

**Mahamaheem's Speech for 125th Year
Celebration of Isabella Thoburn College,
Lucknow on 2nd November, 2011**

Her Excellency the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil Ji, Principal of the College, Dr. (Mrs.) E.S. Charles, Teachers, Students and Distinguished Guests. Friends from Media,

I welcome Her Excellency President to the city of Lucknow - the city known for its Nazakat and Nafasat. Your visit demonstrates the importance you attach to the causes of women's education and empowerment. The soul of Lucknow lies in its history and heritage. Its

spellbound history and delightful legends have made Lucknow-the subject of many books. Besides having beautiful historical monuments, Lucknow is also known worldwide for its hospitality and culture. An urdu poet has rightly said,

"लखनऊ है तो महज गुम्बदों-मीनार नहीं,
सिर्फ एक शहर नहीं – कूचा ओ बाजार नहीं,
इसके दामन में मुहब्बत के फूल खिलते हैं,
इसकी गलियों में फरिश्तों के पते मिलते हैं"

I am indeed very happy to be amidst you today, sharing in the joy and thrill of the 125th year celebrations of your college. One Century and Twenty five years

constitute a very significant phase in the life of any institution. This is a significant milestone on a long journey that this college has set out to perform. There will be many other and more important milestones to come as the institution grows, expands and excels along its journey of that I am quite certain.

Isabella Thoburn College, Lucknow started its journey in the year 1886 under the initiative of the famous American missionary Isabella Thoburn. A journey which began with six small girls in a one room house here on April 18, 1870 has, by the dedication of the staff and students become the Institution which has become a land mark in the education of girl students.

The college has produced several great personalities like Late Isha B. Joshi, the first woman IAS officer, Mumtaz Jahan Haider, Late political leader, Vijaya Raje Scindia, Renowned urdu story writers and novelists Ismat Chughtai and Qurratul-ain-Haider and many more.

Our country is poised for a sea-change in the field of science and technology, more particularly the Information Technology which opens up flood-gates of opportunities for bright students. It is, therefore, necessary that education should be more broad based. Our growth should, therefore, be motivated and oriented to a healthy approach to scientific education rather than merely imparting the general stream of education.

With these few words, I wish the teachers, students and staff every happiness, success and fulfilment and thank you for inviting me.

Thank You - Namaskar