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Chief Guest of the Convocation,  
Prof, Barney Glover, Vice-Chancellor and  
President, University of Western Sydney University,

Guest of Honour, Emeritus Prof. Billl Lovegrove,  
President, Nan Tien Institute, Australia,

President, Centurion University of Technology  
and Management, Prof. Mukti Kanta Mishra,

Vice-President, Prof D.N. Rao,

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. H. Panda,

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Supriya Pattanayak,

Registrar, Prof. Anita Patra,

Pro- Vice Chancellors, Invitees, Faculty Members,

Graduating Students and their family members,

Media Persons, Sisters and Brothers .....

It gives me immense pleasure to be in your midst today and preside over the Sixth Convocation of Centurion University of Technology and Management in my capacity as the Visitor of the University. This is indeed a momentous occasion.

I am pleased to convey my good wishes to Professor Barney Glover, who is the Chief Guest today and has just delivered the sixth Convocation address. I wish the graduating students would emulate him as an educational administrator for advancing University of Western Sydney to become 71<sup>st</sup> in the world. I am extremely pleased that many students from Australian Universities such Deakin University, Victoria University, RMIT University and University of Queensland have been undertaking internships at Centurion University.

It gives me immense satisfaction to confer degrees and awards to the sixth batch of graduating students of this University which has the distinction of being the first Skill University of Odisha. I heartily congratulate all the students graduating today. I take this opportunity to extend my hearty felicitations to the teachers, parents and other family members who are the pillar of strength and support behind their academic achievement and success. True measure of your education will be the extent to which you can lead a meaningful life and support in bringing meaning in others' lives.

Dear students, today is a moment of great delight for all of you. The Universe is built on the excellence of delight. We are born divine. You are the 'Divine' under many disguises and you are to

discover the divine. You are the entire space, the boundless space, and you are limitless. And you are here to put your sincere, serene, sensitive efforts for the manifestations of Truth on Earth.

All matter is derived from Consciousness. An atom has consciousness. Even clone has a soul. Ultimate evolution of man's consciousness is Superman. Every man contains Superman as a potential. The subtlest power of consciousness is Satyam, Shivam, Sundaram (Truth, Love and Compassion).

Then what is truth. From Buddha, Sri Guruji, Vivekanand, Einstein, Bhima Bhoi, Osho, Shankar to Swami Akhandanada they all have preached the truth in different periods of time with their noble and eternal teachings. It is not 'I' but 'we' that has to be imbibed and incorporated in psyche. The 'I' is to be absent. It is only 'we'. It is said - All are equal but I say – All is one and that spirit of oneness and discipline is vital for our growth and development. Discipline is 'Love'. We live in a great country where the Unity signifies in these beautiful words:

Languages are many but Emotion is one,  
States are many but Country is one,  
Paths are many but Destination is one,  
Dialects are many but Voice is one,  
Societies are many but Bharat is one,  
Rituals are many but Ethics is one,  
Preparations are many but Goal is one,  
Endeavours are many but Resolve is one,  
Lanes are many but Aim is one,  
Costumes are many but Elegance is one,  
Faces are many but Smile is one,  
Colours are many but Tricolour is one.

Let us all work together with the growing sincerity for bringing down 'unity & discipline' in the world.

The present moment is Consciousness. The present moment is Love, Laughter and Splendour and reverence for animals, birds and trees. It is the moment which induces us to make a habit to smile which is of course the result of an excellent action and excellent action is simply gladdening the heart of a human being couched in despair, distress and depression. Smile dispels the distance between vision and reality.

'Excellence' is the present moment. It is the most blissful and of supreme happiness. Live in it, Live for it, Live with it. It is the present moment which breathes infinity, which sours into eternity, which escapes time & space, which is full of joy, a joy of the birds, of flowers and of rivers. It is the present moment which is the most powerful resource on Earth, above the Earth and

under the Earth. It is the moment that conquers the skies and you meet the Omnipresent in the House of flesh.

In Jesus you appeared,

In Mohammed you revealed,

You are the Lava and you are the Krishna.

It is the moment which never imitates and speaks to incorporate 'I can' in yourself. Arise o soul, vanquish Time & Death.

Dear students, as you move out of the safe haven of the University, the real world will throw many challenges in front of you. You will find many things not to your wish. Don't waste energy in complaining. Be the change you wish as Gandhiji had said. You will change – Hatred into Harmony, Jealousy into Generosity, Ignorance into Knowledge, Darkness into Light, Falsehood into Truth, Wickedness into Goodness, Fear into Fearlessness, Doubt into Faith, Confusion into Order, Defeat into Victory, War into Peace and Uncertainty into Certainty.

Do not get disappointed by the occasional failures. The world will recognize the good deeds. Practice the values of shaping lives and empowering communities that Centurion University stands for. The nation has great expectation from each one of you.

Our higher education curriculum needs to be developed as such to develop awareness of our history and rich cultural/spiritual background; relationships and support networks; ability to think, question, synthesize, and build one's point of view; exposure to multiple perspectives; confidence to explore and fail; awareness of major global issues, viz. clean energy, clean water, clean air, fairness, peace and harmony; purpose beyond self, passion, inspiration, role models; and initiative, ownership, accountability. At the university, let us prepare students for an ethical and fulfilling professions and lay foundations for a great career. Prepare them to become the best known professionals across the world. Inspire them to be happy students, responsible citizens and nation builders.

Developing real world perspectives, mentoring, inspiring, etc. are necessary. Presently our archetype teachers need to be converted to be mentors and facilitators of knowledge and skill development. The teaching-learning system of the university needs to change from the context of the information scarce society of pre-1990s to information abundance era of 2010 and thereafter. It has to take note of the challenges of modern society. Teachers need to follow new learning channels. Encourage 'Celebration' of failure and involvement of parents. They need to provoke curiosity, undertake contextual projects, mandatory community work, etc. Let us not be proud of having the largest higher education system in the world.

We should not waste our precious resources to meet the criteria set by others to become 'world-class'. Many countries can learn from our experiments and innovations. We cannot copy somebody to become world class. Our problems are unique and we have to find context specific solutions. Our education agenda cannot be driven by any outside agency. Our priorities are different. India is a world in itself. We need to evaluate achievements in the form of employability creation,

innovations and enterprise created from the students of our context. Publications in academic journals, for example, will be of little value if we fail to become active partner in the process of ensuring sustainable livelihood security for the people of the country.

I congratulate Centurion University for being a pioneer in skill integrated higher education and creating a set of viable social enterprises, both in rural and urban space, that are integral to its unique educational ecosystem. Active involvement of Centurion University and its Gram Tarang Group of Social Enterprises in the national and state missions of Skill-India, Make-in-India, Startup-India, Digital-India, Financial Inclusion and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan are highly commendable.

The Social Enterprise entity of the University Gram Tarang has recently been awarded the Special Category Award for Transforming Rural India by the National Skill Development Corporation. The RPL and Skill Training Project for 100,000 farmers in Odisha under Prime Minister Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India amply speaks for the quality and reputation with regard to Skill Development.

It is worthwhile to reiterate that the NITI Ayog Report on Skill Development has eloquently cited the education model of Centurion University as “Numero Uno” which is replicable elsewhere in the Country. Further, it has been eloquently cited in the UN, World Bank, UNESCO, British Council and many other reports at International Level. Looking from India’s needs, the path Centurion University has taken and the results that it realized, can be rightly called Best of the class.

I urge the teachers present here and students graduating today to be the drivers of change, and I am sure, Centurion University would further institutionalise the path of bringing quality centric inclusive, contextual, appropriate, skill based and meaningful higher education in the Country.

I wish the students all success in life and the University to attain new heights in the coming days.

Jai Hind!