political assignments Prof. Lal was associated with grassroots organisations of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He is a former State President of Haryana BJP, a former Chairman of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, Haryana and former National President of BJP Disciplinary Committee.

During Emergency period in the country in 1976 Prof. Lal was sent to jail. He also actively participated in Ram Janmabhoomi Movement.

Regarding his Executive and Legislative Position, Prof. Lal was elected as MLA from Sirsa constituency in 1996, and became a Minister in the Haryana Vikas Party (HVP)-BJP Government in Haryana from 1996-99.