

Mahamaheem's Speech for Convocation of Lucknow University on 3rd February, 2010 at Lucknow

Chief Guest, Padam Vibhushan Dr. Anil Kakodkar,
Former Chairman Atomic Energy Commission, Minister
of Higher Education, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Shri
Rakesh Dhar Tripathi, Prof. Manoj Kumar Mishra, Vice
Chancellor of Lucknow University, Members of
Executive Council, Members of Faculty, Graduates,
Distinguished Guests and Friends From Media,

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to be with
you on the occasion of convocation of Lucknow
University. Lucknow, a historical city, is known for

making a significant contribution to our national culture. As one of the oldest universities of the country, the University of Lucknow has a glorious record. The University was established in the year 1921, and has an inspiring history of past achievements. Scholars like Birbal Sahni, D.N. Majumdar, Radha Kamal Mukherjee, Radha Kumud Mukherjee, Surama Das Gupta, N.K. Siddhant and Ashok Sahni have taught here. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma former President of India also studied and taught here. Great freedom fighters, academicians, scientists, litterateurs, theater persons and leaders have emerged from this university. Many students of this

esteemed institution have made the country proud and have been conferred the prestigious Padma Awards and received honors from national and international societies. The university has succeeded in achieving a distinctive character.

Pandit Nehru once remarked,

"A university stands for humanism, for tolerance, for reason, for the adventure of ideas and for the search of truth. It stands for the onward march of the human race towards even higher objectives. If the universities discharge their duties

adequately, then all is well with the nation and the people."

It gives me a special pleasure to note that the University has today honored Dr. Anil Kakodkar, a well known Nuclear Scientist, whose contribution in the fields of nuclear science and technology has been internationally recognized. With the conferment of the Honorary Degree of Doctorate of Science, Dr. Kakodkar, Today becomes a part of Lucknow University in a special way.

I congratulate all medal winners and degree awardees in today's convocation. They have now joined

the select band of higher education recipients. Education enables us to lead a fuller, richer and more varied life. Its larger benefits flow to the society and it helps people in general to lead a happy, healthy and creative life.

Higher education has increasingly assumed greater significance. There was a time when development was based on agriculture. Then industries came to play a big role. But now, development has become a function of education, knowledge and technology.

Universities alongwith other educational organizations produce and preserve knowledge and technology and also facilitate its transmission to the next

generation. However, It is a matter of serious concern that the quality of higher education in India far from satisfactory - average standards have been falling and rapid expansion has resulted in lowering of quality. The examination results, reports of the National Assessment and Accreditation council, views of the employers, independent survey reports and the assessment of teachers all seem to support this view.

Content of higher education and its quality are apparently inadequate to meet the present needs as well as the future requirements. Enormous efforts are, therefore, needed to improve the situation. At the same

time, I am convinced that if there is a single effort capable of performing a miracle - that is bringing in intellectual passion in teaching.

In this situation the teaching methods of a university assume great significance and teachers have to shoulder the huge responsibility of providing academic leadership. They need to foster, among students and through them in the society, the attitudes and values needed for developing a wholesome life. University teachers are torch bearers of knowledge. They should inculcate intellectual integrity, scientific knowledge and at the same time aspire to win public confidence. Their

thinking, actions and ambitions impact upon overall human development and new social initiatives.

At the present juncture university's role in achieving an integrated national life is unique. Social and cultural differences can be significantly reduced by diffusion of higher education and top quality learning. Universities, therefore, need to address gender, regional and social inequalities. The thrust should be laid on quality consciousness, and regular accreditation. The overall emphasis should be laid on building capacities and skill development in students.

Universities the world over are undergoing profound changes in their scope, functions and organization. In fact, they are in the process of a rapid revolution. Competition in the contemporary academic world based on information technology has virtually put them on toes. The task of a university is no longer confined to the two traditional functions of teaching and advancement of knowledge.

The new functions of a university now relate with interpreting knowledge in the light of new needs and contemporary challenges, and provide the right kind of

leadership in all walks of life. Certainly, wherever this leadership is weak, the society will progress slowly.

It is a universal problem that resources are always limited. This is not particular to state universities in Uttar Pradesh. While the government is conscious of its responsibilities, I believe that mere lack of resources should not come in the way of the progress of a university.

I am sure, you will agree that in modern times, money flows to institutions which make themselves deserving. Brilliant researchers are never short of funds. They not only find resources for their pursuits, but also

help in easing out the financial constraints of the university. Individual researchers and Department in all disciplines of Humanities, Social, Natural and Physical Sciences, law, Management and Technology can attract large funds that are virtually waiting with funding agencies like UGC, DST, DBT, CSIR, ICSSR. Sufficient attention should also be paid to enforce internal economics and also resource generation.

Lucknow University is a "Four Star" university as per the rating of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council. All out effort needs to be made to enable it to become a "Five Star" - "A" Grade institution.

It will bring glory not only to you in this University but to this great city of Lucknow and to whole of the State and the Country. I am convinced that you have the potential and ability to achieve this goal.

On this occasion, I would also like to leave a message for the young students by reminding them of what true education stands for. True education must carry the national traditions, our great social values and cultural ethos. It must contribute to the person's moral development and intellectual progress. Briefly, it should mould you into an individual who has feelings of self

respect, national pride and possesses a strong moral character.

Friends, the technology driven, competitive and globally interconnected world will put a premium on knowledge and technical skills and whether or not you are direct beneficiaries of this change will depend on how well you have equipped yourselves here to benefit by the opportunities that come your way. This will be a world that will favour younger people because in such a scenario, experience of the past alone may not be enough and the ability to think globally, experiment and find solutions is what will be at a premium.

I congratulate Dr. Kakodkar who has been conferred the D.Sc. Degree (Honoris Causa) and also all those who have received medals and their degrees today. I wish you all the best in life to come.

Thank You - Namaskar