

18<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day Celebration of Fakir Mohan University [11-07-2016]

## **Vice-Chancellor's address**

Chief Guest - Professor Satchidananda Mohanty, VC of Central University of Odisha; Registrar- Dr. Gananath Dash; Chairman, PGC- Prof. Sabyasachi Patnaik; Members of the Syndicate, Senate, Academic Council, Officers of the University, HODs, Teachers, Employees, Research scholars, Students; The eminent Personalities of the region (1) Prof. Satchidananda Mohanty, (2) Dr. Hrushiksha Panda, (3) Sri Prasanta Das, (4) Smt. Jamuna Mani Singh, who would be felicitated today, Invitees, guests from Print and electronic media, Ladies and Gentleman.

A long cherished dream of people of undivided Balasore District was fulfilled 18 years ago on this day when the foundation stone of Fakir Mohan University was laid in its old campus in Balasore city. Several eminent personalities sacrificed their precious time, energy and resources, mobilised a mass movement for its establishment, and because of their contribution we are here to celebrate this occasion of its Foundation day. Though I am an Odia, after occupying the chair of the VC could know about its genesis, how it was started, where, who gave the space to house it, who nurtured during its formative period, which administrative Heads came here and contributed its development etc. It is difficult for me to name each and every one who have contributed to this endeavour, say almost every one from young to old from all fields of society of Balasore, however, I was told about Balasore Education Foundation being the centre of all those activities with its great personality Late Sri Rabindra Mohan Das. I did not had the opportunity to meet him in flesh and blood ever before, nor with the great poet late Brajanath Rath who passed away a day before my joining, in fact I participated in his mourning even without knowing him personally. I pray tribute to all of them who are not with us and gratitude to all who have contributed in establishing this University in the northern most region of our state, some of whom are with us in this hall celebrating its birth date.

I came to Balasore in this position just little more than two years ago from Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan. I read about Mallikashpur while a school student in a remote village in Ganjam District, in the southern most region of our state. I was deeply moved with the story Patent Medicine, Rebati, Randipua Ananta, Dak Munshi, some of which I have read in the school curriculum, and on comparing their style and societal message is second to none, even to his contemporary Bankim Chandra. The day I arrived I was at Santikanan to pay tribute to the great son after which this University is named. At the beginning I tried to know the region, moved to

Remuna, Chandipur, Dagara, Raibania, Kedarpur, Chandaneswar, Nilagiri, Ayodhya, Kuldiha, Chandabali, Inchudi, Iram and also all those place linked to Fakir Mohan's life to know the historical places to link to its past glory, met with people with poetic and creative writing talent unparallel to any where in India, leave aside Odisha, and convinced what a superb culture existing in this region. Being a person with love for travelling, knowing history and culture of each region, with past time activity in staging drama and acting in student career, I moved apart from these activities being wedded to science and spent the last nearly 40 years in the laboratory from morning to night looking for organisms under microscope and studying their genomics and their utilization for bioentrepreneurship with research students. But coming back to Balasore as a VC, frankly speaking I came back to my student days having possibility to meet people, learn people, read literature and history and also speaking some thing in meeting where I was called for that is not related to science. Balasore gave me this opportunity and I am grateful to the Authority who gave me this responsibility for 3 years, of which 2 years have passed and little more than 10 months is left to work here. I am determined to give back also my best to the place who brought back me to people. I come form village, a farmer's son, hence have inclination to mix with village people, the less privileged ones, however, as my position demands wish to take education to greater height for which a University is meant for, and is more relevant to Balasore with high GER in the state standard. A University has three pillars, with students the main for which the University is, the teachers the second to guide them and teach them, and administration with employees to support to make the purpose a reality. When there is a coordination with-in and between these three pillars University can grow, and if one pillar is weak that would lead to instability. My main goal as a VC is to make these three pillars' erect, in equal capacity, strong and mutually supportive. There is no compromise on this, whatever hurdles may come, and would achieve with "zero corruption" which I have repeatedly declared in several forums, let one who hear understand and it's seriousness. I seek support from all of you, and people of this region and the stake holders of the University, and to rely on these words of a Vice-Chancellor.

Though I have a humble beginning, I had the opportunity of spending few of my precious years studying at the University of Freiburg i. Br., Uni. Konstanz, Uni. Giessen; Forschungs Zentrum, Juelich, in Germany; Nagoya University and National Institute of Basic Biology of Japan; Comenius University Bratislava (The

Friendship city with India), Charles University, Prague; Institute of Botany, Trebon; University of Szeged; University of West Hungary, University of South Bohemia and University of Rome, besides visiting and lecturing in several in almost all continents, and have experience how the Universities are known due to the hard work and excellence of Teachers and Researchers and their Alumni students, and overall the ambiance. Just a year ago I was in Stanford and Five Universities of California state in a private visit. People have a notion that only the Universities of USA or West are good and Indian Universities are not comparable with. If such is the case how more than 10,000 Odia families are working in USA only in Higher Education and Industrial sector with their education Odisha? Move in the streets of USA, Germany, France, Canada, Australia and even middle east, how one can see only Indian young youth, fresh from University working world over? Standard is publicised basing on the comparative evaluation system, ICT based. Now education became a business, the most profitable by private sectors; and to increase the empire such news world standard, placement etc. need to be publicised, what is happening, and this knowledge Indian imbibed from the west. The more we provide financial input to Public Universities the more sophisticated and also quality education one can provide with emphasis on access, equity and inclusiveness. Public Institutions we are striving for grant because they cannot fix the fees arbitrarily and are answerable on the mode of spending which is not for private Institutions. I repeatedly emphasize that a University is a University where ever it may be located; the degree has same value globally. So I appeal to all my teachers to do their job dutifully as the future generations vision and future is dependant on them. I also appeal to the Students, all being at P.G. level to understand what the society needs from them, and acquire maximum while as a student at the last part of student life. How many percent of people have the opportunity to get the chance of being admitted to a University? 0.1%, even less. Then why to loose this opportunity? I appeal the research scholars to concentrate on research, the most hardest in one's life, not just duplication. Institutions credibility and excellence is dependent on quality publication with high impact factor and higher citation index which solely is the responsibility of its researchers. And I appeal my supporting staff to support all these academic activities so that none should suffer. Examination and awarding degrees to all UG and PG students is the primary responsibility of an affiliating University like ours. Doing wrong or erratic valuation and tempering of marks by teachers, or by supporting staff

at different steps during post evaluation until publication of results is a serious matter. This create mental agonies to students and parents, damages name and fame of a University, drain resources and time. This should be avoided; whatever temptation may come or offered to any by any.

Two year has passed in the meanwhile. For almost more than a year and half, the half of the tenure, was not smooth sailing for me. I was applauded many at times directly or indirectly and also criticised, scolded through mobile, written against me to the Hon'ble Chancellor , Chief Minister, Chairman, UGC; HRD Ministers of the state and the nation, even to the Chancellor of Visva-Bharati, the Prime Minister of India, that I am incapable, do not know ABC of administration, indulged in corruption, do not know calculation of API score of applicants for teaching positions, taking bribes for appointment, even suggested to remove me and appoint an administrator, and many more. When ever I get such letters I feel the pain but laugh to myself, that they did not understand me, and possibly have never came across a honest person and dedicated person to the duty before in their life time. I learnt a lesson too, and decided to concentrate to find out ways to improve academics, developing a congenial atmosphere with understanding among the three pillars of the University system, between and within and avoiding giving public lectures in any subject, and to be part of any cultural activity which are not meant for the position I am occupying, so that a Vice-Chancellor of the University will be treated as a Vice-Chancellor, nothing less to its dignity. If a VC's dignity is questioned the University and its academic pursuit for which it is meant for is questioned. I promise this dedication to the Chair of the University which the people of Balasore and Bhadrak have dreamt and established will continue in the same pace for the rest of my tenure at Fakir Mohan University.

With the cooperation of all we have conducted Principals conference, Academic Council, celebrated Fakir Mohan's birth and anniversary along with unveiling of portrait of Late M. Naimuddin and Late Rabindra Mohan Das ; National Education day, National Unity day, World Environment day, Population day, Yoga day, Martyr day, Bhasa Divas the day on which Statue (Bust) of Late Rabindra Mohan Das was unveiled in the old campus, besides extra-mural lectures on contemporary themes. The University organised the Research convention "Anweshan" with Association of Indian Universities in which several Universities of the Central zone of India participated. Five National seminars and workshops

including one “Fakir Mohan’s work” was also held by different Departments. Induction training of 88 newly recruited Junior college teachers of the Govt. for two weeks was held recently in this University dedicating one day on discourses on Fakir Mohan on his death anniversary. Almost more than 80,000 certificates were signed by me and disbursed which were pending since 2011, and NAAC Peer review of the University has been scheduled in this month. We are also taking steps to hold the next convocation soon after the rainy session to confer degrees to students passed during 2015 and 2016. One guest house, one Health Centre, and One PG Central office opened during this year; one Human Resource Development facility, two ladies hostels and one Gents hostel are nearly completion within this campus. Examination wing of UG level shifted to old campus in Balasore for the benefit of students and public. Teachers Education course at Integrated M.Ed. level and also B.Ed. under Distance mode started form this academic session. And to add a feather to the cap regular Department in Urdu, Odia and English started from this year under the Department of Language and Literature fulfilling the long standing desire of the people of this region. A Fakir Mohan Heritage centre depicting life and work of Vyasa Kabi Fakir Mohan Senapati will be inaugurated today. Both the campuses are now under wifi connectivity, Proquest and Infiblinet operative in the Central library, two smart class rooms will be soon established and the web-site made up-to-date. After A long interval many of the non-teaching posts lying vacant were filled-up. Appointment of teaching positions including the concurrent vacancies are also filled from time to time. Hope all the posts lying vacant will be filled by the end of this year. We have a Sacred groove within this campus which will be used as a nodal centre for societal interaction and adopt few villages to empower them as per their need to perform our social responsibility. Steps are taken to renovate the buildings, class rooms, and residence areas including hostels. Massive plantations are planned this year to make the campus green. Ours is now a polythene free campus, not by force but by self consciousness. Two open-air classes started this year where students can read under trees. The prime focus is to develop ambience and academic atmosphere of the University. This is in nut sell our projections for the year ahead. I, on behalf of the University fraternity thank you all for joining us to celebrate the foundation day of the University.

Bande Utkal Janani, Jai Hind.